

## **Tis the Season, For Safety!**

(Penticton - December 14, 2017) - Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. The Penticton Fire Department would like to remind the community to follow a few simple tips that will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

### Decorating/Entertaining

Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- 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.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards.
- Use clips, not nails or staples to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other flammable material.
- Extinguish lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Test smoke alarms and tell guests about your home escape plan.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a secure location.

### Christmas tree Safety

One quarter of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Look for flexible needles that don't break, and a trunk with sap.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
- Artificial trees should be flame resistant and have a seal from an approved safety testing laboratory.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles heat vents or lights.

If you have questions regarding burning regulations and/or permanent wood burning outdoor fireplaces please contact the Penticton Fire Department at 250-490-2300.

**Contact:**

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