

# Environmental Health and Safety

December 1, 2017



## Winter Holiday Safety

The winter holiday season is here. As we decorate, prepare food and travel to see friends and family think about how to make this holiday season safer for you and those around you.

### Holiday Safety Tips

- Use candles away from greenery.
- Keep poisonous plants out of the reach of children and pets.
- Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources.
- Ensure tree has a stable base.
- Choose artificial greens that are labeled fire resistant.
- Water trees and plants to keep moist.
- Inspect string lights for fraying, bare spots, gaps in insulation and excessive kinks in wires.
- Turn off lights and decorations when not in use.
- Use an appropriate ladder for higher decorating.
- Prepare meals safely by washing hands, utensils, sinks and any other items that touch raw meats.
- Reheat leftovers to at least 165° F.

### Holiday Safety Facts

- In 2012, there were 15,000 injuries due to holiday decorating.
- 12% of home candle fires are in December.
- Since 2002, 672 people have been injured and \$8 million in property damage due to turkey fryers.
- The holiday season has higher than average motor vehicle incidents. Drive safely.
- In 2016, there were over 174,000 emergency room treated toy incidents in children 15 years and under.



### Resources

[NSC: Holiday Safety](#)   [NSC: The 12 Days of Safety](#)   [CDC: Holiday Safety](#)   [CPSC: Toy Safety](#)

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**Don't learn safety by accident**