



R B F & R S

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Stay Safe From Fire This Festive Season

With Christmas just around the corner, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) is urging people to take extra care to avoid accidental house fires this festive season.

Government statistics show that you are more likely to die in an accidental house fire during the Christmas period than at any other time of the year.¹ You may have friends or relatives staying with you, spend more time cooking than usual and use candles or fairy lights to decorate your home. As a result, all the every day hazards increase and fires can start all too easily.

However, many house fires can be easily avoided, so follow these tips to keep you and your family safe this festive season:

Decorations

- Don't attach them to lights or heaters – they can burn easily.
- Keep them away from candles.

Christmas trees

- Switch off tree lights when you go out and before you go to bed.
- Don't site trees near fires or heaters.

Candles

- Don't leave candles burning unattended.
- Keep them away from curtains and furniture, and don't place under a surface, like a shelf.

Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean – a build up of grease or fat can easily catch fire.

Electrical sockets

- Never overload sockets.
- It is better to use a bar adaptor on a lead rather than a block adaptor.

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¹ Source of statistics: DCLG statistics on accidental dwelling fires 2000 - 2005

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Smoke alarms act as an early warning system in the event of a fire, giving you precious extra time to get out of the house. Fit one on every level of your house and test the batteries every week. If you have guests staying with you over Christmas, talk through your escape plan with them to make sure they know how to get out of the house safely in an emergency.

Jane Weller, Community Safety Officer, said: "We want people enjoy the festive season but at the same time to keep themselves and their families safe from fire. The good news is that many fires can be prevented, so follow these tips to reduce the risk of a fire ruining your Christmas."

Ends.