WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT...

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Christmas Trees-

- It is recommended that you purchase an artificial, fire-proof tree
- If you buy a real tree, make sure it is as fresh as possible, not brown, no needles falling etc.
- Put a fresh diagonal cut, about an inch off the bottom, so water will flow through. Place in a secure base and keep water or wet sand in the base or use products designed to keep trees fresh
- Make sure the tree is far enough away (at least 3 feet) from any heat source(candles, fireplace etc.)
- NEVER try to burn the tree yourself in the fireplace to dispose of the tree.
- Dispose of your tree as soon as the season is over. Store your tree away from your home and allow for pick up

Lights-

- Make sure they are UL listed
- NEVER use more than 3 strands on a run (follow manufacturers instructions).
- Make sure there is no frayed wiring
- It is preferable to use smaller bulbs with less heat
- NEVER use the lights when your are not at home or when you are asleep. Purchase timers for extra security.

Fireplace-

- Use a screen at the base of the fireplace and a flash arrester at the top of the chimney to keep sparks off the roof
- NEVER use any paper or flammable liquids in the fireplace
- Make sure the damper is open before building the fire
- Use aged wood and an approved product designed for igniting a fire in the fireplace or a gas fired log lighter that has been installed by a licensed plumber and purchased through a reliable company

Holiday Driving Safety-

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, on New Year's Eve 2000, 40% of traffic accidents involved alcohol resulting in 32 fatalities.
- Be alert to possible drunk drivers especially during the hours of 10:00pm-4:00am
- NEVER drink & drive!
- Have a Designated Driver

A Message from the
Houston Fire Department

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