



North Tahoe and Meeks Bay Fire Protection Districts



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PRESS RELEASE

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Give the Gift of Safety This Season

Tahoe City, Calif. Nov. 25, 2020 – Give the gift of safety this season by reminding your loved ones to practice situational awareness when it comes to common holiday hazards. Whether you are traveling, hosting or zooming this season, share these tips with your loved ones so you can enjoy a safe holiday season.

Traveling or Hosting Safety: It is important to be familiar with all of the exits from your accommodations should there be an emergency, and to establish a meeting place for your family should you have to escape the building. If you are hosting, share your home escape plan with your guests. Ensure you have working carbon monoxide alarms and smoke alarms whether you are hosting or visiting, or bring your own. If space heaters are being used, place them three feet away from anything combustible and away from the path of traffic. Never use a surge protector to power a heating device, instead plug the device directly into a wall outlet.

Decorating Safety: If you are decorating this holiday season, make sure light strands are in good condition. Replace any cords that are frayed or worn. Choose flame resistant decorations and place them away from heating devices. Lit candles shouldn't be left unattended. Opt for flameless LED candles, or keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything combustible and out of the reach of children and pets.

Cooking Safety: There is no shortage of distractions during the holidays, and it should come as no surprise unattended cooking is the leading contributor in cooking fires and fire deaths. Never leave the kitchen with the stove top on, and keep a lid or a cookie sheet within reach to cover the pan if it catches fire. If you use a turkey fryer, don't overfill it, follow the manufacturer's directions, and use the fryer outside and well away from anything combustible, including decks or overhanging branches.

"Holidays may look and feel different this year as families adapt traditions due to COVID" said Fire Chief Mike Schwartz. "However, holiday hazards remain unchanged. Share the gift of safety by reviewing these simple steps so your loved ones can enjoy the holiday safely."

To learn more about fire safety, visit the U. S. Fire Administration at www.usfa.fema.gov.

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