

## Don't Let Fire Ruin Festive Cheer this Christmas

Christmas dinner, wrapping presents, decorating your home – there's lots to think about this Christmas.









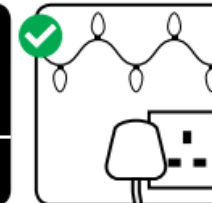
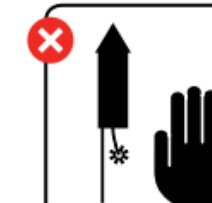
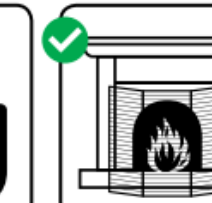

While fire safety is important throughout the year, the extra distractions of Christmas make it especially important to be vigilant during the festive season. Alyson Down, Community Safety Officer says: "Christmas is a time for festive cheer with family and friends. To ensure you have the merriest of Christmases, please ensure you place candles in suitable holders and away from curtains, never leave cooking unattended and, of course, test your smoke alarms.



"The colder weather brings its own menaces too. Take care when using portable heaters or open fires to keep warm. Keep them well away from curtains, clothing and furniture."

From everyone at North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service we wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas.

Here are some simple tips to help you and your family enjoy the joys Christmas safely:

					
Check your Christmas tree lights carry the British Safety Standard sign.	Never place candles near your Christmas tree or materials that can catch light easily.	Test your smoke alarms monthly and only remove batteries when replacing them.	Most fires start in the kitchen. Avoid leaving a cooker unattended. Avoid cooking when under the influence of alcohol.	Make sure your family and visitors know how to escape in an emergency.	Make sure cigarettes are put out properly.
					
Decorations can burn easily – so don't attach them to lights or heaters.	Keep candles, lighters and matches out of children's reach. Never leave burning candles unattended.	Never overload electrical sockets. Always switch Christmas lights off and unplug them before you go to bed.	Store fireworks safely. Never go back to a lit firework and keep a bucket of water nearby.	Take care around open fireplaces as clothes may catch fire.	Take time to check on older relatives and neighbours this Christmas as they are at greater risk from fire.

For further information on Home Fire Safety please visit [www.northyorksfire.gov.uk](http://www.northyorksfire.gov.uk). If you would like to book a free Home Fire Safety Check you can complete the form online or call 01609 788545. We can test existing smoke alarms and in some cases may be able to install new smoke alarms for free.