



News Release

San Jose Fire Department

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Holiday Safety Tips

San Jose, CA – More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires; eighty-two percent of those occur in the home (USFA). The San Jose Fire Department provides the following holiday fire safety tips to lessen the possibility of having a fire in your home and increasing your chances of survival should a fire occur:

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- Have a working smoke detector in each bedroom and on each level of your home. A working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly a half (USFA).
- If possible, sleep with all bedroom doors closed to prevent the movement of smoke; use a monitor to listen to your young children
- Keep at least one fire extinguisher in your home and know how to use it.
- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked over. Never leave the house with candles burning. Keep candles away from decorations and evergreens on mantelpieces or tables.
- Maintain your chimney and do not burn evergreen branches or wrapping paper. Make sure the flue is open and use a screen to enclose the front of your fireplace to confine live embers and sparks.
- Place your Christmas tree away from fireplaces, heaters, and other heat sources. Keep it out of home traffic pattern and do not block doorways.
- Keep the tree replenished with water to prevent the needles from drying out
- Use only UL approved lighting and inspect holiday lights each year for damage.
- Do not leave lit holiday lights unattended.
- Plan and practice an emergency escape plan with your entire family.
- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of the reach of young children.

For more Fire Safety Tips go to: www.sjfd.org/PubEd.

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