

Remember these tips for a safe festive season.

Know the code: **SAFE PRACTICE**



festive
season
safety

S Streamers

Christmas decorations can catch fire - never attach decorations to lights or heaters, or place garlands or wreaths immediately above or around fireplaces.

A Ash

Visitors may be smokers, even if you're not - make sure their ash goes into the right containers, and make sure any smoking materials are extinguished properly. Day or night, falling asleep with a lit cigarette is especially dangerous - never smoke in bed. If you have an open fireplace, make sure the chimney has been cleaned and swept.

F Familiarisation

Overnight guests, who may be unfamiliar with your home, must know their quickest escape routes in the event of a fire. Make sure any children, elderly visitors or people with disabilities can escape safely. Make guests aware of anything specific about your home, for example how to open the front door from the inside.

E Electricity

We tend to use extra appliances at Christmas. One plug per socket is safest, but if you must use adapters or extension leads, don't overload them. Ensure that leads and flexes are in good condition.

P Parties

A house or office full of people always presents more hazards than usual, especially in the kitchen and if the drink has been flowing. Take extra care. Never overcrowd office spaces - this may make it difficult to escape if too many people are using too few exits. Can you still hear the fire alarm above the music at your Christmas party?

R Rubbish

With lots of cards, decorations and wrapping paper and packaging around, there are more things to catch fire. Dispose of them sooner rather than later.

A Alarms

Never take the batteries from your smoke alarm to run toys and other gifts. Buy a stock of batteries before Christmas and remember to test your smoke alarm as usual. If you have music at your office Christmas party, make sure you can still hear the fire alarm.

C Candles

Never leave candles unattended and never put lit candles in or near a Christmas tree.

T Toys

Do you know what the toys you buy are made of? Buy from established retailers and manufacturers if you can and look for the safety kitemark.

I Illuminations

Test Christmas lights before putting them on the tree, making sure they are fused properly. Replace sets of old lights, especially those that are not in perfect working condition. Remember to turn them off at night and when you go out.

C Cooking

If leaving a turkey to cook overnight, ensure that you are familiar with the timer controls on your cooker and that the temperature is set correctly. If setting light to the Christmas pud, don't pour the alcohol straight from the bottle - pour a small amount of alcohol onto the pudding from a non-combustible container, such as an egg cup. Beware of adding more alcohol - you could get a 'flashback'. If you spill a drop and the tablecloth catches fire, put it out with water straight away. **999 is still the number to call in an emergency.**

E Enjoy

Follow the SAFE PRACTICE spelt out here and you will enjoy a safe and merry Christmas.



Lothian and Borders
Fire and Rescue Service

For a free home safety visit and smoke alarm fitting freephone 0800 169 0320