

Holiday Safety



True Story

A fire involving a Christmas tree destroyed the contents of a residence and displaced a family of four. While the family was sleeping, a spark from the fireplace ignited a rug. The Christmas tree then caught fire. The family escaped, and no one was seriously injured.

-From ABC News

The Facts

- In 2002, there were 240 Christmas tree fires in U.S. homes, resulting in 23 deaths, 12 injuries, and \$11.4 million in direct property damage.
- During 2002, an estimated 18,000 home fires started by candles were reported to public fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated 130 deaths, 1,350 injuries and an estimated direct property loss of \$333 million.
- Christmas is the peak day for home candle fires.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S.
- During 2002, at least 13 children ages 14 and younger died from toy-related injuries and an estimated 165,200 were treated in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries.

What You Can Do

- Use caution with holiday decorations and whenever possible, choose those made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or non-combustible materials.
- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches and the needles should not break. The trunk should be sticky to the touch.
- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials. Remember to blow out the candles when you leave the room.
- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety.
- Before lighting your fireplace, remove all greens, boughs, papers and other decorations for the area and make sure the flue is open.
- When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the stove.
- When buying toys, be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations.



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.

© 2006 Safe Kids