

Safety

in the Home

This Christmas



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Christmas is a magical time for children of all ages when we dream of that perfect Christmas. Unfortunately for some, that magic spell will be broken by the happening of an event and Christmas will be remembered for all the wrong reasons.

Our Broker Partners will be aware that RSA has prepared a helpful 'Winter Checklist' which you can download at www.winterchecklist.ie and use to promote safety to your customers. As a reminder, here are just some of the safety tips that everyone needs to be aware of and practice this Christmas.

Fire Safety Tips...

- 🔥 Check that your Smoke alarms are working and ensure that your household is familiar with your Fire Evacuation plan.
- 🔥 Fit a spark guard in front of open fires. If there are young children in the home or visiting, always use a child proof fireguard.
- 🔥 Never burn wrapping paper in your fireplace.

The Christmas tree...

- 🌲 For real Christmas trees, place them securely in a sturdy base filled with water and check the water level daily. By doing this, it will keep the tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- 🌲 If choosing an artificial tree, ensure that it has been pre treated to increase its flame resistance.
- 🌲 Only buy Christmas lights marked with a Safety Standard.
- 🌲 Always unplug Christmas Lights before leaving your home or going to bed.

Candles...

- 🕯️ A lighted candle is an open flame, and a potential fire hazard if not carefully monitored. Never leave a burning candle unattended - always extinguish candles before going out or going to bed.
- 🕯️ Never burn a candle on or near anything that might catch fire. Always use a heat resistant candleholder which is sturdy and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax and place the candleholder on a stable heat resistant surface.
- 🕯️ Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.

Keep those Intruders out...

- 🔒 Make sure all doors, windows, gates and outbuildings are locked.
- 🔒 Always set your Intruder Alarm when you leave the house or retire for the night.
- 🔒 If you are away:
 - Set a few timers so that lights appear to go on and off randomly. A house in darkness or with a single light on constantly is a sure sign that the house is not occupied.
 - Cancel all deliveries and arrange for a neighbour to collect your post.

And if those arctic temperatures return..

- * Keep your home well heated and open your attic door to allow heat to circulate.
- * Find out where your stop valve is and know how to turn off your water in case of a burst pipe.
- * If you are away for a few days, leave your heating on at a low temperature.

www.winterchecklist.ie

