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Public Safety Commissioner



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# THE SAFETY BRIEF

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◆◆◆ NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT ◆◆◆

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## WINTER FIRE SAFETY

*Key Strategies for the Winter Holiday*



### 1. Heating Safety

- ✓ Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from bedding, curtains, and anything flammable.
- ✓ Never leave a heater unattended. Unplug when leaving home or going to sleep.
- ✓ Use UL-listed electric heaters only no damaged cords, no extension-cord use.
- ✓ Must be plugged **directly** into the electrical outlet.
- ✓ Keep items off radiators/steam heat and ensure valves/leaks are immediately repaired.

### 2. Apartment & Multi-Family Building Safety

- ✓ Ensure hallways, stairwells, and fire exits remain completely clear. Never block fire doors, roof access, or "Area of Refuge" zones.
- ✓ Immediately report malfunctioning smoke detectors, alarms, and self-closing doors to your building maintenance immediately.
- ✓ Know your building's fire evacuation plan and two ways out of your unit.

### 3. Electrical Safety

- ✓ Avoid overloading power strips and outlets.
- ✓ Inspect lights and cords for fraying/heat damage.
- ✓ Do not run extension cords under rugs or through doorways where friction can cause overheating.

### 4. Holiday Decorating

- ✓ Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant/retardant.
- ✓ Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- ✓ Some lights are only for indoor **OR** outdoor use and may not be suitable for both.
- ✓ Replace any string of lights with worn, broken cords, or loose bulb connections.
- ✓ Chord Damage: Use clips, not nails, to hang lights.
- ✓ Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- ✓ Blow out lit candles, turn off all light strings and decorations, before leaving home or going to bed.

### 5. Holiday Entertaining

- ✓ Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- ✓ Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- ✓ Keep matches/lighters up high secured in a cabinet.
- ✓ Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- ✓ Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- ✓ Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



*"Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together. But that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season."*

*- Allen Pascual, Public Safety Commissioner*

### Questions, Comments, or Concerns?

Email our Community Relations Unit:  
[CommunityRelations@NorthBergenPD.com](mailto:CommunityRelations@NorthBergenPD.com)  
Call or Text: (201) 888-9008

**IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911**