

Consumer News

Office of Consumer Affairs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: November 20, 2009

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County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs Offers Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

"While it is easy to get caught up in the holiday shuffle of dinners, gifts and travel, safety should be at the top of everyone's lists," said Cynthia Sich, Director of the Summit County Office of Consumer Affairs. "Below are this season's reminders about the importance of safe holiday decorating habits."

- ❄️ INSTALL a smoke detector or new batteries in the one(s) you have and TEST it.
- ❄️ INSTALL a carbon monoxide detector or new batteries in the one you have and TEST it.
- ❄️ EXAMINE light strings each year, discard worn ones. Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up. Unplug light strings before replacing a bulb. Never use indoor extension cords or indoor lights outside and keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground.
- ❄️ USE miniature lights on a tree or indoor decorations – which have cool-burning bulbs. Connect NO MORE than three strands together. AVOID overloading wall outlets and extension cords.
- ❄️ NEVER use candles on a tree, near evergreens or around paper or artificial decorations.
- ❄️ ALWAYS place candles where they CAN NOT be knocked over. REMEMBER to blow them out before leaving home or going to bed.
- ❄️ PLACE tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, radiators or other heat sources. Cut off 1-2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. SECURE the tree to keep from tipping using fishing line tied to a wall hook or ceiling. KEEP the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors by checking it daily. Place a tree skirt around the base of the tree to keep toddlers or pets away from the stand.
- ❄️ DO NOT place breakable ornaments or ornaments with very small pieces or other trimmings around the bottom of the tree. Toddlers and pets are curious, broken ornaments can cause injury or possible choking hazard.
- ❄️ TURN OFF ALL indoor Christmas lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- ❄️ BEFORE lighting a fire, check to see that the flue is open. DO NOT burn paper in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY SEASON!