



NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
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The Holidays are Heating Up!

North Bay – December 15, 2009 – North Bay Fire & Emergency Services is urging families to be especially vigilant about fire safety over the holiday season, which is one of the deadliest times of the year for home fires.

“This is a very busy time for many people and it’s easy to get distracted or forgetful,” said Fire Chief Grant Love. “All it takes is for a pot to be left on the stove, or a candle left burning unattended, and a family’s holiday celebrations can go up in smoke.”

“I would also like to remind everyone about the law requiring working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms in the home,” continued Chief Love “Take a few minutes to test your alarms and install new batteries, if needed.”

Enjoy a fire safe holiday season by following these tips:

- Cooking is a major cause of home fires, so don’t leave the kitchen if there’s something cooking on the stove. If a pot catches fire, don’t try to move it. Cover the pot with a lid to smother the flames and turn off the burner.
- If the smoke alarm activates when you’re cooking, do not remove the batteries. Try moving the smoke alarm, or install an alarm with a hush feature.
- Lit candles should be placed in sturdy candleholders that won’t tip and covered with a glass shade. Candles should be situated away from children, pets and any combustible items. Never leave burning candles unattended, ‘when you go out – blow out!’
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Drink responsibly and keep an eye on those who do not. Excessive alcohol consumption is a contributing factor in many residential fires.
- If you have a real Christmas tree keep it continuously watered and ensure electrical cords to Christmas decorations are in good condition. Do not overload electrical outlets or join more than 3 sets of lights together.

Holiday celebrations can quickly turn to tragedies when you forget to include fire safety in your plans. That is why North Bay Fire & Emergency Services is asking you to consider these simple tips to ensure your family has a safe and happy holiday season.

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