



Winter Fires

Ready or not the Holiday Season is upon us, and with it comes a countless number of activities and traditions. While the winter holiday season is traditionally a festive time of year filled with colorful decorations and family gatherings, it is too often a time of tragedy and loss as well. The National Fire Protection Association indicate that 30% of all home fires and 38% of home fire deaths occur during the months of December, January and February. Below are some statistics and tips from FEMA and the US Fire Administration to help you better understand the prevalence and severity of Winter Fires:

Statistics:

- 905 people die in winter fires each year
- \$2.1 billion in property loss occurs from winter fires
- 5 to 8pm is the most common time for winter home fires
- Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires
- 67 percent of winter fires occur in one and two family homes
- Heating equipment is involved in 1 in every 6 home fires
- 1 in 31 reported Christmas tree fires resulted in death
- A heat source too close to the Christmas tree cause 1 in 4 Christmas tree fire
- 2 out of 5 home decoration fires are started by candles
- The top 3 days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year's Day and Christmas Eve
- A home fire can double in size every minute and in three minutes a fire can burn so hot that it ignites everything at once (this is called flashover)

Tips:

- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source such as a fireplace, wood stove, or space heater
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents every year
- Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance, such as a space heater, into an electrical outlet at a time
- Keep portable generators outside, away from windows and as far away as possible from your house
- Install and test carbon monoxide alarms at least once a month
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns
- Make sure your Christmas Tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, space heaters, and candles
- Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry
- Read manufactures instructions for the number of light strands to connect together
- Avoid overloading sockets and extension cords with lights and décor
- Turn off Christmas lights when you leave the home

Experiencing a winter fire can turn those holiday cheers to holiday tears in no time. Please remember these tips and statistics to keep you and your family safe during the Holiday season. Until next time my friends, be prepared and stay safe.

From our family to yours, have a Safe and happy Holiday Season!!!

SOURCE: FEMA, US FIRE ADMINISTRATION, AND THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 ACA Luncheon	2 SABoma Luncheon	3
4	5	6 SAMA Luncheon	7 IIASA Luncheon	8 IREM Luncheon	9 IWSA Luncheon	10
11	12	13 SACA Luncheon	14 AAFAME Lunch	15 Austin BOMA CAMO Meeting SAHLA Social	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

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Events

- December 1: ACA Luncheon
- December 2: SA BOMA Luncheon
- December 6: SAMA Luncheon
- December 7: IIASA Luncheon
- December 8: IREM Luncheon
- December 9: IWSA Luncheon
- December 13: SACA Luncheon
- December 14: AAFAME Luncheon
- December 15: Austin BOMA Luncheon
- December 15: CAMO Meeting
- December 15: SAHLA Social
- December 24: Christmas Eve
- December 25: Christmas Day
- December 31: New Years Eve

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