

Emergency Preparedness – Holiday Edition

December 2022

The month of December is the start of the holiday season. The Visalia Fire Department wants everyone to be safe from home fires as they begin to decorate for the holidays. Holiday decorations like Christmas trees, lights, and candles, increase the risk of home fires. Christmas, New Years Eve and Years Day have the greatest risk for home fires. It is important to test your smoke detectors and practice your home fire escape plan. The American Red Cross has the resources every family needs to be prepared. [Please click on this link.](#)



Cook Safely

Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking. Most fires in the kitchen occur because food is left unattended. Keep your cooking area free of clutter. Never wear loose fitting clothing while cooking and always make sure your smoke detectors are working. Unplug any small appliances not in use and keep a fire extinguisher nearby.

Travel Safely

Be prepared if you are traveling during the holidays. Make sure your vehicle is in good running condition, get plenty of rest and be prepared for any emergency. It is important to have an emergency kit, leave early, plan for heavy traffic, and put your cell phone away. There are many distractions while driving, your cell phone shouldn't be one of them.

Decorate Safely

If you are using an artificial tree, make sure it is labeled fire resistant. Keep poisonous plants (mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem Cherry and amaryllis), away from children. If using a live tree, cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption and remember to water it and once it is completely dry, remove it from your home. Examine your ladder before using it when hanging decorations.

Scan the QR Code below for more holiday safety tips from the American Red Cross

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*



**American
Red Cross**

