

Leave Fireworks to the Professionals



The fireworks that mark special celebrations are dangerous explosive devices that should never be used by amateurs.

Each year thousands of people — many of them children — are burned, blinded, even disfigured by fireworks. In addition, fireworks cause fires that cost us millions of dollars in property loss.

The lesson is simple: leave fireworks to the professionals.

Teach your children to tell an adult if they find fireworks. It's too risky to pick them up — especially if they're smoking, charred, or appear to have been lit.

Legal Doesn't Mean Safe

Most fireworks injuries are reported in states where they are legal. Even if the sale and possession of fireworks are not banned in your area, it is simply too dangerous to use them or be around friends who use them.

Sparklers may seem harmless, but they aren't toys. A burning sparkler can reach temperatures of more than 1000° F and stay hot long after it's burned out.



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Fire Safe Holidays



Make sure your home is fire safe for the holidays.

A hurricane globe with a sturdy, non-tip candle holder is a safer way to use a candle. Always make sure an adult is present when a candle is lit and extinguish the candle when you leave the room.



Holidays Celebrations

Holiday celebrations may put your home at risk for fire. Make sure your home is safe for the holidays by practicing safety before, during, and after the celebration.



Party Safety

Use flame-retardant or non-combustible materials for costumes and decorations. Provide smokers with large, deep, non-tip ashtrays, and keep an eye on anyone who is drinking and smoking. Empty ashtrays often — wet their contents before dumping them. After the party, check cushions and furniture for smoldering cigarette butts. Supervise children and keep

them away from matches, lighters, and candles. Store matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.

Lights and Candles

Decorative lights. Use lights that bear the label of an independent testing lab. Throw away sets of lights that have cracked or frayed cords or loose or damaged sockets. Don't overload electrical outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters. Be sure extension cords aren't pinched behind or under furniture, and unplug all decorative lights before leaving your home or going to bed. Never use electric lights on a metal Christmas tree.

Candles. Put candles securely in non-tip candle holders. Keep candles well away from Christmas trees, decorations, curtains, and other combustibles, and never put candles in windows or near exits. Don't leave candles burning unattended or within the reach of small children, and blow them out before you leave the room or go to sleep.

Christmas Trees

Cut your own tree or buy a fresh one that's not shedding its needles. Cut the trunk at an angle and install the tree in a large, deep non-tip stand well away from fireplaces,

exits, and heat sources. Be sure your tree has a constant supply of water — check the level daily. If your tree dries out, remove it promptly and store it away from your home until you can dispose of it. If you use an artificial tree, be sure it's flame-retardant.

Heating Hazards

Winter holidays come at the start of the heating season. Keep your home safe and warm.

Space heaters. Keep all space heaters and portable heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn — newspapers, furniture, even walls.

Use the right fuel for liquid-fuel heaters, be sure they are vented properly, and refill them when they're cool, in well-ventilated areas.

Central heating. Have furnace installations and all chimneys inspected once a year (before the heating season begins) and cleaned as appropriate or whenever you suspect a problem.



Fireplaces.

Keep fireplace fires small, and use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.

Don't leave children alone in a room with a fireplace fire. Never burn trash or paper in a fireplace; burning paper can float up your chimney and onto your roof or into your yard. Remove ashes in a metal container and don't store ashes indoors.