

**Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility**



**Safeguarding**



## Safeguarding Newsletter - December 2018

Edition 5

### Christmas Safety

Everyone looks forward to the festive fun this time of year - but did you know that the Christmas season often sees a dramatic rise in the number of fires and accidents in the home?

Some of these accidents can happen while putting up Christmas decorations - or worse, as a result of faulty fairy lights or unattended candles.

Here are some top tips for a fun - and safe - festive season

#### 1. MAKE SURE YOUR SMOKE ALARM WORKS!

Ensure you and your family have working smoke alarms - and test them regularly.



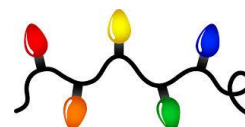
#### 2. HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN

Make sure your family and any visitors to the house know how to escape in an emergency by making a fire escape plan. Don't forget to keep your emergency exits clear.



### 3. CHECK YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT

If your Christmas tree catches fire, it could rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases, so check that your Christmas tree lights carry the British Safety Standard mark. If in doubt, replace your lights and always replace faulty bulbs. Don't overload your electrical sockets with too many high-voltage plugs; if necessary, use a surge-protected extension cable. When going to bed or going out for the evening, make sure you've turned off and unplugged your Christmas tree lights and outdoor festive lights.



### 4. STAND BY YOUR PAN

Kitchens are one of the most likely places for a fire to start - and during Christmas, this trend increases dramatically. With family and friends around, and after a few festive drinks, it's easy to become distracted. Our advice is simple: don't leave your cooking unattended.



### 5. TAKE CARE WITH CANDLES

Candles are typical in many homes - they scent our rooms and provide an atmospheric glow. Just remember that they're still an open flame, which can be dangerous, so don't leave them unattended. Place them in proper candle holders on a heat-resistant surface, and keep them away from flammable materials like curtains, as well as from pets and children. When leaving the room - even if it's just for a moment - make sure you put them out.



**BY FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE SAFETY TIPS,  
YOU'LL HAVE SAFER CELEBRATIONS THIS  
SEASON.**