



# Newsletter

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2008

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## Fire Safety for the Holiday Season

With the holiday season approaching, it is important to keep in mind fire safety.

Each year, it is estimated that during the holiday season, fire will claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million dollars in damage.

According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday season:

First, as with every season, make sure your home has a working smoke alarm on every level.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) also

recommends that each home be equipped with a working smoke alarm outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom as well.

A working smoke alarm can double your chances of survival in the event of a fire. It is important to make sure your home is equipped with properly working smoke alarms.

### Holidays

During the holiday season, be sure to take extra care when cooking and decorating. Pay close attention while cooking, especially when using oils and grease. You can avoid a grease fire by keeping cooking appliances clean of grease build-

up. When decorating make sure that all decorations are nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

If you are among the estimated 33 million Americans that will bring a living Christmas tree into your home, remember to keep your tree watered at all times. Christmas trees account for an estimated 200 fires annually, resulting in 6 deaths, 25 injuries and more than \$6 million dollars in property damage. According to the U.S. Fire Administration:

### A WET TREE IS A SAFE TREE

Finally, always make sure you develop and practice an escape plan from every room in the house.

In the event of a fire, it is important to know when and how to call for help.

## Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

### UP-COMMING CONFERENCES TO LOOK FOR

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Injury Prevention Forum

Maryland EMSC & Partnership for a Safer Maryland

Partnership's Quarterly

November 5th 2008

12:30 to 3:30 PM

Save the Date: December 11 2008

Poison Prevention Instructor Training  
How to teach Children, Adults and Seniors  
Harbor Hospital, Baltimore, MD

For more information, contact:

Angel Bivens abivens@rx.umaryland.edu



# FIRE SAFETY TIPS

## Holiday Fire Safety



### Cooking

- ◆ Do NOT leave cooking food unattended.  
**Remember: Stand by your pan!**
- ◆ Keep cooking appliances clean of grease build-up
- ◆ Never attempt to use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- ◆ In case of a fire call 9-1-1 Immediately.

### Holiday Decorations

- ◆ Use nonflammable or flame-retardant decorations
- ◆ Place decorations away from heat sources.

### Holiday Lights

- ◆ Do not overload electrical outlets
- ◆ Do not leave holiday lights on unattended
- ◆ Check wires periodically: should NOT be warm to the touch.



### Holiday Trees

- ◆ Keep away from heat sources --- fireplaces, radiators and heating vents
- ◆ Do not keep live holiday trees more than 2 weeks
- ◆ Keep live trees watered--- **A WET TREE IS A SAFE TREE!**

- ◆ **Tips to Remember year-round:**
- ◆ **Smoke alarms installed on every level of your home**
- ◆ **Test alarms once a month and replace batteries if needed**
- ◆ **Plan and practice fire escape routes from each room of your home**
- ◆ **Identify outside meeting place.**

For more Information Visit:

U.S. Fire Administration at [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/holiday-seasonal/](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/)

NFPA at <http://www.nfpa.org/>