



Public Service Announcement

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PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays are a busy and joyous time – and they also come with their own unique set of fire hazards.

Combustible materials such as a tree, decorations and wrapping paper, and heat sources such as lights, extension cords and candles call for additional safety precautions. Port Coquitlam Fire & Emergency Services provides the following tips to help residents stay safe this holiday season.

- Use a sturdy and secure fireplace screen made of tempered glass or metal.
- When cooking, do not leave your stove unattended and monitor nearby children.
- Choose flame resistant or flame retardant decorations.
- Blow out lit candles prior to leaving a room or going to bed, and always supervise children around lit candles.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 1 metre (3 feet) away from portable space heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, candles or wood stoves.
- Use only fully intact strings of lights without loose bulb connectors or broken or frayed wires.
- Only use lights outside that are designed and CSA approved for outdoor use.
- Use clips to hang holiday lights, as staples may damage electrical cords.
- Avoid overloading electrical circuits and unplug items when not in use.
- Use a maximum of three sets of lights per extension cord.
- Have your heating equipment, including chimneys, inspected and cleaned once a year by a qualified professional.
- If using a real tree, purchase one with green needles that are hard to pull from branches, and keep it watered.
- Ensure you have a working smoke alarm on every level of your home - test them monthly and replace the batteries at least once a year.

Visit the Fire Safety section at www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire for more holiday fire safety information.

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