

## Holiday Fire Safety Tips!

'Tis the season for family and friends to gather and enjoy the holidays. Please remember these safety tips to keep the season memorable.

Many people like the smell of a real holiday tree in their living room. Tree safety involves:

- Keep your tree watered and fresh. The tree is dry and should be removed when the needles readily fall off when the limb is bumped or moved. Freshly cut trees consume more water than older trees. Make sure the stand is full of water. If the stand goes dry, a new cut needs to be made in the tree in order for it to consume water again.
- Have a sturdy stand for your tree. The stand should be able to hold two days of water and be wide enough so the tree will not fall.
- Do not use candles on the tree.
- Everyone enjoys a well-lit tree. Remember not to overload power cords/strips.
- The tree and all the gifts under it should not block the doorways of the room.
- Keep trees away from any heat source. The trees dry out much quicker when near a heat vent or radiator.



The holidays means good food for many. Cooking fires are a major source of home fires here in St. Cloud and nationwide. When cooking please:



- Do not leave the stove unattended
- Keep sauce pans and skillet handles pointed away from the edge. Children love helping in the kitchen. Keep the handles from little hands to prevent burns and scalds.
- Keep the turkey fryer away from the house.

Finally, general fire safety tips:

- Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work and they have fresh batteries
- Have a fire extinguisher handy
- If you have candles burning keep them away from decorations and in a sturdy holder. Also make sure the candles are extinguished before turning in for the night.

For more safety information and tips please visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's website at <http://dps.state.mn.us>

The St. Cloud Fire Department wishes everyone to have a happy and safe holiday season. Stay fire aware and don't drink and drive.