

October 2021

OVERVIEW OF FACT SHEET



There are multitudes of holidays celebrated from late November to mid-January where families and friends will gather. Oftentimes, these holidays include decorations. Unfortunately, there were an estimated 15,000 injuries seen in emergency rooms during this time due to holiday decorating, which has increased from year to year. An estimated 200 house fires occur during this time as well.

This fact sheet provides general tips about various activities during the winter holiday season and how you could prevent injuries or other incidents.



If you have any questions regarding winter holiday safety or other safety topics, please contact the [Environmental Health and Safety Office](#) at 704-687-1111.

Decoration Fire Safety Tips

Office Fire Safety

- Do not use any type of decorations in your office that have an open flame. Open flames are not permitted in residential halls, offices, or public assembly areas.
- Decorations, lights, signs, and ornaments are prohibited from being placed on fire doors.
- Do not hang anything from a sprinkler head.
- Do not place decorations in exit corridors, nor in places that can obstruct the view of exit signs, fire alarm pull stations, or fire extinguishers.
- Do not overload outlets and get into the habit of unplugging holiday lights before you leave the office for the day.
- Use fire retardant decorations, and keep decorations away from heat sources.

To determine if your door or office suite doors are fire doors, look for the certification label. Fire doors are typically marked with a certification label on the edge of the door.



Home Fire Safety

- Make sure all smoke alarms are working properly.
- Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.
- Tell guests about your home fire escape plan and assembly point.
- Daily water your live Christmas tree. A dry tree is dangerous because it can easily catch on fire.



GROUP DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Are open flames allowed in offices?
- Where would you find the fire door certification label?
- What items are prohibited from being placed on a fire door?
- How often should you water your live Christmas tree?