Holiday Fire Prevention Tips

Each year fire claims the lives of 3,500 Americans, injures 18,300, and causes billions of dollars’ worth of damage. People living in rural areas are more than twice as likely to die in a fire as those living in mid-sized cities or suburban areas. Here are some holiday fire prevention tips to keep our homes safe from fire during this holiday season:

* Make sure you have working smoke detectors in the home outside every sleeping area on each floor of the home
* Lugoff Fire provides free smoke detector installations! Call us if you need one!
* Don’t overload electrical outlets
* Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord
* Use only outdoor-rated extension cords outdoors
* Avoid leaving holiday decorative lighting on when away from home
* Consider LED lighting
* Inspect all holiday light plugs, bulbs, and wiring
* Turn off all holiday lighting before going to bed
* Use battery-operated candles instead of live-fire candles
* Beware of strains, sprains, and falls while decorating using ladders safely
* Space heaters need space-keep furniture and objects away
* Electric space heaters must be plugged directly into a wall outlet
* Have a carbon-monoxide detector on every level of the home outside every sleeping area-CO is a silent killer!
* Clean chimneys often to prevent creosote build-up and fire dangers/ avoid placing paper products inside the fireplace
* Make sure dampers are open before starting fires inside fireplaces
* Use a heavy screen or insert in fireplaces to prevent logs from rolling out
* Allow ashes to cool before removing them and always place ashes inside a metal container keeping the container at least 10 feet away from buildings
* Have a home escape plan and practice it with the family
* Never leave food cooking unattended on a stove or grill
* Closely follow safety precautions for deep fryers/turkey fryers
* Always use portable generators outside away from doors and windows-never use inside of enclosed areas of a home or building
* Keep a multi-purpose ABC fire extinguisher ready for use in the home

Call Lugoff Fire at 803-438-2553 to speak with a firefighter for more information.

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