

# SAFETY TIP – Holiday Safety

Information from Martinez Area CERT

## Be Merry. Be Safe.

The holidays are a fun time in our communities but may also pose some risks. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and safe holiday season. More helpful information may be found at National Fire Protection Association at [nfpa.org](http://nfpa.org), Contra Costa County Fire at [cccfpd.org](http://cccfpd.org) and at [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov).

### Holiday decorating

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections
- Read manufacturer's instructions for recommended number of light strands that may be connected
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged
- Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or vents
- Make sure your tree does not block any exits from your home
- Keep lit candles at least 12 inches away from anything flammable

### Holiday safety indoors

- Test your smoke alarms and review your home fire escape plan
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet
- Ask smokers to smoke outside and to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them
- Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding
- Always sleep with your bedroom door closed. This simple fact can buy you and your family time to escape a house fire

### Get alerts

1. **Community Warning System (CWS)** for local emergency alerts at [CWSALERTS.com](http://CWSALERTS.com).
2. **The National Weather Service** at [weather.gov/nwr](http://weather.gov/nwr)
3. **FEMA** at [ready.gov/fema-app](http://ready.gov/fema-app)
4. **Know your Evacuation Zone!** Bookmark: [knowyourzone.zonehaven.com](http://knowyourzone.zonehaven.com). Alerts for Contra Costa Country will be available soon.



#### Quick Tips

- ✓ Don't leave lit candles unattended in a room.
- ✓ Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



#### Facts

- ✓ More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles
- ✓ More than 2 of every 5 decoration fires happen because they are placed too close to a heat source.



For more information visit your Martinez Area Community Emergency Response Team, (CERT) at [www.martinezcert.org](http://www.martinezcert.org)

Images: Listos, CERT

CERT Safety Tip November 2022

# SAFETY TIP – Holiday Safety

Information from Martinez Area CERT

## Be Merry. Be Safe.

Preparing meals, sharing food and traveling to family and friends are a big part of celebrating the holidays. Check weather forecasts, avoid driving in bad weather and be sure to have your **Emergency Car Kit** packed with you.

### Holiday cooking safety

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy **in** your kitchen
- Never use water to put out a cooking fire. Instead, cover your pot and use a kitchen fire extinguisher or baking soda
- Use a timer to remind you that the oven or stove is on

### Holiday safety on the road. *What goes into an Emergency Car Kit?*

In addition to the items you would use to build your **Go Bag**, add these:

- ✓ Flares, blinking safety lights or reflective triangle
- ✓ Cat litter or sand for better traction in snow and ice
- ✓ Jumper cables or portable battery pack
- ✓ Car cell phone charger
- ✓ Maps
- ✓ Ice scraper

### Each member of your family needs a Go Bag (pets too!)

- List of emergency contacts - include an out-of-state contact
- Important papers etc. Keep papers in water-proof pouch or on a flash drive
- Warm clothes: a weather-resistant jacket, pair of sturdy shoes, warm socks, a hat, gloves, long sleeve shirt, and long pants
- Energy bars, trail mix, jerky etc. and water (store extra in your vehicles)
- Extra house and car keys.
- Phone charger and cord
- Money in small denominations: \$1s, \$5s, \$10s.
- Knife or multi-tool, Lighter or water-proof matches
- Small flashlight and extra batteries
- Emergency blanket, First-aid kit, whistle
- Books, stuffed toys for children
- Battery powered AM/FM radio and extra batteries

*Note: All Go Bags should be tailored to you, your family and pet's unique needs.*



#### Frying the turkey?

Cook away from the house. Set up the cook station more than 10' from your home. Cook on flat ground and ensure that the cooker is stable.

Be certain turkey is thawed and dry. Water in hot oil will cause the oil to bubble and spill over. Monitor the temperature. Lids and handles get hot too! Be prepared and have a multi purpose fire extinguisher at hand.



#### Pet Go Bag

- Pet carrier
- Water, bowls
- First-aid kit, toys
- Medications
- Vet contact info
- Photos of your pet with you
- Leash/halter/harness
- Blanket
- Food for 3–7-days
- Waste disposal bags
- Vaccine records
- Pet ID chip info



For more information visit your Martinez Area Community Emergency Response Team, (CERT) at [www.martinezcert.org](http://www.martinezcert.org)