

Decorations can catch fire easily; do not hang decorations or cards too near to lights or other electrical appliances.



It is common to have a mirror above a fire, but by doing this you are putting people in your home at risk. Having a mirror above the fire encourages people to stand dangerously close to the fire, where the heat could burn them, sparks could set their clothes on fire or they could knock something into the fire.

Place candles on steady, non-flammable surfaces in a firm, upright holder (not on top of a TV, or on a shelf with anything above it). Keep decorations well away, as even a draft can blow the flame towards them, which will cause a fire. Candles that are out can go on smouldering - put them out completely.



Your smoke alarm should not be in the corner of your room, and you should check its battery regularly. To get a free one fitted with 10 year batteries, call 0800 169 0320 for a free Home Safety Check. Remember that smoke alarms don't last forever. You'll need a new one at least every five to 10 years.



# Stay Safe this Christmas



If you overload an adaptor, it can overload the socket, which can overload the main electrical wiring circuit in the house, which can ultimately lead to fire.



Make sure your adaptor is fitted with a fuse and has been approved by the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board, BEAB. Never use more than one adaptor in each socket.



If people are smoking provide extra ashtrays and make sure all cigarettes are put out properly. It is much safer to ask people to smoke outdoors.



A time when it's very easy to forget fire safety is during a party or when there are more than the usual number of people in your home. However having many people in your home can add to the dangers especially if alcohol is involved, as people become less careful.

Never hang, balance or attach decorations or greetings cards on or around the fireplace. Sparks and heat can set them on fire, or it doesn't take much for decorations or cards to be knocked or blown into the fire. Always use a fire guard.



If you are having a real one, choose a freshly cut tree. To test a tree, strike the stump down on a firm surface. If the needles fall off, the tree is too dry. Place the tree in a stand, which can be filled with water, and keep it filled. Use wire or nylon cord to secure the tree to the wall or ceiling to prevent it being knocked over.

When using decorative lights check the maximum amps that can be handled by the fuse in the plug. Turn decorative lights off at night and when you go out, and



when they are switched on make sure no bulbs touch any paper or fabrics. Use only British Standard approved lights. Never, ever use candles on your tree.

