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DECORATING YOUR HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

This holiday season is a time for celebration. However, each year fires injure 2,600 people in the United States and cause more than \$930 million in damage.

As people decorate their homes with trees, wreaths, electric lights, and candles, there are important steps to remember to ensure a safe and happy holiday.

Holiday Christmas Trees

- If you are going to use a live Christmas tree in your home, there are several things to note:
 - When you select your tree, the needles should be fresh, green, and hard to pull off a branch. If needles fall off easily, the tree is drying out and can pose a fire hazard.
 - Locate the tree in your home carefully. Do not put the tree near any source of heat, such as a fireplace or vent. This can cause the tree to dry more quickly and pose a fire hazard.
 - Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
 - Use a large sturdy tree stand so children can't pull the tree down.
 - Cut the branches on the bottom of the tree, so they don't poke children in the eye.
- Check electric lights for frayed wires, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive wear before use.
- Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do not leave electric lights unattended.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.

Gift and Home Decorations

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant. They should not be placed near heating vents or fireplaces.
- Do not put wrapping paper in the fireplace as chemicals can build up in the home and cause an explosion.
- Artificial Christmas trees should be flame retardant.
- Broken ornaments can be a risk for children. Make sure you keep sharp or breakable glass ornaments out of their reach.
- Be sure to keep ribbon away from small children. Any piece seven inches or longer could wrap around a child's neck and accidentally strangle him or her.

Candles

- Do not leave candles unattended.
- Use stable candle holders that are out of reach of children.
- Do not put lit candles on a tree.