

Holiday Safety Tips

FOR RESIDENTS AND HOMEOWNERS



Holiday Lighting Safety

- Use LED lights for decorating, which are cooler and more energy-efficient than traditional incandescent lights.
- Check all holiday lights and decorations for damage or frayed wires before use.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords with too many decorations.

Christmas Tree Safety

- If you have a real Christmas tree, keep it well-watered to prevent it from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- Consider using flame-resistant artificial trees.

Fireplace Safety

- If your building has a fireplace, ensure it is clean and properly maintained before lighting fires.
- Use a screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks and embers from escaping.

Space Heater Safety

- If using space heaters, place them away from flammable materials and keep a safe distance from curtains, furniture, and decorations.
- Turn off space heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.

Cooking Safety

- When cooking for holiday gatherings, never leave the stove or oven unattended.
- Keep flammable objects, like dish towels and oven mitts, away from the stovetop.



Decorating Safety

- Use non-combustible or flame-resistant decorations when possible.
- Ensure that holiday decorations don't block exit paths or obstruct doorways.



Candle Safety

- Avoid using open flames, such as candles, near flammable decorations or in bedrooms.
- Opt for battery-operated flameless candles for a safe and festive atmosphere.

Emergency Preparedness

- Have a working smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your residence.
- Create and practice a fire escape plan with your family or household members.

Fire Extinguisher Tips

How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

Use the **PASS** method

Pull

Pull the pin in the handle fo extinguisher

Aim

Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire

Squeeze

Squeeze the lever of the extinguisher slowly

Sweep

Sweep from side to side while squeezing

Understanding Fire Classes

Fires are categorized into different classes based on the type of materials or substances that are burning. **The common fire classes are:**

CLASS A



Fires involving ordinary combustibles like wood, paper, cloth, and plastics.

CLASS B



Fires fueled by flammable liquids or gases, such as gasoline, oil, and kitchen.

CLASS C



Electrical fires, where the primary source of fuel is electrical equipment.

CLASS D



Fires that involve combustible metals, like magnesium, titanium, and sodium.

CLASS K



Fires that occur in commercial kitchens involving cooking oils and fats.

Choosing the Appropriate Fire Extinguisher

Once you understand the fire classes, it's important to select the right type of fire extinguisher for your specific needs. **Here's how to choose the appropriate one:**



CLASS A RATING

This type is effective for putting out fires involving common combustibles. Look for the Class A symbol on the extinguisher label.



CLASS B RATING

These extinguishers are designed to tackle fires fueled by flammable liquids and gases. Look for the Class B symbol on the extinguisher label.



CLASS C RATING

These extinguishers used for electrical fires because the non-conductive extinguishing agent that prevents electrical shock. Class C symbol on the extinguisher label.



CLASS D RATING

Usually only used in industrial environments D rated extinguishers use specific powders to combat fire involving combustible metals. Class D symbol on the extinguisher label.

Consult with a fire safety professional or the local fire department for guidance if you have concerns about Class D fires.



CLASS K RATING

In any place where cooking oils and fats are present, a Class K fire extinguisher is essential. These extinguishers are specifically designed to handle kitchen fires and should be installed as per local fire codes. Class K symbol on the extinguisher label.

Multi-Purpose Extinguishers

Some fire extinguishers are labeled with multiple fire class ratings (e.g., ABC or BC). These multi-purpose extinguishers are versatile and can be suitable for a variety of common household fire scenarios. Make sure to choose a multi-purpose extinguisher that covers the most likely fire types in your home.

Safety Practices with Extinguishers

Accessibility

They should be easily accessible and strategically placed in areas prone to fires, like the kitchen and garage.

Regular Maintenance

Inspect the extinguisher monthly to ensure it's in good working condition. Maintain a checklist for monthly inspections.

Recharge or Replace

If an extinguisher is used or damaged, it should be recharged or replaced promptly.