



**City of Alamogordo**  
**Alamogordo Fire Department**  
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## **Public Service Announcement**

### **HOLIDAY SEASON**

With the Holiday Season fast approaching, the Alamogordo Fire Department would like to remind you about fire safety. The celebration of the season brings with it increased usage of electric lights, candles, space heaters, fireplaces and Christmas trees. Listed below are some important points to remember and follow to have a fire-safe holiday season. To make sure your Holiday Season remains a time of joy and happiness, the Alamogordo Fire Department is urging you to take the extra safety precautions this Holiday Season.

### **HELPFUL TIPS**

#### *Holiday Lights*

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
- If you use holiday lights outside, make sure they are rated for outdoor use.

#### *Christmas Tree*

- The key to a safe Christmas tree starts at the sales lot. Once you find the tree you like, make sure you do the "Tap Test", lift the tree up and tap it on the ground. If any needles fall off, this tree is already too dry. Look for another tree.
- Make sure you keep your tree watered. Without daily watering, your Christmas tree could become highly flammable and just take mere seconds to become fully engulfed in flames.
- Never use outside lights on your Christmas tree. These lights can produce enough heat to dry out your tree and will increase the chance of fire.
- Always check your decorative lights for frayed wires and other possible defects.
- Always turn your decorative lights off when leaving your home and before going to bed.

#### *Candles*

- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from walls, curtains, decorations or other materials that may burn.
- Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to sleep.
- Never leave a child or a pet alone with a burning candle in the room.
- Make sure when you burn candles you do so in a stable, noncombustible holder.

### *Fireplaces*

- Have your chimney inspected at least once a year and cleaned and repaired as often as necessary.
- Always use a fireplace screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them.
- Store removed ashes in tightly covered metal containers, never in boxes or bags.

### *Portable Space Heaters*

- Improperly used space heaters are one of the leading causes of home fire deaths.
- Keep portable space heaters at least three feet away from walls, curtains, bedding or other materials that may burn.
- Turn off portable space heaters when you leave the room. Never leave them on when you go to bed.
- Plug cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

The Alamogordo Fire Department's main goal is to eliminate all emergencies due to Holiday fires. Remember we can all do our part this Holiday Season by eliminating fires. The Alamogordo Fire Department wishes you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

**REMEMBER OUR MAIN GOAL IS TO  
STAY SAFE  
AND  
ALWAYS STAY FIRE SMART**