

## **HOME SAFETY TIPS**

Take a moment to prevent a fire tragedy in your home. This is a timely reminder from Fire Commissioner Ayers and the Philadelphia Fire Department to urge everyone to keep fire safety in mind during the Holiday season. Here are some very important safety tips:

### **ELECTRICAL**

- Check light wiring and sockets for wear and damage; replace if necessary.
- Use only UL (Underwriters' Laboratory) approved decorations and cords.
- Don't use indoor lights outside.
- Do not use electric lights on metallic trees. Use spotlights instead for illumination.
- Turn off electrical decorations when you leave home or go to bed.
- Keep space heaters away from furniture and combustible items; "Space heaters need space."

### **CANDLES**

- Do not use candles near decorations in your home or where they can be tipped over.
- Avoid placing candles near drapes or curtains.
- Place candles in a safe, substantial base with the flame protected.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children, and don't leave candles burning in unoccupied rooms.

### **TRIMMINGS**

- Live decorations such as evergreen boughs and wreaths are less of a safety hazard when displayed outside. Indoors, place them in water if possible and keep them away from heat sources. Discard promptly when dry.
- Make sure artificial decorations are labeled "flame resistant," or "fire retardant."
- Apply artificial spray "snow" in well-ventilated areas and avoid using near ignition sources.

### **TREES**

- If you buy a natural grown tree, be sure it is fresh. When the tree is brought home, cut the trunk about one inch above the original cut. Place the tree in water and leave it outdoors, until you are ready to decorate it.
- When you bring the tree into your home, place it in a sturdy stand with plenty of room for water. Check the water level and add as needed. Keep the tree away from stairs, doorways and exits. Never run electric trains under the tree, a spark could set it on fire.
- Take the tree down as soon as the needles start to fall off. Place the tree, untied,, outdoors in a safe area until scheduled trash pick up.

### **ALCOHOL AND CIGARETTES**

- Overindulgence on holidays by those who drink, particularly if they also smoke, contributes to thousands of house fires and other accidents every year. Dropped cigarettes, often associated with drinking, are the nation's leading cause of fire deaths.
- Check ashtrays carefully, letting them stand overnight before emptying.
- Check furniture, carpets, and wastebaskets for smoldering cigarettes after entertaining.
- Keep alcohol and smoking materials out of the reach of children.

## **HOLIDAY GIFTS**

- Having trouble finding a gift for a family member or friend? 10-year battery smoke alarms and wireless smoke alarms make thoughtful gifts, as do carbon monoxide alarms. Remember to install smoke alarms on every level of your home, and plan and practice a home escape plan.