



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

AMHERST COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Public Service Announcement

December 11, 2019

Holiday and Winter Fire Safety

As temperatures drop and Christmas decorations go up, Amherst County Administration along with the Amherst County Department of Public Safety and Building and Inspections encourage you to consider fire safety as you heat your home and decorate for the season.

Here are a just a few safety tips for staying safe this holiday season and all winter long.

- Choose a live tree with fresh, green needles, or use an artificial tree.
- Water fresh trees daily.
- Be careful not to overload outlets or extension cords.
- Blow out candles and turn off Christmas lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from flames and heat sources.
- Turn off space heaters when you leave a room and before going to bed.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop and set timers when using the oven.
- Make a home escape plan and practice it during the day and at night.
- Check the batteries in smoke alarms.
- Know at least two ways out of every room if possible.
- Sleep with bedroom doors closed to slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

More fire safety tips can be found on the National Fire Prevention Association's [website](#). [Christmas Tree Safety](#), [Winter Holiday Safety](#), and [Escape Planning](#) are just a few of the flyers available. Amherst County Building and Inspections (434) 946-9302 or Amherst County Public Safety (434) 946-9307 are available to answer any questions you may have.

Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at jlniehaus@countyofamherst.com or (434)-946-9400.