

# Upper Makefield Township

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## OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

### HOLIDAY ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY & AWARENESS

According to the National Fire Protection Association **860 home fires are caused by electrical decorations each year. An additional 210 home fires are caused by Christmas trees each year.** Follow these steps to insure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.

- Inspect electrical decorations for damage before use
- Never connect more than three strings of incandescent light
- Do not overload circuits as they can overheat and start a fire – fuses that frequently blow and circuits that trip can indicate too many items are connected to the circuit
- Keep your Christmas tree fresh by watering daily
- Use battery operated candles
- Keep combustibles at least three feet from heat sources
- Protect electrical cords from damage – do not run under carpets, through doorways or where they can be damaged by furniture
- Check illuminated decorations for a UL safety check label
- Stay in the kitchen when something is cooking
- Turn off, unplug all decorations when going to sleep or leaving the home
- Never remove the third prong on a plug
- Be sure to choose the right light strings and decorations as they are rated for indoor or outdoor use
- Keep outdoor connections above ground and out of puddles, don't run them across driveways or walkways
- Ensure that your **SMOKE ALARMS ARE WORKING!** Sit as a family and discuss what to do and where to go if smoke alarms activate!

Questions? Call 215-968-3340 and I'll be happy to return your call promptly.

John C. Kernan IAAI-CFI

Chief Fire Marshal FM-272

