Winter Holiday Safety

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. The Bryan Fire Department wants to remind you that following a few simple tips will help to ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant and are UL rated.
Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop. Use timers for cooking.
Ask smokers to smoke outside.

Before Heading Out or to Bed

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. **Turn off** all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- **Holiday decoration fires** are most likely to happen in the living room, family room or den.
- **Almost half** of all home decoration fires are started by candles.
- **Half** of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Source: **www.nfpa.org/education**