



# SADDLE LAKE HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

## Candle Safety

December is the peak time of year for home candle fires, most of which involve decorations.

- Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns
  - If you use a real candle, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter to light it
  - Place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way for trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards
- Never use lit candles to decorate a Christmas tree
- Keep candles at least 3 feet away from things that can burn, such as Christmas trees, decorations and curtains
- Candles placed on tables, altars or shrines must be maintained under the supervision of an adult
- Consider using battery-operated candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles

## Holiday Decorations

- Keep decorations away from exits (windows and doors) so nothing blocks escape routes
- Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant
- Only use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory
  - Read the manufacturer's instructions to learn how many strands of lights can be safely connected together
- Make sure outdoor decorative lights, extension cords and outlets are weatherproof or identified for outdoor use
- Don't overload [electrical](#) outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways or near heat sources
- Unplug all decorative lights before leaving your home or going to bed
- Replace any string of lights that contain frayed cords or loose bulb connections
- Use clips instead of nails when hanging lights to prevent cord damage
- Take down outdoor decorative lights after 90 days to prevent damage from weather and animals

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. Be fire smart this season by following these precautions.

## For Natural Trees:

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched
- Place the tree in a sturdy, non-tip stand
  - Ensure the stand is at least 3 feet away from heat sources (i.e., fireplace, space heater, candles, lights, heat vents/radiators)
  - Make sure the tree does not block any exits
- Check the water level for the tree each day and add water as needed
- [Dispose of the tree](#) within 4 weeks, or sooner if it dries out. Store it away from the house or garage.

### For Artificial Trees:

- Check that the tree is flame retardant
- Inspect the lights on pre-lit trees for damage prior to use
- Place the tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources (i.e., fireplace, space heater, candles, lights, heat vents/radiators)
- Make sure the tree does not block any exits

### Decorative lighting

- Only use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory
  - Read the manufacturer's instructions to learn how many strands of lights can be safely connected together
- Make sure outdoor decorative lights, extension cords and outlets are weatherproof or identified for outdoor use
- Don't overload [electrical](#) outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways or near heat sources
- Unplug all decorative lights before leaving your home or going to bed
- Replace any string of lights that contain frayed cords or loose bulb connections
- Use clips instead of nails when hanging lights to prevent cord damage
- Take down outdoor decorative lights after 90 days to prevent damage from weather and animals

### Holiday in the Home

- The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays
  - Have activities on hand such as games, puzzles or books to keep kids occupied and out of the kitchen
  - Learn more about [cooking fire safety](#)
- Test your [smoke alarms](#) and share with your family about your [home fire escape plan](#)
- Ask smokers to smoke outside
  - Remind them to keep their [smoking materials](#) with them so young children do not touch them
  - Provide large, deep ashtrays for their use
  - Refrain from smoking in the bed

### Matches and Lighters

- Keep smoking materials, including lighters and matches, out of reach of children