

VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 · DEC 11, 2023

FIREWATCH



Official Newsletter of the Office of the Fire Marshal

GREETINGS FROM BALTIMORE CITY FIRE MARSHAL SEAN EAMES

SEASONS GREETINGS

The Holiday Season is quickly approaching. Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years, the holidays provide an opportunity to spend time with family, friends and enjoy our favorite holiday traditions. The Baltimore City Fire Department wants you to be safe during this festive season. Here are a few helpful holiday fire safety tips: When Cooking or Baking, keep children and flammable items such as kitchen towels and food packaging away from the stove and oven. Always stay in the kitchen while using the stove. Turn off the stove if you leave the room. Always turn pot handles toward the back of the stove and use the back burners whenever possible. For Christmas, if you prefer to purchase a real tree, make sure it's fresh and keep it watered daily. Dry needles and wood can catch fire more easily. If you are going to purchase an artificial tree, look for the fire-resistant label. Keep all Christmas Trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other sources of heat. If you enjoy huddling around a cozy fireplace, keep all flammable items at least three feet away from the flames. Use a fire screen to keep embers and logs from escaping. Lastly, make sure all embers are fully extinguished after you are finished. Most importantly, make sure your home has working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms can provide early warning and notification if a fire does occur. Practice your home fire escape plan regularly.

Did you know?

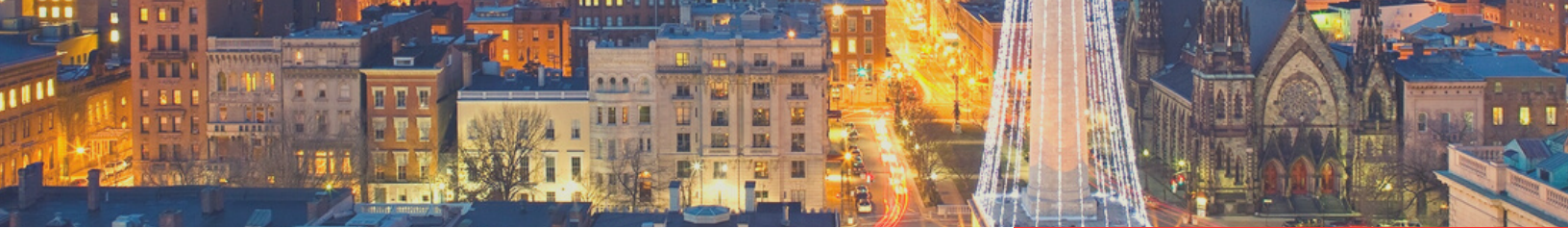
There are approximately 47,000 home electrical fires each year nationwide. Check extension cords regularly. Remember extension cords are for temporary use. Don't daisy chain extension cords and especially surge protectors.

Carbon Monoxide



Known as a silent killer, carbon monoxide tricks your cells into believing it is Oxygen. It is important to have a carbon monoxide detector on every level. Though dual alarms are very capable, we recommend a stand alone carbon monoxide detector in the home.





COOKING FIRES LEADING THE NATION AS #1 CAUSE OF HOME FIRES

ACCORDING TO THE US FIRE ADMINISTRATION FROM 2017 TO 2019, COOKING WAS, BY FAR, THE LEADING CAUSE OF ALL RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRES AND ACCOUNTED FOR 51% OF ALL RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRES RESPONDED TO BY FIRE DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE NATION. ADDITIONALLY, COOKING WAS THE LEADING CAUSE OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING FIRE INJURIES. THIS REPORT DESCRIBES THE CHARACTERISTICS OF COOKING FIRES IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS REPORTED TO THE NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM FOR 2017-2019.



FIRE SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The Holiday season is full of joy with families gathering together, food and decorations.

Throughout the season there should be more vigilance placed on Fire safety. As we put up decorations remembering some basic fire safety tips.

- Remember to Check your Smoke Alarm Monthly... Working Smoke Alarms save lives.

- Have a Safe meeting place.
- Have a stand-alone Carbon monoxide detector.
- Consider battery operated candles instead of traditional wax candles.
- Remember extension cords are for temporary use. Check them frequently to make sure

ELECTRICAL SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU!

Tis the season of twinkling lights. Make sure you check all electrical cords. Anything burnt or frayed should be thrown away. All heat producing appliances should be plugged directly into the wall socket. Consider having a licensed electrician add extra wall sockets if your home is in need. Never daisy chain cords or surge protectors.

