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[Holiday fire safety tips](#)

Posted by [Kristina Sauerwein](#) in [Uncategorized](#) | December 16th, 2008 | [Trackback](#)

The [U.S. Fire Administration](#) estimates that the holiday season sparks 47,000 fires annually, killing approximately 500 people, injuring 2,200 and costing \$554 million in property damage. One major cause is Christmas trees igniting from candles, flames in the fireplace and other heat sources. Here are some tips from the [U.S. Fire Administration](#) and Liberty Mutual's [BeFireSmart](#) for keeping your home safe during the holidays:



Holiday Decorations

- Make sure live Christmas trees and other greens are watered and situated at least three feet from fireplaces, space heaters, radiators and other heat sources.
- Place Christmas tree in a sturdy, non-slip tree stand.
- Do not obstruct a doorway with a Christmas tree.
- Place burning candles, menorahs and kinaras on flat surfaces and at least a foot from flammable items. Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Opt for battery-powered candles instead of fire-burning ones.
- Always shut off decorative and tree lights before going to sleep or leaving the house.

Holiday Cooking

- Make sure your kitchen has a working smoke alarm as well as a multi-purpose [ABC-rated extinguisher](#).
- Clean off flammable grease splatters and other food items on stovetops and in ovens.
- Keep kids away from stovetops and monitor your oven.
- Turn pan handles inward and use rear burners when possible.
- If fire ignites in the oven or microwave, keep door closed and turn off appliance.

- In the event of a pan fire, smother small grease fires with baking soda or by covering pan with a small lid. NEVER try to put out the flame with water or a fire extinguisher, which can spread the flames and make the fire worse.
- Never leave the house while the oven is on.

For more on home safety, take [BabyCenter's Holiday Safety IQ test](#) and read [Kim's](#) fire-safety blogs on [clothes-dryer hazards](#) and [kitchen fires](#). Also, [Lindsay's scalding life lesson is a must read](#).

Photo courtesy of [Seasonal Concepts](#), which offers artificial trees that are flame retardant.

Good Morning,

Tis' the season for giving and Seasonal Concepts has collaborated with Ronald McDonald Houses of Kansas City to bring the holiday cheer this **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19 at 7:00 p.m.** to those away from home. This a chance for families to gather and decorate a Season Concept tree in the Ronald McDonald Houses Lobbies. Now everyone can enjoy the holidays no matter where his or her home is. Below is more information.

This is great opportunity for local Kansas City organizations to realize the potential affect they can have on families of Ronald McDonald by donating their time or resources all the great things the Ronald McDonald Houses of Kansas City does for so many.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information. Hope to see you there!

Melanie

Seasonal Concepts is donating decorations to the Ronald McDonald Houses of Kansas City, Wednesday Nov. 19 at 7:00 p.m. Join us to decorate!

Hi,

After talking to Marc, I understand Wednesday at KC RMH was a huge success. Two TV stations (CBS and NBC) were able to cover the story. I have only been able to find the NBC coverage at the moment. Below is a link to the story:

http://www.nbcactionnews.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=3DB88AE6-919A-4BB3-9173-8B176FFC7084&gsa=true

I am in contact with CBS and working on receiving a copy of the story. Our Twitter coverage of the story is a success; people have "tweeted" about how wonderful of Seasonal Concepts to donate to the RMH.

I look forward to the Show Me Show on Dec 4 as well as the Dec 5 RMH in St. Louis and Tulsa decorating.

Have a great weekend!!

Melanie