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TIS THE SEASON TO BE CAREFUL ENJOY A FIRE SAFE HOLIDAY

What's The Risk?

Smoking and cooking are the top 2 causes of fatal fires during the holidays (Nov, Dec, Jan).

Injuries caused by smoking account for 1 in 10 home fire injuries during the holidays.

Smoking account for 30% of all home fire deaths during the holidays.

Cooking fires account for 19% of all home fires during the holidays.

27% of all home fire injuries occur in cooking fires during the holidays.

Alcohol is a factor in many fatal fires involving smoking and cooking. Drink responsibly!

How Do I Protect My Family During The Holidays?

❖ Always stay in the kitchen while cooking. If you must leave, turn off the stove.

❖ Keep an eye on any drinkers in your household and make sure all cigarettes are properly extinguished and the stove is off before going to bed.

❖ Cigarettes can smoulder among upholstered items for hours before igniting. Check sofas and chairs for cigarettes that may have fallen between the cushions.

❖ Provide large, deep

ashtrays for smokers.

❖ Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

ARE YOU PROTECTED BY SMOKE AND CO ALARMS?

In 30% of fatal home fires there is no smoke alarm warning.

Install smoke alarms on every storey of your home and outside all sleeping areas.

CO alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage.

Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
TENANTS AND FAMILY**

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ALTERNATIVE LIGHTING/MATCHES & LIGHTERS

Alternative lights or chemical light sticks instead of candles or

lanterns to reduce fire risks. Keep all matches and

lighters out of sight and reach of children, preferably locked away.





WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

-))) Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
-))) Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
-))) Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
-))) Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's

instructions for number of light strands to connect.

-))) Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
-))) Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

-))) Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
-))) Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
-))) Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
-))) Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

-))) Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.

BEFORE HEADING OUT OR TO BED

Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

- (!) Two of every five home decoration fires are started by candles.
- (!) Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

National Fire Protection Association

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire-Retardant". (Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.):

Picking & Placing The Tree

-))) Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
-))) Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat re-

source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

-))) Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
-))) Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting The Tree

-))) Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
-))) Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light

strands to connect.

-))) Never use candles to decorate the tree.
-))) Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



Canadians are being reminded by the country's largest pest control provider to be of their

guard against unwanted hitchhikers while travelling this holiday season. Whether staying at a five-star hotel, using a short-term rental or sleeping at relatives, the risk of coming into contact with bedbugs has become a growing concern.

SPOTTING BED BUGS

Tips for Short-Term Rental and Home Share Guests

Home-sharing companies benefit travellers seeking budget-friendly and unique accommodations, but short-term rentals still have something in common with hotels - the threat of bed bugs. High, occupancy rates provides more opportunity for the introduction of pests into a property, however, there are steps you can take as a traveller to reduce the risk during your next stay.

LOOK FOR SIGNS

You aren't likely to see bed bugs

upon arrival because they typically hide during the day time, but ink-like stains or molting skins are signs of a bed bugs population.

CHECK THE PREMISES

Don't stop with the bed. The whole space is fair game. They hide in the crevices of upholstery, furniture, baseboards, electrical outlets and even picture frames.

INSPECT THE BED

Mattresses, sheets, headboards and cushions are places you're likely to find signs of bed bugs. Use a flashlight app on your phone to help with the inspection.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Short-term rental and home-share companies may not be as highly regulated as the hotel industry, so take precautions each time you book and stay in these accommodations.

SETTLE OR ESCAPE

If you don't find bed bugs during your visual inspection, settle in and enjoy your stay. If you find bed

bugs, remove all personal belongings (and yourself) immediately and contact your host or rental agent to report the issue and find other accommodations.

LEFT YOUR LUGGAGE

During your stay, place suitcases and personal belongings on an elevated luggage rack, off of the floor and away from the wall. Do not rest luggage on the bed or other furniture.

EXAMINE YOUR BAGS

Before returning home, inspect your clothing and other items for bed bugs. They are the ultimate travellers and can easily hitch a ride to your home.

CHECK ONCE MORE

Once you've returned home, unpack suitcases in your utility room or garage and check again for any stowaways before bring up bags inside. To be sure, place clothing from your luggage immediately in the dryer for at least 15 minutes on the highest heat setting.

PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS

Use only portable space heaters that have been designed for indoor, and where applicable residential use.

Before using one, review the manufacturer's recommendations for usage and follow the instructions carefully. Only use the fuel for

which the appliance is designed.

Provide adequate ventilation by opening a window slightly, when the heater is in use.

Before refueling, turn off the heater, wait for it to cool and take the heater outside to refill.

Keep all the heaters at least 1 m (3 feet) away from combustible materials including drapes, carpeting and furniture.

Turn portable space heaters off when you are not in the room and before going to bed.

SAFETY MESSAGES ABOUT COOKING

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. It's important to be alert to prevent cooking fires.

What You Should Know

-))) Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
-))) Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.
-))) If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
-))) Keep anything that can catch fire - oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains - away from your stovetop.

If You Have A Cooking Fire

-))) Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
-))) Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
-))) If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
-))) Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
-))) For an oven fire turn off the heat

and keep the door closed.

Safety Considerations For Cooking With Oil

Oil is a key ingredient found in the majority of today's kitchens. Whether a recipe calls for frying or sautéing, we include oil in almost all of our daily cooking. When using any of the many oils to prepare your meals like olive oil, canola, corn or soybean, consider the following safety tips when cooking.

-))) Always stay in the kitchen when frying on the stovetop.
-))) Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see wisps of smoke or the oils smells, immediately turn off the burner and/or carefully remove the pan from the burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.
-))) Heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying or sautéing.
-))) Add food gently to the pot or pan so the oil does not splatter.
-))) Always cook with a lid beside your pan. If you have a fire, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time. Never throw water or use a fire extinguisher on the fire.
-))) If the fire does not go out or you don't feel comfortable sliding a lid over the pan, get everyone out of your home. Call the fire department from outside.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Old Fashioned Tomato Soup

2 cups fresh tomatoes or canned tomatoes (14 1/2 oz.) undrained
 1/2 tsp baking soda
 2 cups milk
 2 tbsp butter
 1 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp pepper

Place tomatoes in a large saucepan. If using fresh tomatoes, simmer until tender. If canned, bring to a boil. Add soda. In another pan, scald milk. Add milk to tomatoes and stir. Add butter, salt and pepper, stirring well.

Serve immediately with crisp crackers. Serves 4.

SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

These alarms are essential for your family's safety. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms electrically connected to your home's power supply will not work when the electricity is off, unless they have battery backups. Test your smoke alarms to find out if they work.

Make sure your home has a battery-operated smoke alarm on every level and a battery-operated carbon monoxide alarm. You are responsible for notifying your landlord that the dwelling is without electricity.



**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**