



## Basic Fire Safety Tips

1. Keep fire extinguishers handy.
2. Design and practice a fire escape plan.
3. Check smoke alarms monthly.
4. Learn first aid for burns.
5. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
6. Never smoke in bed.
7. Know two exits from every room.
8. Post emergency numbers by every phone.
9. Store flammable liquids properly.
10. Set your hot water heater to 120° Fahrenheit.
11. Crawl low in smoke.
12. Replace damaged electrical cords.
13. Learn CPR and First Aid.



**Estero Fire Rescue** wishes you a safe holiday season, and a healthy, happy new year.

Celebrate responsibly—Choose a designated driver.



## For Further Information

Estero Fire Rescue invites you to contact our Community Education Division for further information on fire safety or copies of our other safety brochures or educational opportunities.

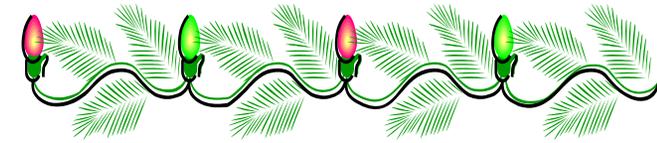
Assistance is available in but not limited to the following areas;

- Home Evacuation
- Courtesy Home Inspections
- Free Smoke Alarm Program
- First Aid, CPR & AED Training
- Emergency Planning/Disaster Preparedness
- Babysitter Training
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Fire safety for Health Care and Institutional Facilities
- Fire Safety in the Workplace
- Fire Safety for Persons with Disabilities
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Senior Citizen Fire Safety
- High-Rise Safety
- College Safety
- Fire Truck Demonstrations
- Fire Station Tours
- Juvenile Firesetters Program
- Fire of Life

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**Estero Fire Rescue**  
Public Relations and Community Education  
21500 Three Oaks Parkway  
Estero, FL 33928



*Tips for enjoying your*

*Holiday Season Safely*

*Brought to you by:*

*Estero*



**FIRE RESCUE**

*Holiday Fire Safety*



**Estero Fire Rescue**

Public Relations and Community Education

21500 Three Oaks Parkway

Estero, FL 33928

239-309-8000

www.esterofire.org





# Tips for Holiday Safety

The long holiday season is full of opportunities for people to get together for fun, food, and sharing. By following some simple precautions, you can make the holidays safe for yourself, your family and friends.

**Be watchful of dangers to children.** Teach them to stay away from candles, fireplaces, fireworks, space heaters, matches, and lighters. Holly and mistletoe can be poisonous to small children and pets.



**Choose toys wisely.** Pass up those that could be highly flammable or a choking hazard. Make sure electric toys are labeled for fire safety, and keep them away from your tree.

**Install smoke detectors on every level in your home and in each bedroom.** Check their function according to manufacturer's directions, and change their batteries at least once a year. It could mean the difference between waking up to a small, smoldering fire or one you can't escape. *For the greatest fire safety, we recommend a smoke detector inside each bedroom in addition to the required smoke detector on each level of the home.*



**Wrap it up!** Dispose of gift wrappings soon after opening presents. A room full of paper lying around on the floor and furniture is yet another holiday hazard. Do not burn wrappings in a fireplace; they may ignite suddenly and cause a flash fire



**Check out lights.** Make sure all holiday lights are tested for safety. You can identify these by a "UL" label from Underwriters Laboratories. Replace any worn sets or those with loose connections. Outside, use lighting labeled for outdoor use. Inside, do not overload outlets. Never put lights on a metal tree. And always unplug everything before you leave your home or go to bed.

**Use motorized ornaments/decorations wisely.** Motorized ornaments and other decorations (animated figures) are very popular. Be sure to turn off any motorized ornaments on your tree with your holiday lights., and keep watch over animated figures, which can overheat and burn out if used for long periods of time.



**Choose a fresh tree.** Look for one without shedding needles. Trim the trunk at an angle before you put it in a non-tip stand. Make sure it is watered constantly and placed away from all exits and sources of heat. All artificial trees should have labels which indicate they are fire retardant.

**Care with candles.** Always put candles in candlesticks before you light them. Do not use them in decorations or displays. Keep candles away from curtains or other combustibles materials. Never put them in windows or near exits. And never leave candles in the reach of unsupervised children or pets. Always blow out candles when you leave a room.



**Have a fire safe fireplace.** Have it professionally inspected at least once a year and cleaned if necessary. Don't burn anything but dry wood, as paper can fly out of the chimney. Have a spark arrester installed on top of the chimney to cut hazards. Use a metal fire screen, put ashes in metal containers and never store them in your home.



**Give space heaters space!** An adequate clearance of at least 36" from any combustible surface. Make sure the heater meets UL testing and is used properly.



**Party safely.** Costumes and decorations should be flame - retardant or non-combustible. Take extra care with smoking materials and always cool the contents of ashtrays before disposing. The use of alcohol and smoking can be a deadly combination.



## GIFT SUGGESTIONS:

This year consider giving a smoke alarm, carbon monoxide detector, or fire extinguisher as a holiday present for yourself and those you care about.

