



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



SAFETY MESSAGE 19-02

Holiday Safety

The Holidays Should Be Healthy and Safe!

November marks the beginning of the holiday season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day will bring families together to celebrate. It is also a period of increased travel, increased opportunities to over-indulge in alcohol, over-decorate our houses, and try new methods of cooking traditional meals. The following are just a few tips to keep in mind in order to prevent a tragedy from occurring during this festive time of year.

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.

For each year from 2014 to 2016, an estimated 2,400 residential building fires were reported to fire departments in the U.S. on Thanksgiving Day and caused an estimated 5 deaths, 25 injuries and \$19 million in property loss. (According to the U.S. Fire Administration.)

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

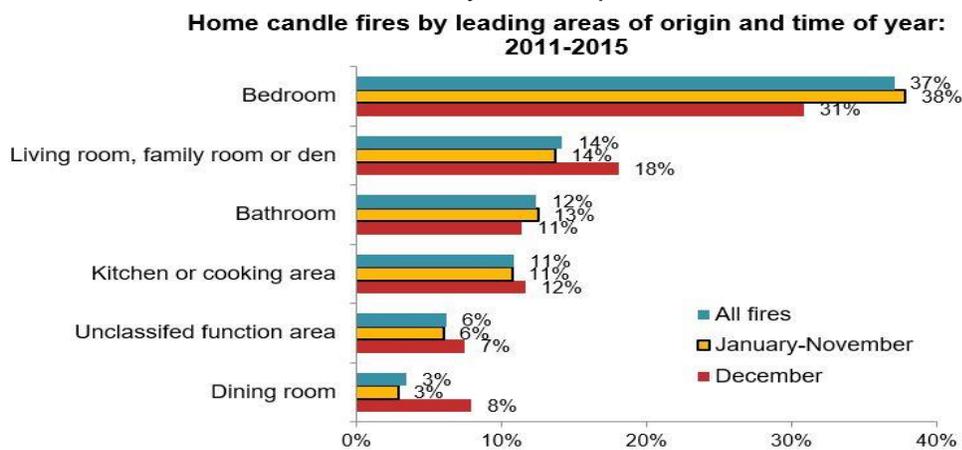
- Candles caused 2% of home structure fires.
- Candle fires caused an annual average of:
 - 82 civilian fire deaths, or 3% of home fire deaths,
 - 800 civilian fire injuries, or 7% of reported home fire injuries
 - \$295 million in direct property damage, or 4% of total direct damage in home structure fires.

<https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Fire-statistics-and-reports/US-Fire.../Candles>

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/Seasonal-Safety-Campaigns/All-Seasons>

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

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

New York Army National Guard Safety Office Points of Contact:

Safety and Occupational Health Manager:

Alicia Howard

alicia.i.howard.mil@mail.mil

(518) 786-6097

Occupational Health Nurse:

Valerie Schwalbach

valerie.a.schwalbach.civ@mail.mil

(518) 786-4329

Safety Specialist:

Matthew Williams

matthew.s.williams117.mil@mail.mil

(518) 786-6040

Safety Specialist:

Chuck Austin

charles.b.austin2.mil@mail.mil

(518) 786-6121

M-Day Safety Specialists:

MSG Jerry Peace

jerry.i.peace.mil@mail.mil

CW4 Russ Hall

russell.i.hall3.mil@mail.mil