



LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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Winter Holiday Safety

Winter Holiday Facts:

Cooking is the leading cause of all winter home fires.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in two out of every five (40%) home Christmas tree fires.

905 people die in winter home fires each year.

More than one-third (37%) of home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den. All of the fatalities and roughly three-quarters (72%) of the injuries resulted from fires started in this area.

5 to 8 p.m. is the most common time for winter home fires.

Local Statistics

In 2016, VFD responded to 6 calls on Christmas day of which one was a cooking

fire confined to container.

Safety Tips

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.



Always Remember

- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both. Never use a turkey fryer indoors or on decks.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.

U.S. Fire Administration & NFPA

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/winter.html>

<http://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Seasonal-fires/Winter-holiday-safety>

other things that can burn.

- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. It is a good idea to have a fire extinguisher handy in your home and

"Christmas, my child, is love in action."

- Dale Evans

Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death. Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart! Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and/or HVAC as well as vents every year.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to: valdostafire@valdostacity.com

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."



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Answers to last month's wuzzles are spaceship and tip of the iceberg.

Fire Safety Quiz

1. It is a fire hazard to have more than one heat producing appliance plugged into the same electrical outlet.
A. True
B. False
2. One out of every __ reported home Christmas tree fires resulted in a death.
A. 150
B. 22
C. 6
D. 34

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. B. & 2. B.



Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief