



Redstone Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services



Holiday Fire Safety: The winter holiday season should be a joyous time of year. However, certain types of fires and injuries associated with the Holiday Season are much more too common and tragic.

Holiday Lights and Christmas trees (both natural and artificial), were the items that first ignited in 230 reported home structure fires per year during 2006-2010.

These fires caused an estimated average of 4 deaths, 21 injuries, and \$17.3 million in direct property damage annually.



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- Fifty percent of home Christmas tree structure fires occurred on the 15 days from December 22 through January
- Four three percent of reported home fires start in the kitchen -- more than any other place in the home.
- Half of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February.
- Source: National Fire Protection Association and NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division and United States Fire Administration



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Cooking



- Be alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.



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Cooking



- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- Use a Fire Extinguisher **Remember P.A.S.S. Pull the pin, Aim at the Base of the Fire, Squeeze and Sweep, Keep Your Back to an Exterior Door.**
- For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.



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Cooking



- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call **9-1-1** or the local emergency number after you leave.
- Go to Your Meeting Place, **E.D.I.T.H Exit Drills In The Home.**



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Turkey Fryers



- Make sure the turkey is thawed and dried, not wet, before putting it into the grease. Cooking Temperature of the Grease should be 350 Degrees Fahrenheit.
- Never deep fry a turkey indoors and make sure an adult monitors the cooking process. Children should not be in the area and kept away.
- Wear protective clothing while cooking: long-sleeve shirts, pants and closed toe shoes.
- Do not use water to put out a grease fire. Use a Class B, Class K or all-purpose fire extinguisher. In an emergency, do not hesitate to call 911.
- Keep flammable and combustible materials at least 25 feet away from the deep fryer.



Redstone Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services Christmas Trees



- When you purchase a Natural Cut Christmas Tree make sure the tree is fresh - no falling needles.
- Keep the tree fresh - keep it in a bucket of water until you are ready to bring it inside.
- When you bring it in cut a diagonal slice off the bottom of the trunk and use a sturdy holder.
- The water needs to be maintained above the fresh cut and checked at least once daily.



Redstone Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services Christmas Trees



- Keep the tree away from heat like fireplaces, heaters and heat ducts.
- Never place a lit candle on or next to a Christmas Tree.
- A method to check for dryness is to grasp a tree branch with a reasonably firm pressure and pull your hand to you, allowing the branch to slip through your grasp. If the needles fall off readily, the tree does not have adequate moisture content and the tree should be removed.
- If you are considering an artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.



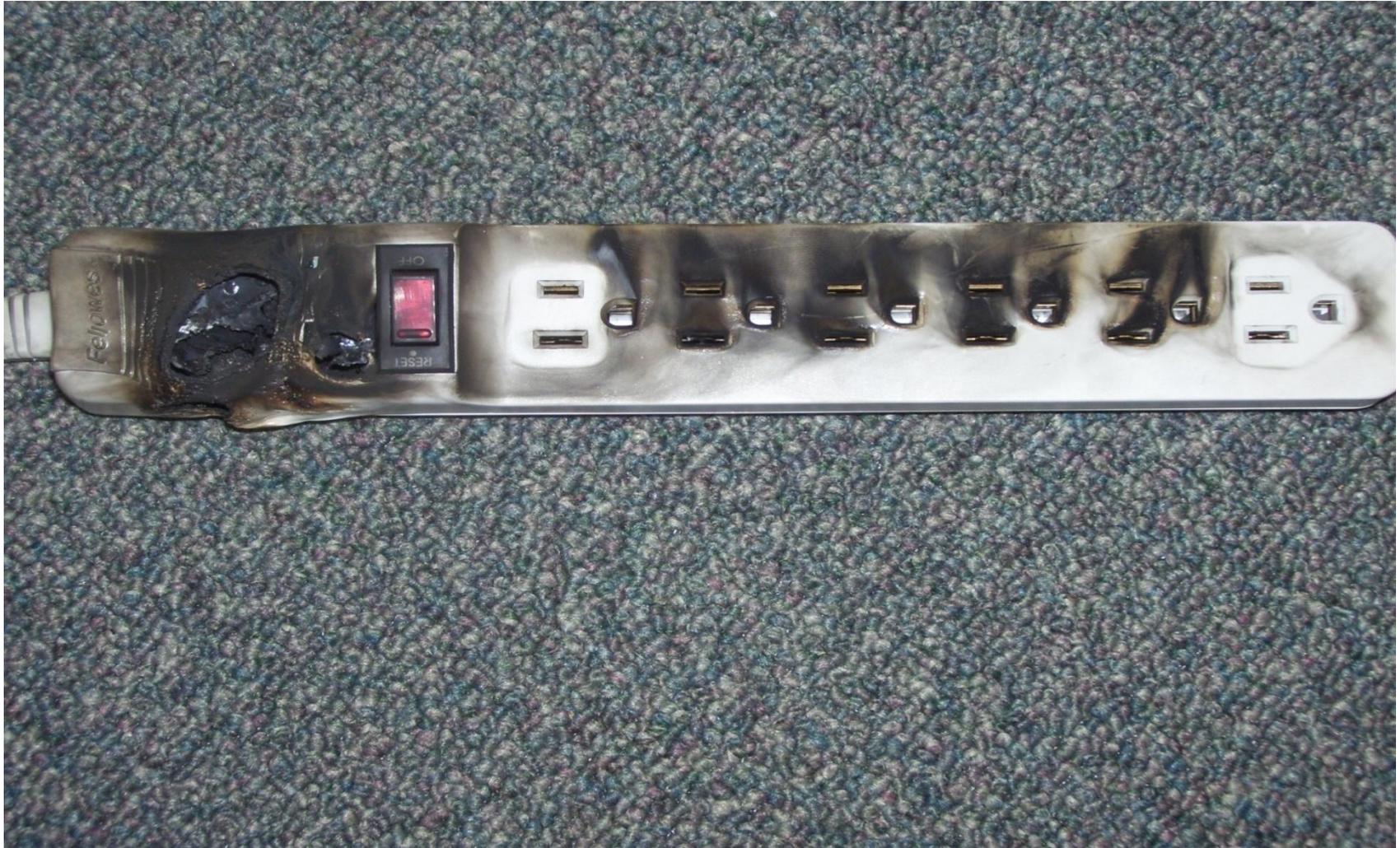
Electrical Fire Safety



- **Surge Protective Devices (SPD's)** VS Relocatable Power Tap.
- Underwriters Laboratory, Factory Mutual or any approved National Testing Laboratory. Do not Daisy Chain!
- Should only be used for equipment such as computers, printers, and fax machines.
- **High Amperage** items such as microwaves and refrigerators must be plugged directly into wall outlets.



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Electrical Fire Safety



- Extension cords are only approved for temporary use.
- When using extension cords check for defaults such as frays, brittleness, or broken wires.
- Never place extension cords in traffic areas where they can become a Trip Hazard.



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The Fire Triangle



1. Enough **OXYGEN** to sustain combustion.
2. Enough **HEAT** to reach ignition temperature.
3. Some **FUEL** or combustible material.

Together in sufficient proportions , they produce the **CHEMICAL REACTION** that is **Fire**.

Plug-in Air Fresheners have all three sides of the **Fire Triangle** present, not always in sufficient proportions to start a **Fire**.

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Lights



- Make sure that lights have a National Testing Laboratory label which assures it has been safety tested.
- Inspect each string of lights to make sure there is no damage.
- Position bulbs so they are not in contact with needles or ornaments.



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Lights

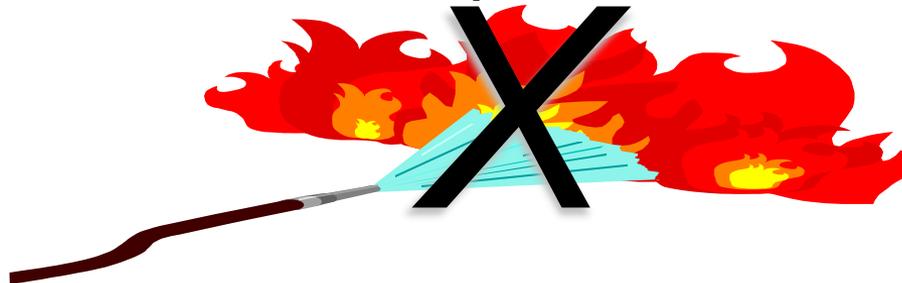
- Don't connect more than 3 sets of lights on the same extension cord.
- Keep cords and plugs away from the water under the tree.
- Keep cords out of walkways to prevent tripping.
- Don't run cords under carpets or rugs.
- Take care not to pinch cords when placing behind furniture.



Redstone Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services Candles



- Place candles in a holder that will not tip.
- If you place candles in a window make sure they are clear of curtains or drapes.
- Extinguish all candles before leaving or going to bed.
- NEVER place lit candles on your tree.





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Home Heating

- 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.



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Home Heating



- 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.



Redstone Arsenal Fire & Emergency Services Smoke Detectors



- Two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without **Working Smoke Alarms**.
- Smoke detectors should be installed on each floor, inside each bedroom and outside of each sleeping area.
- Don't place smoke detectors in kitchens where false alarms are common.
- Test smoke detectors at least once a month and replace batteries semi-annually.



Carbon Monoxide safety tips



- **Often called the silent killer**, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.
- Municipal Fire Departments responded to an estimated **61,100 non-fire carbon monoxide incidents**, where CO was present.
- **Approximately 16,000 people treated annually** and an estimated **450 people die each year from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning.**
- **Signs and Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning** are Headache, nausea, and dizziness, physiological effects, collapse and unconsciousness, and danger of death.



Carbon Monoxide safety tips



- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engine or motor indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.
- Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO — only use outside.



Falls During the Holiday Season



- Fall-related injuries during the holiday season, an annual average of roughly 5,800 fall injuries related to holiday decorating were treated at hospital emergency rooms between November 1 and January 31.
- The majority of these falls occurred during outdoor decorating.
- Falls from furniture, typically inside the structure, accounted for 11% of the injuries.
- Some falls occurred when people tripped over or slipped on tree skirts or other decorations.



Falls Prevention Tips



- Recognize the possibility of falls.
- Use safe ladder practices.
- Use safer alternatives such as step stools instead of furniture when hanging decorations.
- Increase your awareness of seasonal fall hazards, like decorations on the floor.



Safe Ladder Practices



- Make sure the ladder is on a secure and level footing before climbing.
- Space the base of the ladder one foot away from the wall for every four feet it reaches up.
- Stay centered between the rails of the ladder. Do not overreach—move the ladder.
- Do not stand on the ladder's top two rungs.
- To reach a roof, extend the ladder at least three feet beyond the edge of the roof.
- Keep the area around the top and bottom of the ladder clear.
- Make sure step ladders are securely locked open. Never use a folding step ladder when it is closed.



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*Have a **Fire***

SAFE

HOLIDAY