

## Sun Mountain Ranch Club Firewise Committee



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

### HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- 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. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light 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.
- Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



### 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

- ❗ More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- ❗ More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.





Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

**Did you know?** As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!

**1 in every 7** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths involves heating equipment.

Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.

Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

U.S. Fire Administration | NFPA

## Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree, Much hazards do you bring thee!

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. fire departments respond to an average of 230 home fires that start with Christmas trees each year. Whether you're pining for pine, fervent for fir or even if you're ardently artificial, Christmas tree fires can be avoided by following some simple safety tips.

- For live trees, check for freshness and avoid purchasing dry trees.
- Place tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources.
- Dispose of your live tree after the holiday or when it becomes dry.
- For artificial trees, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- Discard any lights with worn or broken cords or loose connections.
- Turn off all Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Purchase lights that have a label from a recognized testing laboratory.
- Water live trees daily.
- Cut 1-2 inches from the base of the trunk to ensure water absorption.
- Never connect more than three strands of incandescent lights together.

**ESFi.org** [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

- ⚠️ **Half** of home Christmas Tree fires occur between December 22<sup>nd</sup> and January 5<sup>th</sup>.
- ⚠️ Electrical failures or malfunctions are a factor in **1/3** of all Christmas tree fires.