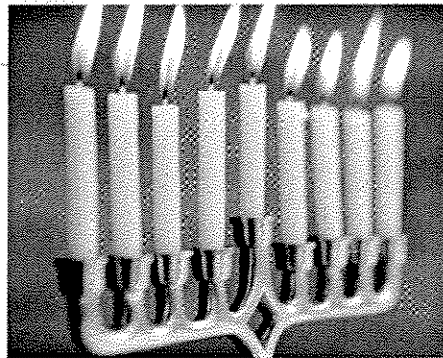


Follow these tips from the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Safety Council to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

What's Your Plan to Stay Safe this Holiday Season?

Christmas Tree Safety

- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and should not break if the tree is freshly cut.
- Don't place your tree close to a heat source, including a vent or fireplace. The heat will dry out the tree and cause it to be more easily ignited.
- Discard your tree promptly when it becomes dry. Never put wrapping paper, branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove.



Holiday Decorations

- Use only non-flammable decorations
- Candles should be in stable holders, placed where they can't be easily knocked over.
- Ensure metallic or artificial trees are flame retardant.

Holiday Lights

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear before use. Ensure lights are UL-approved.
- Don't overload electrical circuits. Don't link more than 3 light strands unless directions indicate it's safe.
- Periodically check lighting wires—they should not be warm to the touch.

ALWAYS... Avoid toys with small parts or magnets for infants or small children.



Keep children away from poisonous holiday plants: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis.

Wash hands, utensils, sink and anything else that contacts raw poultry. For questions concerning holiday food preparation and cooking call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555.

Use designated drivers to drive toasted party patrons home at the end of the festivities.

City of Newport News
Office of Self Insurance
700 Town Center Drive Suite 230
Newport News, VA 23606
757-926-1315

