

SMOKE ALARMS

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside every sleeping area.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month.
- Change your batteries when you change your clock.
- Regularly clean your smoke alarm by vacuuming or dusting.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

EXIT DRILLS IN THE HOME

- Have a plan and practice it.
- Know two ways out of each room.
- Get Low and Go if smoke is present.
- Have a Safe Meeting Place.
- Get OUT and Stay OUT!
- Call 911.
- Tell Emergency Responders that you are out or if someone may still be in the home.

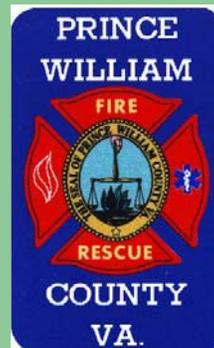
HOLIDAY FIRE FACTS

- The leading cause of fires in the home are cooking, heating, and electrical.
- Fires caused by smoking materials and heating are the leading causes of home fire deaths.
- Roughly 80 percent of U.S. fire deaths occur in the home!
- One in nine reported home Christmas tree fires result in death.

FIRE STATISTICS

- Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.
- 65% of reported home fire deaths occurred in homes without smoke alarms or working smoke alarms.
- December and January are the peak months for home fires and home fire deaths.
- Together with smoke alarms, sprinklers cut the risk of dying in a home fire by 82%.
- Installing sprinklers adds between 1% and 1.5% to the total cost of construction.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE



www.pwcgov.org/fire

www.nfpa.org

www.sparky.org



Holiday

Fire



Safety

for
December and January



How Safe Is Your Home

LOOK WHEN YOU COOK

- Stay in the kitchen while all food is cooking.
- Turn off the stove if leaving the kitchen.
- Consider using a timer that alerts the cook when the food is done or needs to be checked.
- Keep things that can catch fire away from heat. (i.e. oven mitts, dish towel, paper products)
- Wear clothing with sleeves that are short, close fitting or tightly rolled up.
- Have a “kid-free-zone” of 3 feet.
- Never hold a child while cooking, drinking or carrying hot foods or liquids.
- If you have a cooking fire:
 - ◆ NEVER pour water on a grease fire
 - ◆ Turn off the stove
 - ◆ Cover the pan with a lid
 - ◆ REMOVE pan from the stove
 - ◆ Do not remove the lid until pan is completely cool
- If you have an oven fire:
 - ◆ Turn off the heat
 - ◆ KEEP the oven door closed
 - ◆ Get out and call 9-1-1
- If you have a microwave fire:
 - ◆ Turn it off
 - ◆ KEEP the microwave door closed
 - ◆ Get out and call 9-1-1

FIREPLACES AND WOODSTOVES

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a specialist.
- Keep flammables away from the hearth.
- Use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces.
- Leave glass doors open while burning a fire.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open, and never restrict air supply to fireplaces.
- Use only seasoned wood, not green wood, artificial logs, or trash.
- NEVER leave a fire unattended.
- Extinguish the fire before going to bed or leaving the home.
- Place ashes in a metal container; dispose of them away from the home.

KEROSENE HEATERS

- Refuel outdoors safely away from your home.
- Allow heater to cool before refueling.

SPACE HEATERS

- Keep all combustibles at least three feet away from each heater.
- Use space heaters with automatic and tip-over shut-off features.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING

- Keep a 12-inch “circle of safety” around candles.
- Extinguish candles when you leave the room.
- Never leave children or pets unattended near burning candles.
- Keep matches, and lighters out of reach of children.

HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTINUED

- Purchase only  approved decorative lights.
- Outside, use only lights labeled for outdoor use.
- Do not use extension cords for outside decorations.
- Always unplug indoor lights before leaving home or going to bed.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Plug only one high-wattage appliance at a time into an outlet.
- Avoid running cords across doorways or under carpets.
- Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) protect electrical outlets against fire.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) greatly reduce the risk of shock.

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

- Keep tree base immersed in water.
- Do not permit smoking near the tree.
- Use only lights that are U.L. approved.
- Use flame retardant decorations and paper.
- Inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and defective sockets.
- Unplug lights at night and when leaving the home.
- Remove the tree soon after the holidays before the needles dry out.