



# Fire District 4

## FIRE & RESCUE

*Serving North Spokane County*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Fire District 4 offers tips to decorate and entertain safely this holiday season**

Chattaroy, Wash. – Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. Fire District 4 wants to make sure that celebrations are fun *and* safe. A few simple precautions can ensure a fire-safe holiday season. Here are some tips:

Start with the Christmas tree. Pick a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk so the tree can absorb water in the base, and add water daily. Keep the tree at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights. Lastly, make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

When lighting the tree, choose lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords, and read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to string together. Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

For the rest of the house, choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant. Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged. Keep lit candles away from decorations or anything that can burn. Consider using LED candles that put off a glow without an open flame.

When entertaining, make sure to stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop. Keep matches and lighters up high, away from the reach of children. Put any lit candles in a safe, secure location where they cannot accidentally be knocked over. Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.

Be diligent if space heaters are in use – keep them at least 3 feet away from any combustibles and away from children. A fire in the fireplace makes for a cozy holiday, but make sure the chimney has been cleaned.

A small amount of planning goes a long way in keeping your friends and family safe this, and every, season. Fire District 4 wishes everyone happy holidays.

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*Spokane County Fire District 4 provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 45,000 people over 330 square miles in north Spokane County, including the city of Deer Park. Volunteer and part-time firefighters respond to more than 3,100 emergency calls per year; 77 percent on average are for EMS. Fire District 4 is proud to operate under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state. Find Fire District 4 on Facebook at [/SpokaneCoFire4](https://www.facebook.com/SpokaneCoFire4), Twitter ([@SpokaneCoFire4](https://twitter.com/SpokaneCoFire4)) or visit the web site at [www.scf4.org](http://www.scf4.org).*