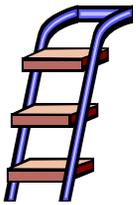


Holiday Gift Ideas that Save Lives!

This Holiday season, consider giving gifts that may just save the lives of those you love...

Consider giving one of the new **smoke alarms** that are powered by long-life lithium batteries and equipped with a hush button which allows for silencing nuisance alarms from cooking smoke and/or shower steam. *(Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of a home, outside every sleeping area, and in every bedroom for maximum protection.)*



In a two-story home, the gift of an **escape ladder** can provide your loved ones with a secondary means of escaping a fire.

Since kitchen fires are the No. 1 cause of residential fires in the nation, how about giving the gift of a **home fire extinguisher**?



Or, may we suggest a **CPR class**. Go to www.tvfr.com for additional information.

And if a fire or medical emergency should occur...
Dial 9-1-1

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Serving the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Newberg, North Plains, Rivergrove, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn, and Wilsonville, along with surrounding communities within portions of unincorporated Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill counties.



www.tvfr.com
503-649-8577

Prevent • Prepare • Respond



Fire Safety for the Holidays





Holiday Lighting

- Only use UL-approved, low-heat lights.
- Always use outdoor lights outside and indoor lights inside.
- Never use light sets with broken sockets, frayed and/or cracked wires, or missing sockets. Any one of these problems may cause an electrical shock or a fire.
- Prior to using a light set, place it on a non-flammable surface and plug it in for 10-15 minutes to check for smoking or melting.
- Lights should only be used on fresh or fire-retardant plastic trees. Never use electric lights on a metal tree as the tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights and a person touching the tree could be electrocuted.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to exterior walls, trees, or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage. Do not use nails or tacks to hold light strings in place. Instead, use plastic light string holders or run your light strings through hooks.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights can short out and start a fire.

Candles

Candles are a popular item during the holiday season. Unfortunately, they are often the cause of many house fires. Be safe this season by following these tips:

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from combustibles such as clothing, curtains, decorations, holiday trees, or paper.
- Use candle holders that won't tip over easily, can catch dripping wax, and are made of materials that won't burn.
- Place candle holders on sturdy, uncluttered surfaces where they cannot be knocked over by children or pets.
- Extinguish all taper and pillar candles when they reach within two inches of the holder or decoration. Votive candles should be extinguished before the last one-quarter inch of wax begins to melt.
- And keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children!



Miscellaneous

- Never burn gift wrappings in your fireplace or woodstove. They can ignite suddenly and cause flash fires.
- Remove all combustibles from within three feet of your fireplace.
- Test your smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector.

Fresh Tree Care

Keeping your tree healthy and green will help keep your holiday safe!



- Select a tree that has been recently cut or cut one yourself. Before placing your tree in a sturdy stand, make a fresh cut at least one inch from the original cut (even if the original cut was made that same day) to help your tree absorb water.
- After placing your tree in the stand, water it immediately, and add water daily or as needed. (If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form preventing further water absorption.)
- Place the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, heaters, televisions, or vents.
- A dry tree is extremely combustible and can ignite a room in **seconds**! Check your tree for dryness by running your hand down a branch; if the needles fall off, the tree is too dry and should be taken down and disposed of properly.
- Never burn a tree in your fireplace. The combination of dry branches, pitch, and tree oils can ignite within seconds, sending sparks and flames into the room.

Artificial Trees

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." This does not guarantee the tree won't catch fire, but it indicates that the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.