

Hartsdale Fire District

Winter 2004 Newsletter

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!

A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety: A Fact Sheet on Holiday Fire Prevention - 2004

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of these tips, you can greatly reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

PREVENTING HOLIDAY TREE FIRES

- **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**
Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and



is a fire hazard.

- **Caring for Your Tree**
Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up too long. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- **Disposing of Your Tree**
Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets



Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights**
Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use

only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory

- **Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended**

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

- **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations**
All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- **Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace**
It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion.
- **Artificial Holiday Trees**
If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.



CANDLE CARE

- **Avoid Using Lit Candles**
If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- **Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree**
Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.



Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan

**To report a fire or emergency call
911 or 949-2324**

For all other business call 949-2325

TEACH SOMEONE YOU LOVE FIRE PREVENTION

Babysitters Graduate

In October 2004, The Hartsdale Fire District graduated 22 new babysitters from its annual Baby Sitters Course. As a public service, a list of these babysitters is available to you and can be picked up by stopping at Fire Headquarters at 300 West Hartsdale Ave.



When you hire a babysitter who has been trained by the Hartsdale Fire District, you can be confident knowing

that they have completed 20 hours of specialized training in how to care for your child and deal with emergency situations. Special thanks to our outside staff instructors: Susan Stevenson of Creative Beginnings Nursery School, Joanne Nemeth R.N. from White Plains Hospital, Dr. Ed Conway from Beth Isreal Hospital, Police Officer Jason Caravaglia from Greenburgh Police, and Vinny Brown the store manager of Chef Central.

Test your Fire Safety I.Q.

Fire kills thousands of people in North America every year, most in their own homes. Most of these occur needlessly. Understanding the dangers of fire, how to avoid them and how to react when fire occurs will lessen the chances that you will become a victim. In taking this fun quiz it is our hope that people will learn something about the cause of fires and change the way they respond when they occur.



The answers are at the bottom.

1. What is the number one cause of home fire fatalities?

- a) Smoking materials
- b) Cooking equipment
- c) Lightning
- d) Heating equipment

2. Where do the majority of fire related deaths occur?

- a) School
- b) Work
- c) Home
- d) Vehicles

3. Which of the following times account for the largest number of home fire deaths?

- a) 6PM to midnight
- b) Midnight to 4AM
- c) 4AM to 10AM
- d) 10AM to 6PM

4. In what room do most home fires start?

- a) Recreation room
- b) Bedroom
- c) Kitchen
- d) Utility room

5. Most fire-related deaths are from burns.

- a) True
- b) False

6. If a fire occurs while you are asleep, the smoke will awaken you.

- a) True
- b) False

7. If your clothing were to catch on fire, you should:

- a) Run to the tub or shower
- b) Call the fire department
- c) Stop, drop and roll
- d) Put baking soda on it

8. If a grease fire starts in a pot on the stove, what should you do?

- a) Escape and call the fire department
- b) Pour water on it
- c) Slide a lid over the pan
- d) Turn off the heat

9. If you receive a burn while cooking, what should you do immediately?

- a) Smear butter on it
- b) Run cold water on it
- c) Apply ointment
- d) Pack it with ice

10. In what season do the largest number of home fires occur?

- a) Spring
- b) Summer
- c) Fall
- d) Winter

Answers to Quiz: 1a, 2c, 3b, 4c, 5b, 6b, 7c, 8c & d, 9b, 10d

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