

HOLIDAY SAFETY: HOME FIRES



Nearly 47,000 fires occur during the winter holidays.
Follow these tips to prevent *your* celebration from
going up in flames.

Scary stats

40 Average holiday home fires caused
per day by children playing



500 Lives claimed by holiday fires, on
average, per year



1 in 22 Holiday fires — started by Christmas
trees — that result in death



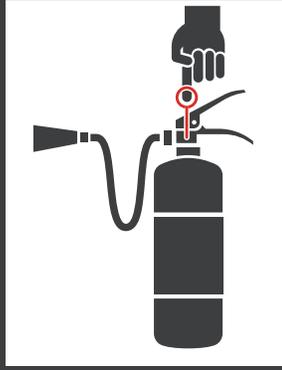
50% Reduction in death risk from a house
fire when smoke alarms are installed



How to use a fire extinguisher

Remember to keep your back to an exit and stand six to
eight feet away from the fire. Leave the area if the fire does
not begin to go out immediately. Make sure you familiarize
yourself with your extinguisher before a fire happens.

P.A.S.S.



P. Pull the pin

This unlocks the operating lever and allows you to discharge the extinguisher. Some extinguishers may have other lever-release mechanisms.



A. Aim low

Point the extinguisher nozzle (end of hose) at the base of the fire.



S. Squeeze the lever above the handle

This discharges the extinguishing agent. Some extinguishers have a button instead of a lever.



S. Sweep from side to side

Move carefully toward the fire, keeping the extinguisher aimed at the base of the fire and sweeping back and forth until the flames go out.

Quick tips

- Never pour water on a grease or oil fire
- Test smoke detectors once a month, and replace its batteries twice a year
- Keep your fire extinguisher in the kitchen, but not near the stove
- Make sure holiday lights are in good condition
- Place trees, candles and decorations at least three feet from any heat source including your fireplace, portable space heater and candles
- Always unplug tree lights before leaving the house or going to bed
- Water your Christmas tree every day and consider a flame-retardant artificial tree

From the expert

“The holiday season is one of joy, happiness, love and cherished memories. Keep your holidays safe by following these simple safety precautions.”

—Don Condon, a facilities supervisor at Sharp HealthCare, is a retired firefighter with 33 years of experience.

