



Office of Emergency Management

At-A-Glance



Cuyahoga County
Together We Thrive

Holiday Safety

Thousands of deaths are caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries every year, and 12% of home candle fires occur in December, the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

Fire Safety

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle
- Keep candles out of reach of children
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year



Decorating Safety

Putting up decorations is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but about 15,000 injuries involving holiday decorating were seen in emergency rooms during the 2012 season.

- Decorate the tree with your kids in mind;
- Always use the proper step ladder; don't stand on chairs or other furniture
- Lights are among the best parts of holiday decorating; make sure there are no exposed or frayed wires, loose connections or broken sockets

Ready.Gov, American Academy of Pediatrics

Holiday Preparedness Poem

The clock is ticking and we're down to the wire
Everything feels like it's just caught on fire.
But, let's be certain that isn't true
Keep your real trees watered and your plants too.

The gift list keeps growing, everyone gets a toy
Tablets, e-readers and chargers, oh boy!
There are plenty of deals out here and out there,
If you're buying online, be secure and aware.

Plenty of people with candles alight
Might want to keep them from becoming a fright.
The way to do that is to keep them away
From the things that could catch on fire some way.

The big day is near, you plan to travel some place.
But a big winter storm rears its big ugly face.
It might change your plans and keep you at home
But that's better than going out in a snow dome.

The best thing to do is sit down to a feast,
Mashed potatoes and stuffing and a big old roast beast
at least. Keep an eye on them as they sit and they stew.
That way your dinner will be sure to woo.

When the day is over, the kids all in bed.
It's time to settle into the comfy bedspread.
Turn out the holiday lights, their job is all done.
We hope your holiday's a big happy one.



A Preparedness Resource from
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