



MACOMB TOWNSHIP *Michigan*

FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY TIPS

Your Macomb Township Fire Department would like to wish all of our residents, business owners and visitors a peaceful and safe holiday season.

In this month's Fire and Life Safety Tips, we have included information on :

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December 2017

HOME HEATING SAFETY

According to the NFPA, Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

**Courtesy: National Fire Protection Association, www.nfpa.org*



PROJECT *Holiday*



**MACOMB
TWP. FIRE
DEPT. HAS
FREE SMOKE
DETECTORS
AVAILABLE TO
RESIDENTS.**

**Contact us at
586-949-2138**

**to inquire, or
email us at
fireprevention@macomb-mi.gov**

Holiday Lighting

Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory, and make sure you know whether they are designed for indoor or outdoor use. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

Candles

Candles are widely used in homes throughout the holidays; December is the peak month for home candle fires. More than half of all candle fires start because the candles had been too close to things that could catch fire. When burning candles, keep them at least 12" away from anything that can burn, and remember to blow them out when you leave the room or go to bed.

Christmas Trees

U.S. fire departments annually respond to an average of 210 home structure fires caused by Christmas trees per year. Three of every ten are caused by electrical problems, and one in four result from a heat source that's too close to the tree.

If you have an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled, certified or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant. If you choose a fresh tree, make sure the green needles don't fall off when touched; before placing it in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk. Add water to the tree stand, and be sure to water it daily.*



Every year, Christmas tree fires are responsible for **\$18.3 million** in property damage.



- Natural trees should be cut at a 45° angle at the base and placed in water.
- Place tree away from sources of heat.
- Use only non-flammable decorations.
- Use only lighting evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Inspect lights for frayed wire or other defects before use.
- Do not leave lights on unattended.
- Keep natural tree stands filled with water at all times.
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.

PUT A ON FREEZE WINTER HOLIDAY FIRES

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

Read manufacturer's instructions



for the number of light strands to connect.

More than

1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



The top **3** days for home candle fires are

Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Keep candles at least



12 inches away from anything that burns.

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average,

1 of every **32**

reported home **Christmas tree fires resulted in death.**



A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes

1 in every **4** of the fires.

Make sure your tree is at least



3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.



Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards