

# Holiday Fire Safety

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 20,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid a disaster. Grant County Emergency Management offers the following life-saving tips could make a big difference for you and your community.

## Did you know?

- There are an estimated 200 fires and 25 injuries resulting from Christmas tree fires each year.
- Most holiday fires can be easily prevented.
- Having a working smoke alarm doubles one's chance of surviving a house fire.

Following these simple fire safety tips can increase your survival rate dramatically.

## Holiday Fire Safety Life-Saving Tips

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home. Test smoke alarm batteries every month and change them twice a year: when you change your clocks forward in Spring and when you change your clocks back in Fall. Consider installing a 10-year lithium battery-powered smoke alarm, which is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.
- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree and cause it to more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Never put Christmas tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove.
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is to take it to a recycling center or have it collected by a community pick-up service.
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear.
- Only use UL-approved lighting.
- Do not overload outlets. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Do not leave lit holiday lights unattended.
- Avoid using lit candles. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they can not be easily knocked over.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.

