



The holiday season is fast-approaching. While this is a joyous and exciting time of year for many of us, the rush and tension can distract our regard for safety.

Blazing fireplaces, dry evergreen trees, faulty ornamental lights, and unattended candles have too often changed a family's celebration to tragedy. Here are a few safety tips to help you enjoy a safe and happy holiday:

- Never leave candles burning unattended
- Keep burning candles out of reach of children, pets, decorations, wrapping paper and trees
- Cut wicks short to prevent a high flame
- If candles are used in centerpieces, make sure they do not burn low to ignite the decorations
- Use sturdy candle holders
- Check for tree freshness before purchasing, and store in a cool sheltered location before bringing inside
- Secure tree in a sturdy stand and place away from high-traffic areas, doorways, and heat sources (heaters, radiators, stoves, fireplaces, candles)
- Water the tree daily - fresh trees can consume up to 4 litres per day
- Remove the tree right after the holidays or as soon as the needles begin to fall off
- Use only lights that have been certified by a recognized organization (CSA, ULC)
- Use only interior lights inside and exterior lights outside
- Replace broken and burnt out bulbs before hanging lights
- Check the cords and plugs, disposing of any that show wear, loose connections, or broken sockets
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Turn off holiday lights before leaving your home or going to bed
- Always secure screens in front of fireplaces
- Have your chimney cleaned annually
- Burning hardwood will leave less creosote in the chimney
- Make sure the fire is out before leaving your home or going to bed
