

San Gabriel Fire Department Holiday Tips

Fire never takes a holiday! Learning basic fire prevention facts and taking simple precautions can make all of your holiday celebrations safe and memorable. This is also a perfect time to find that portable fire extinguisher and check to see if all smoke detectors are working properly. Remember to change the battery in your smoke detectors when you change your clocks.

Halloween:

- Costumes and decorations should only be made of flame-retardant materials. Avoid loose, flammable clothing.
- Each mask, wig, and costume must be easily seen at night.
- Use battery powered lights for jack-o-lanterns, **not** candles.
- Keep decorations away from sources of heat, such as exposed bulbs and open flames.

Thanksgiving:

- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep kitchen clutter and loose clothing away from the stove's heat.
- Turn pot handles in, away from a child's reach.
- Use potholders to prevent burns.
- Never throw water on a grease fire. Instead cover the burning pan with a lid.

Christmas:

- Make sure your Christmas tree is fresh. Shedding needles is a sign of a dry tree.
- Keep your tree fresh by placing it in a stand that holds water.
- Make sure artificial trees are flame-retardant.
- Never smoke around the tree or flammable decorations.
- Place trees away from direct sources of heat.
- Never place a tree so that it blocks an exit.
- Only buy electric lights that are approved by a national testing lab.
- Never decorate metal trees with electric lights.
- Always unplug lights before going to bed.
- Never run electrical cords through doorways and under rugs.
- Keep candles in sturdy holders and never place them near combustibles, such as curtains.
- Avoid hanging stockings near an open flame.
- Never burn paper in a fireplace. This is a major cause of chimney and roof fires.

The San Gabriel Fire Department wishes you and your family a safe holiday season. If you have any questions about the holiday tips please call the Prevention Bureau at (626) 308-2883.