

Holiday Safety Tips

Every holiday season hundreds of people across the nation lose their lives from residential fires, stress, vehicle accidents, avalanches and other snow related activity.

The following holiday safety tips are offered with our sincere wish that you have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Christmas Tree Safety

- Choose a fresh Christmas tree, and put it in a stand designed not to tip over.
- Place the tree away from heat sources and exits and water the tree constantly.
- If you purchase an artificial tree make sure it is labeled fire-retardant.

Holiday Lighting

- Be sure candles are placed in sturdy non-combustible holders and are kept well away from decorations and other combustible materials.
- Don't display lighted candles in windows or near exits.
- For outdoor decorations use only those lights labeled for outdoor use.
- Don't forget to unplug all lights before leaving home or going to sleep.

Chimney Maintenance

- Have your chimney checked every year.
- Use only well seasoned hardwood in your fireplace or woodstove.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector.

Winter Driving Tips

- Don't be in a hurry, "Buckle Up."
- Check tires for wear and proper inflation.
- Check wiper blades and washer fluid reservoir.
- Don't tailgate! It takes three to nine times longer to stop on rain, snow or ice.
- Brake slowly. Avoid making sudden moves.
- Listen to traveler's advisories and weather reports during your travel. Be prepared to get off the road, if advised to do so.
- Keep an emergency survival kit in your car or truck.
- If you get stuck, stay with your car unless there is a house in sight.
- If you get stuck, wear layers of clothing and keep the blood circulating by clapping your hands and stomping your feet.
- Run the car engine 15 minutes with at least 15 minutes in between. Crack the window for ventilation and be sure the tail pipe isn't clogged with snow.