

A MESSAGE FROM BAYHAM FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Christmas is a time for celebration and being thankful. Especially this time of year, your Fire Department does not want to be responding to calls. However, in order to accomplish this, we must all pitch in and remember our safety messages.

We are all responsible to make the holiday season free from fires. When we have a holiday season without fires, we are also helping to keep our local firefighters safe so they can enjoy the holiday season with their families as well.

12 Days of Holiday Safety Information

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC), together with the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council, the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association, and the Ontario Association of Fire Educators, is sharing fire safety advice for the holiday season.

The winter months in Ontario see the highest number of fatal fires and during the holidays, it's easy to forget how important fire safety is to prevent tragedy.

From December 12 - 23, the O AFC—along with the OFM and our partners—will be sharing advice and recommendations to avoid behaviours that are often contributing factors to the fatal fires that are seen during this time of the year.

Please see the scheduled and list of messages below. Social graphics for the campaign can be found on the OFM Sharepoint.

December 12: Use outdoor-rated LED lights and hang with nail-free clips this year. Cut your loss and toss damaged strings – an electrical fire is a sure bet for a lousy holiday. Make the holidays even brighter with working smoke alarms!

December 13: Falling needles = a dried out tree and potential fire. Don't be a statistic: water your tree daily, keep heat sources away from the tree including furnace vents and non-LED lights. The best gifts under that tree are working smoke alarms in your home!

December 14: Holiday decorations and open flames are a fire hazard all too common this season. Use battery-powered candles, keep candles away from pets and children, put candles in sturdy containers and always blow out when you leave the room. Make the holidays happy with working smoke alarms!

December 15: 'Tis the season for fire safety! Most fatal fires occur during the holidays. When seconds matter, a working smoke alarm is the gift of time in the event of a fire. An alarm on every storey, tested monthly, and batteries replaced annually, is the best gift you'll give your family this season. Make the holidays happy with working smoke alarms!

December 16: Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odourless, and deadly gas that can cause flu-like symptoms. A CO alarm can alert you to a potential CO emergency with four beeps and is the best way to protect your family from The Silent Killer. Make the holidays even happier with working smoke and CO alarms!

December 17: Extension cords should only be used with certified devices as a temporary solution. If you need more power, call a licensed electrician for more outlets, don't overload a circuit, and never run cords under a rug. Plug into holiday fire safety this year with working smoke alarms!

December 18: Holiday baking with children this holiday season? Keep an eye on your bakers and remember to never leave the oven unattended. Safety first, cookies second! Make your holidays cheerful and sound—test your smoke alarms year-round!

December 19: Give your family the gift of peace of mind with a home fire escape plan and have two ways out of every room to ensure your loved ones are prepared for the worst so you can focus on the best: festive cheer! Make the holidays happy with working smoke alarms and a plan to get out safely!

December 20: Holidays are stressful. Go slow in the kitchen and avoid being a statistic. 17% of fires in Ontario are cooking-related, mostly caused when the stove is left unattended. Be mindful when cooking and never leave the kitchen while using a stove. A working smoke alarm is your best ingredient this holiday season!

December 21: Practice fire safety this Winter Solstice with space heaters, wood stoves and fireplaces. Keep at least one metre (3 feet) distance between your heat source and combustibles, like paper and fabrics. Make the holidays happy with working smoke and CO alarms!

December 22: Cigarettes are Ontario's number one cause of fatal fires. This season, have all smoking done outside using deep, sturdy ashtrays. Never flick your butt – a lit butt might be the difference between a holiday to remember and a holiday you'll never forget. Make the holidays happy with working smoke alarms!

December 23: There's a good chance gifts exchanged this season have lithium-ion batteries which may pose a fire risk. Stay fire safe and don't overcharge, use mismatched chargers, homemade batteries, or aftermarket replacements. Make the holidays happy with working smoke alarms!



BE PREPARED IN CASE OF A TRAVELLING EMERGENCY

Remind your parents to have a survival kit in their vehicle that includes a shovel, blanket, extra clothing and footwear. Other important items are sand, traction mats, tow chain, compass, paper towels and road flares.

HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY!!