



**STATE SAFETY OFFICE**  
HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
330 OLD NISKAYUNA ROAD  
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110-2224



## **SAFETY MESSAGE 17-02**

### **Safely Enjoy the Holidays!**

Holiday safety is an issue that burns brightest from late November to mid-January, the time when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes. By taking some basic precautions, you can ensure your whole family remains safe and injury-free throughout the season.

Watch Out for those Fire-starters!!

#### **Turkey Fryers**

While many subscribe to the theory any fried food is good – even if it's not necessarily good for you – there is reason to be on alert if you're thinking of celebrating the holidays by frying a turkey.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports there have been **168 turkey-fryer related fires, burns, explosions or carbon monoxide poisoning incidents since 2002. CPSC says 672 people have been injured and \$8 million in property damage losses have resulted from these incidents.**

Please follow these precautions:

- Set up the fryer more than 10 feet from the house and keep children away
- Find flat ground; the oil must be even and steady to ensure safety
- Use a thawed and dry turkey; any water will cause the oil to bubble furiously and spill over
- Fryer lid and handle can become very hot and cause burns
- Have a fire extinguisher ready at all times

#### **Candles and Fireplaces**

**About 2,200 deaths were caused by fires, burns and other fire-related injuries in 2013**, according to Injury Facts 2015, and **12% of home candle fires occur in December**, the National Fire Protection Association reports. Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes means more risk for fire.

Please follow these precautions:

- Never leave burning candles unattended or sleep in a room with a lit candle
- Keep candles out of reach of children
- Make sure candles are on stable surfaces
- Don't burn candles near trees, curtains or any other flammable items
- Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
- Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year

<http://www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/news-and-resources-holiday-safety.aspx>

More off-duty safety tips are available at the CRC website:

<https://safety.army.mil/MEDIA/SeasonalSafetyCampaigns/AutumnWinter2016-17.aspx>

**To find previously published Safety Messages go to our NYARNG Safety Website:**

<http://dmna.ny.gov/safety/>

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