As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

Do not overload electrical outlets.
More than three strands of lights plugged into each other may not only blow a fuse but can also cause a fire.

Keep trees fresh by watering daily.
Dry trees are a serious fire hazard.

Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources.
Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Protect cords from damage.
To avoid shock or fire hazards, cords should never be pinched by furniture or doors and windows, placed under rugs, located near heat sources, or attached by nails or staples.

Turn off, unplug, and extinguish all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the house.
Unattended candles are the cause of one in five home fires.

Use battery-operated candles.
Candles start almost half of home decoration fires.

After the Holidays
Recycle your Christmas tree after the holidays or when it is dry. Dried out trees are a fire danger. Never leave trees in or out of the home or garage. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

For more information, visit www.vcfd.org/holiday-safety