



## Holiday Decorating & Entertaining

### SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

- \* When decorating and entertaining for the holidays, keep fire and personal safety in mind. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant. Tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- \* If you have a new puppy or a small child in the house, don't decorate your tree with popcorn garlands, candy canes, or other edibles. Tinsels can be especially attractive, and harmful, to cats.
- \* Certain holiday plants (poinsettia, holly, mistletoe, lilies, and daffodils) are dangerous to pets and can cause mild to severe health problems. Be very careful where you place them. Cats, especially, need to be considered because they can climb high spaces.
- \* If you burn candles, use holders that are sturdy and won't tip over easily. Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn. Keep children and pets away from lit candles. Blow them out before leaving the house or going to bed. Don't use candles if oxygen is used in the home.
- \* Don't pick up the pan your turkey is roasting in and discover that the "hot mitt" gloves you are wearing don't provide enough insulation. Check to make sure before you lift the pan.
- \* If you have cookies baking, don't ask someone to take over if that person is sleepy, lying on the couch and watching television. Or, if you do, make sure your smoke detector works and is loud enough to wake them.
- \* If using a turkey fryer, make sure you understand the dangers associated with its use. The National Fire Protection Association discourages its use ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)), but consumers continue to use them. Carefully follow the unit's instructions and thoroughly research the dangers caused by hot oil spills or splashes.
- \* Test your smoke alarms and make sure you have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen. If you have an uncontrollable cooking fire, just get out. When you leave close the door behind you to contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 immediately.

[www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx](http://www.public.navy.mil/comnavsafecen/pages/media/index-safetips.aspx)



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