

What You Need to Know

- Holiday celebrations can increase the risk of fires and electrical accidents
- When cooking, remain in the kitchen and keep a fire extinguisher close by
- Make sure holiday decorations are in good condition and are used as designed
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with your family

The holiday season is here. That often means family gatherings, seasonal decorations and tasty meals. While these traditions can bring joy and cheer, it's important to remember they can also increase the risk of fires and electrical accidents. To minimize these possibilities, we worked closely with our community partner, the [Ohio State Fire Marshal](#), to share some important safety reminders.

Please help us share this important information with your constituents, clients, friends, family members and others so we can keep each other safe.

Happy Holidays from all of us at AEP Ohio!



COOKING SAFETY

- Always plug electrical appliances directly into an outlet, not an extension cord or power strip.
- While cooking, stay in the kitchen and remember to check on your food often.
- If a non-grease fire develops, immediately cover the pot or pan to smother the fire, turn off the appliance and call 911.
- If a fire starts in the oven, shut the oven to contain the fire, turn it off and call 911.
- Always keep a [fire extinguisher](#) nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Keep pets and children away from cooking surfaces and nearby countertops.

DECORATION SAFETY

- Make sure that string lights and other holiday decorations are in good condition. Do not use decorations with broken or frayed electrical cords.
- When decorating outdoors, only use decorations, extension cords and outlets that are designated for outdoor use.
- Never run cords under carpeting, bedding or other flammable materials.

Holiday Cooking & Decorating Safety

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- Check that cords aren't pinched or pressed, such as under a couch or between furniture and the wall.
- Never overload your outlets or use extension cords as a replacement for outlets.
- Read more tips from the Ohio State Fire Marshal: [Deck the Halls, but Do It Safely](#)

FIRE SAFETY & PREVENTION

- Keep fire safety top of mind, every day.
- Develop and practice a .
- In the event of a fire, be sure you have a designated meeting place outside. Remember: Get out and stay out.
- Ensure your home is properly equipped with up-to-date [fire extinguishers](#), smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [VIDEO: Holiday Cooking and Decorating Tips to Prevent Fires and Electrical Hazards](#)
- [Ohio State Fire Marshal: Deck the Halls but Do It Safely](#)
- [Guide to Fire Extinguishers](#)
- [Home Fire Escape Tips](#)
- [Find Your Local Fire Department](#)