



Lakewood Fire District No. 1

733 Cedar Bridge Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 21, 2023

Subject: Lakewood Fire Department Winter Holidays Safety

Contact: Sima Clapman, Fire Prevention Specialist 732-364-5151

Holiday Fire Safety

Ensuring Safety During the Winter Holidays: Lakewood Fire Department Promotes Fire Safety Awareness

As Christmas approaches, The Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners along with Fire Chief Jonathan T. Yahr, Fire Prevention Specialist Sima Clapman and the members of the Lakewood Fire Department is taking proactive steps to promote fire safety awareness within our community. The holiday season, filled with festive decorations, candles, and cooking, presents unique fire risks that require special attention.

To enhance safety measures, The Lakewood Fire Department is launching a Winter Holiday Fire Safety Campaign aimed at educating residents about potential hazards and providing practical tips to reduce the risk of fires. The campaign emphasizes the importance of staying vigilant during the holidays and adopting safe practices to protect homes and loved ones.

Key fire safety tips for the winter holidays include:

- 1. Mindful Decoration:** When decorating for the holidays, be cautious with flammable materials. Keep decorations away from heat sources and never leave lit candles unattended.
- 2. Safe Candle Usage:** opt for flameless candles or ensure traditional candles are placed in stable holders away from combustible items. Remember to extinguish candles before leaving the room or going to bed.
- 3. Proper Tree Care:** If using a live Christmas tree, keep it well-watered to prevent it from becoming dry and more susceptible to ignition. Artificial trees should be labeled as flame-resistant.
- 4. Kitchen Safety:** Cooking is a common holiday tradition, so exercise caution in the kitchen. Never leave cooking unattended, keep flammable items away from the stove, and ensure all appliances are in good working condition.
- 5. Heating Safety:** If using space heaters or other heating devices, maintain a safe distance from combustible materials, and turn them off before leaving the room or going to sleep.

6. Emergency Response: *NEVER* hesitate to call the fire department (911) for any suspicion of danger.

Ensure working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are installed in your home, with alarms outside each sleeping area and on every floor.

7. Close before you Doze: Close bedroom doors before you go to sleep. This can provide a significant delay in fire spread and has been proven to save lives each and every year. Visit the following link for more information on this campaign <https://fsri.org/programs/close-before-you-doze>

The Lakewood Fire Department encourages everyone to take these precautions seriously and share them with friends and family. By fostering a culture of safety, we can collectively ensure a joyous and accident-free winter holiday season. For more information and additional fire safety resources, please visit our website at www.lakewoodfd.org or contact the Lakewood Fire Department at (732) 364-5151.

###