

beachwood inspection services

No Holidays for Safety

Prevention matters

Making your home safe is almost entirely a matter of taking some common-sense precautions.

Fire extinguishers Have a couple handy, including one for the kitchen.

Around the house

Smoke Detectors Have at least one on each floor; first priority is outside of sleeping areas. Test them regularly. Install properly: either on the ceiling or on the wall, 6 to 12 inches below the ceiling, away from vents and dead spots. Relocate a detector if nuisance alarms (such as from cooking) are a problem, but don't disconnect it.

Candles Never leave a lit candle unattended. Use sturdy holders that won't tip.

Pets Don't give them opportunities to knock over lamps or anything else that could cause a fire.

Kitchens Keep potholders, plastic utensils, towels, and other things that can catch on fire away from the range. Roll up loose sleeves while cooking.

Flammable liquids Take extra precautions. Gasoline and paint thinners produce vapors that can be ignited by a small spark. Store them outside.

Lighters and matches Keep them out of sight and out of the reach of children.

Smoking Never smoke in bed. It is a major cause of house fires. Never smoke in the house. It produces second hand smoke which will cause lung cancer in others.

Escape plan Have a specific one and rehearse it. Teach children they can't hide from a fire; they must go outside to a prearranged meeting spot.

Keeping warm

Chimneys Have them cleaned and inspected by a professional.

Wood stoves Install a heat resistant floor protector, 18 inches beyond the stove on all sides.

Kerosene heaters Never use gasoline, even small amounts. Don't place the heater where it can be knocked over or trap you in a fire. Refuel the heater outdoors; spills on floors could later fuel a fire. Keep the room ventilated to prevent indoor air pollution.

Fireplaces Keep the screen closed. Don't build too big a fire or use flammable liquids.

Gas-fired space heaters Do not use unvented heaters in small enclosed spaces, especially bedrooms. They pose a risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. If the heater has a vent, make sure to use it.

Portable electric heaters Keep them away from combustibles, such as towels on a rack. Avoid extension cords. If you can't, get a heavy duty cord. Don't put cords under anything, including rugs. Don't put wet clothes on a heater.

Electric plugs and lights

Automatic shutoff Devices with this feature pose a smaller fire danger.

Unplug it Nonessential appliances need not be plugged in all the time.

Use grounded cords A power strip could save your house if there's an electrical short or a power surge.

12,500 is the approximate number of emergency room visits nationwide each year associated with holiday lights and decorations.

48,800 deaths each year nationwide from heating equipment accidents.