



Christmas Community Fire safety



During December the monthly, average number of fires, injuries, and fatalities more than doubles.

Christmas is a time for celebrations, with many family and friends coming together to enjoy the festivities. Without taking extra care, it is easy to become distracted with so much going on and easy for disaster to strike, please take a moment to read these tips for keeping you and your family safe this Christmas and New Year.

Keep Safe This Christmas!

Smoke alarms:

- Ensure you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home. A working alarm can give you and your family the vital time needed to escape a fire.
- Ensure you test your smoke alarms regularly.
- NEVER remove the batteries from your smoke alarms

Escape plan:

- Make a fire escape plan and discuss it with your family. Ensure any visiting friends and family are aware of the escape plan too.
- Ensure you have a bedtime safety check routine. Check Christmas lights are off, cigarettes are out, candles are out, and electrics are off (where possible) before you go to bed.

Electrics:

- Don't overload sockets. Ensure only one plug per socket, especially on and around Christmas Trees.
- Always turn off plugs when they are not in use.

Enjoying a drink at Christmas:

- The direct cause of 25% of all fires can be attributed to alcohol.
- Never cook after drinking – you can easily become distracted

Safer cooking:

- If you've been out for the night get a takeaway rather than attempt to cook.
- Turn off all appliances when you have finished cooking.
- Be wary of being distracted due to a houseful of guests.
- Never leave cooking unattended.

Candle safety:

- Keep candles away from decorations, Christmas trees, cards, wrapping paper, fires, lights, and heaters.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Ensure candles are out of reach from pets and children.
- Use LED Candles instead of Candles with a naked flame.

Decorations:

- Unplug Christmas lights when you're going to bed or leaving the house.
- Check lights conform to a safety standard, e.g., British Standard 60598
- Always use an RCD (residual current device) on outdoor electrical equipment.
This safety device can save lives by instantly switching off the power if there is a fault and can be found in any DIY store.
- Don't overload sockets with too many lights.
- Don't block exits with Christmas trees, presents etc.
- Ensure real Christmas trees do not dry out.

Heaters:

- If you are using extra heaters ensure they are away from curtains, sofas, Christmas trees and decorations etc

In the event of a fire, do not hesitate to call the German Fire Service on 112