



HOLIDAY SAFETY FOR KIDS

Keeping Kids Safe this Season

The holiday season is a special time of year, filled with gatherings and decorations. Unfortunately, it is also a time when parents often overlook the increased dangers their children face.

The number of children injured and killed by fires more than doubles during the winter holiday months.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) reminds parents to keep their children safe this holiday season by recognizing and eliminating additional electrical shock and fire hazards that the winter months bring.

Safety Tips

- Never leave a child unsupervised while cooking or when an electric or gas stove is within reach. Unattended cooking is one of the leading causes of home fires during the holidays.
- Don't use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised. Children may stick their fingers or other objects through the protective guards, causing burns or shock.
- Never give any child under ten years old a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated.
- When visiting the homes of others, remember they may not be childproofed. Be wary of any obvious safety hazards to your child.

- When buying presents for children avoid any that might be flammable.
- Make sure all electric toys bear a fire safety label from an independent testing laboratory.
- Plan for safety. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and electrical outlets.
- Don't allow children to play with electrical toys near water and make sure they know that water and electricity don't mix.
- Keep young children away from all electrical and extension cords.
- Keep liquids like drinks away from electronics, such as TVs, VCRs, and computers as they could spill and cause shock and fire.
- Avoid putting Christmas tree lights, ornaments, metal hooks, and other small "mouth-sized" decorations near the ground or on the lower limbs of a tree where they may be easily reached by an infant or a young child.
- Replace worn or frayed electrical cords with appropriately insulated and protected cords.

Facts & Statistics

- The number of children injured and killed by fires more than doubles during the holiday months. (Source: *U.S. Fire Administration*)
- Young children are twice as likely as the rest of the population to die in a home fire.
- There are 4,000 injuries associated with electric extension cords every year. (Source: *U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission*)
- Thirteen percent of these accidents involve children under five years old.
- Electrical burns to the mouth account for half the electrical injuries suffered by young children.
- Each year, 2,400 children under the age of 10 are treated in emergency rooms for electrical injuries from inserting household objects into electrical receptacles.
- Children ages five and under make up about 7 percent of the country's population, but account for 12 percent of the home fire deaths. (Source: *National Fire Protection Association*)
- Electrical cords and extension cords are the cause of almost two-thirds of electrical burn injuries to children ages 12 and under.