



Planning a successful holiday party takes lots of preparation **AND** wrap up!

The party has finished, and the last of the guests have departed. The kids are sleeping and the mess has been cleaned up. It's been a long day and it's time to go to bed.

But are you sure it's safe? Did you shut off all the lights and decorations? Are the candles out and appliances off?

What if one of your guests accidentally dropped a cigarette between the cushions on the couch, where it could smolder, undetected, for hours?

Before you turn in, there are more than gifts that need "wrapping up". Take a few minutes and check things out, it may be the most important task of the day!



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FIRE SAFE

CELEBRATIONS



Planning your Holiday Party!



WHAT ABOUT TREES?

- If you are purchasing an artificial tree check to ensure it is fire resistant
- To tell if the tree is fresh:
 - Color is vibrant green
 - Needles are hard to pull from branches
 - Fresh needles are hard to break, they will bend
 - Needles that fall easily from a tree indicated the tree is too dry
 - The trunk will be sticky with resin
- Fresh trees require watering daily and sometimes more often if the environment is dry
- Have a sturdy tree stand, with a wide base or if the stand is the enclosed type place sand in the stand to give the base weight.
- Keep the tree away from a fireplace, wood burning stove, radiator or heater
- Place the tree well away from traffic areas and do not block doorways

DECORATING SAFELY...

- Simmering pots or incense burners should be out in open areas and watched closely, never leave a simmering pot heating while away from home
- Use lights as directed, indoor lights and outdoor lights are identified on the labels
- Check each set of lights for cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, discard damaged sets
- Do not run extension cords under rugs or across doorways
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens
- Keep a 12" circle of safety around all candles
- Place candles in non-tip candle holders where they cannot be knocked down or blown over

FIREPLACE SAFETY...

- Keep a screen before the fireplace at all times while a fire is burning
- Ensure that a fire is completely out before going to sleep or leaving home



- Never hang stockings on a mantel in front of the fireplace

CELEBRATING SAFELY...

- Look while you cook-Wear tight-fitting or rolled-up sleeves and keep all combustible materials, children, and pets a safe distance from the stove
- Turn pan handles in
- Provide guests with large, deep ash trays. Dispose of ashes in an empty coffee can with a lid and allow them to sit for 24 hours before tossing them into the trash
- Monitor alcohol consumption of guests and friends, and do not allow anyone to drink and drive

Cigarette smoking is the leading cause of fire fatalities in Minnesota, and smoking coupled with alcohol is deadly. After a party, check inside and under upholstered furniture and check wastebaskets for cigarette butts that may still be smoldering.

BEFORE ANY CELEBRATION...

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- Practice your escape plan

