

St. Catharines Fire Services igniting holiday safety initiatives

Dec. 16, 2020 - St. Catharines Fire Services are reminding residents to practice fire safety during the holiday season while participating in some fun online public engagement initiatives until Dec. 24.

“I’m wishing for a fire-free holiday season this year, but I need residents to help make this come true,” said Fire Chief Jeff McCormick. “Typically fires happen when people get preoccupied, distracted, or let their guard down. With the busyness of the holidays, it is very easy to get distracted or let our guard down.”

Residents and the public need to be aware of common fire safety concerns, especially during the holiday season as one in three fire-related deaths occur between November through January in Ontario, according to the [Office of the Fire Marshal](#).

Holiday fire concerns for residents to be aware of are:

- Smoking and unattended cooking are the top causes of holiday fatal fires - make sure all cigarettes are properly extinguished and the stove is off before going to bed.
- Alcohol is a factor in many fatal fires involving smoking and cooking. Please drink responsibly.
- Smoke alarms are required on every storey of a home and outside all sleeping areas.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are required outside all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage.
- Inspect decorative lights every year before using them - if wiring is frayed or worn, or if the lights are old, they should be replaced.
- If maintaining a real tree, check the water level daily and supply as needed.

Residents can participate in City fire safety initiatives including Spot Sparky in the City – an online location guessing game from Dec. 16 to Dec. 24 as well as the Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest on [EngageSTC.ca/FireSafeSTC](https://www.stcatharines.ca/EngageSTC.ca/FireSafeSTC) until Dec. 21 for a chance to win one of three prize packs.

Visit stcatharines.ca/Fire for more information on St. Catharines fire by-laws and home safety tips.

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