



Public Safety

News and Tips

Winter Holiday Safety Tips



'Tis the Season

Decorating Safety Tips

According to the U.S. Fire Administration each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650, and cause over \$900 million in damage. By following some basic safety tips you can reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.



Holiday Lights

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights** - Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets** - Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Check the wires. They should not be warm to the touch.

Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- **Selecting a Tree.** Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch..
- **Caring for Your Tree.** Do not place your tree close to a heat source, such as a fireplace or heat vent. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Also do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- **Disposing of Your Tree.** Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, dispose of it promptly and properly.

Holiday Decorations

- **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations.** All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents. If you are using an artificial tree make sure that it is flame retardant.
- **Never Put Wrapping Paper in the Fireplace.** Wrapping paper in a fireplace can result in a very large fire, throwing dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire.
- **Don't Block Exits.** Ensure that trees and other holiday decorations do not block an exit way. In the event of a fire, time is of the essence. A blocked entry/exit way puts you and your family at risk.

Candle Care

- **Never Leave a Burning Candle Unattended.** Consider using battery-operated candles which look, smell, and feel like real candles.
- **If You Do Use Lit Candles.** Make sure candles are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked over. Keep candles at least 12 inches from anything that can burn. Avoid using candles in the bedrooms and sleeping areas.
- **Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree.** Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters, or matches.

Did You Know?

- **Holiday decoration fires** are most likely to happen in the living room, family room or den.
- Almost half of all home **decoration fires are started by candles.**
- Half of holiday decoration **fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.**



Holiday Light Exchange



Exchange your old incandescent holiday lights for Energy Star LED lights. Bring up to three strands to the Roseville Utility

Exploration Center, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd. Tuesday -Saturday from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (While supplies last).

Visit: www.Roseville.ca.us/HolidayLights

 **Blow** out candles and turn off tree lights before heading out or to bed.

Call 911
EMERGENCY
IN PROGRESS

NON-EMERGENCY
Fire (916) 774-5800
Police (916)-774-5000
Extension 1

Police Department
1051 Junction Blvd.
Roseville C A 95678
(916) 774-5000
www.roseville.ca.us/police

Fire Headquarters
401 Oak Street, Fire
Station #1
Roseville, CA 95678
(916) 774-5800
www.roseville.ca.us/fire

**Abandoned Vehicle
Hotline**
(916) 746-1022

**Alarms/Alarm
Permits**
(916) 774-5093

Animal Control
(916)774-5090

**Community Events
& Neighborhood
Watch**
(916) 774-5050

Graffiti Abatement
(916) 746-1021

**Police news &
crime alert emails:**
www.roseville.ca.us/notifiy

RCONA
(Roseville Coalition of
Neighborhood
Associations)
www.RCONA.org





Public Safety News & Tips

Holiday Shopping

Shopping Tips for the Holidays

The holiday season is in full swing and everyone is busy shopping for the best deals. Unfortunately, thieves love this time of the year, too. Here are a few safety tips to help make your holiday shopping a safe and happy one.

- **Use the buddy system.**
Shop with a friend. You are more likely to become a target if you are alone
- **Park your car in a well-lit area.**
Try to avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows. Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked. Set your alarm!
- **Stay alert when you are walking to your car.**
Talking or texting on your phone or digging in your purse for your keys while walking is a distraction and makes you an easy target. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask mall security to escort you to your vehicle.
- **Never leave your purse unattended.**
Do not leave your purse in a shopping cart or on a counter while you pay for your purchase. When using a public restroom, use extreme caution - try avoid placing your purse on hooks or door handles. Criminals can easily grab your purse and run.
- **Never carry large amounts of money.**
Whenever possible use a debit or credit card. Use ATM machines only in well-lit and populated locations. If you must carry cash, carry a small wallet in your front pants pocket. If you carry a purse, hold it under your arm, close to your body and not dangling by the straps.

Holiday Vehicle Safety Tips

Vehicle break-ins are amongst the most common type of crime in Roseville. It is especially prevalent during the holiday season. Here are some tips to make your car less attractive to thieves

- **Lock your car.** This may go without saying, but lock your car every time. Even if you're running into the store for a soda, that's too long to leave your vehicle's contents open for the taking. Remember it only takes a few seconds for a theft to occur.
- **Keep it tidy.** Almost any worthless personal item can be seen as valuable by someone else. So keep personal items out of sight.
- **Conceal all valuables.** Don't leave any bait out for thieves. Stow your electronics and accessories out of sight. Hide that power plug, iPod adapter, and GPS holder.
- **Move your car often.** If you return to your car to unload your packages, move to another area of the parking lot to discourage a thief who may be watching you unload your purchases.

Keeping Your Home Safe for the Holidays

- **Reduce your curb appeal.** Empty flat screen TV, Wii, and PlayStation boxes in your garbage bin can attract criminals into your home. Break down those boxes and turn them inside out before placing them in the bin. Space it out so not all the boxes go out the same week. This reduces your chance of being a crime victim.
- **Patch security holes.** If your home has been burglarized, don't replace anything until you have fixed the security problem. Once a criminal has figured out how to get in, they may come back after you have replaced your items.
- **Don't advertise your holiday gifts.** Most people put up their tree in the front room of their house. Don't display presents under your tree for everyone to see.
- **Keep a low profile online.** Be careful what you post online. Post vacation pictures after you come home. Don't show off new gifts online. TMI on social media can bring bad tidings.
- **Safety first.** If you return home to find your residence has been broken into, don't go inside. Call 9-1-1 from your cell phone or neighbor's house.



Did you know?

Thieves sometimes linger in busy parking lots looking for valuables being moved out of sight. "Stash" your valuable before you get to your destination not after.



Charities

In the spirit of the holidays, many people make donations to charities during the holidays. Before you make that donation, check out the charity. Here are a few websites that can get you started:

- bbb.org
- guidestar.org
- charitynavigator.org
- charitywatch.org