

Keep your family safe at home over the holidays

Taking responsibility for your family's safety is important every day.

It rings especially true around the holidays, historically one of the most dangerous times of the year.

To reduce fire losses this year, Caledon Fire and Emergency Services is asking residents to consider a holiday fire safety tip each day, with their 12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety campaign, heading into the holiday season.

“These tips have been developed to prevent the most common types of home fires that occur during the holiday season,” said Fire Chief Terry Irwin. “I hope citizens will take the time to review these tips, to keep their homes fire safe this holiday season.”

Homeowners and tenants are urged to include the following 12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety tips into their fire safety plans:

- ? Water fresh trees daily. Keep the base of the trunk in water at all times.
 - ? Check all sets of lights before decorating. Discard any sets that are frayed or damaged.
 - ? Make sure you have working smoke alarms. Remember, they wear out, so replace them every 10 years.
 - ? Make sure you have working carbon monoxide alarms. Remember, they wear out, so replace them every five to seven years.
 - ? Make sure everyone knows how to get out safely if a fire occurs. Develop and practice a home fire escape plan.
 - ? Use extension cords wisely. Extension cords should be used only as a temporary connection.
 - ? Give space heaters space. Keep them at least one metre away from anything that can burn.
 - ? When you go out, blow out. Remember to always blow out candles before leaving the room.
 - ? Keep matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children. Matches and lighters can be deadly in the hands of children.
 - ? Watch what you heat. Always stay in the kitchen when cooking.
 - ? Encourage smokers to smoke outside. Careless smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires.
 - ? There's more to responsible drinking than taking a cab home. Alcohol is all too often a common factor in many fatal fires.
- More information is available on the Safe At Home website at www.safeathome.ca