



## With Holiday Joy, Comes Fire Risk

*Take extra precautions to protect your home from fire during the holidays*

### **For Immediate Release**

**December 20, 2010**

(Green Bay, WI) Chestnuts roasting on an open fire may be a holiday tradition, but be aware that during the winter, especially around the holidays, the risk of a home fire increases. “The holiday season increases fire risk for a number of reasons,” said Andy Kaye, president of [Recoveron Restoration Services](http://www.recoveron.com), a one-source restoration company specializing in fire, water and mold restoration. “The combination of dry air during the winter and the increased number of heat sources including fireplaces, space heaters, furnaces and holiday lights puts many at risk for holiday fires every year.”

Kaye recommends taking precautions to help avoid home fires this holiday season:

- **Cooking and baking.** Holiday cookies and meals are a tradition in many families. With all the commotion of family, friends, kids, etc., it can be easy to accidentally leave the stove on or leave an appliance plugged in. To help you remember to turn off all kitchen appliances, set timers for every item you are baking or cooking and turn everything off before you remove your food. In addition, keep all paper products and oils far away from open flames. If you’re working with cooking oils / greases, always keep flour or baking soda nearby if a fire should start. NEVER throw water on a grease or oil fire.
- **Holiday trees.** If you have a live holiday tree, be sure it is watered properly the entire time it is in your home. Letting the tree dry out will make the tree’s needles more flammable and will help the tree burn faster if a fire started. In addition, keep live and fake trees far from any source of heat such as fireplaces, space heaters, excessive extension cords or heating ducts. Any spark or excessive heat located near a tree could lead to a fire igniting. Heat sources near a live tree will also make it dry out more quickly.
- **Holiday lights.** Before putting up any indoor or outdoor holiday lights, check each bulb to make sure there are no exposed wires exposed or broken circuits. This is especially important for any lights going on a live tree. Non-LED lights give off heat when left on for an extended period of time. To avoid a fire risk, set all outdoor lights on an automatic timer to make sure they are never left on overnight. If you have indoor lights on a tree or around your windows, turn them off every time you are not in the room to enjoy them and make sure all indoor lights are off before going to bed. Lastly, no matter how lit up you want your house or tree to be, pay attention to the maximum number of strings that can be connected. An overload could lead to sparks.

- **Smoke detectors.** Test your smoke detector regularly. Remember that smoke detectors should be changed every couple years and batteries changed twice a year. If you can't remember the last time you got a new one, it's time to go out and buy one. Detecting a fire early will not only help save lives, but it can help to dramatically reduce the amount of damage a fire causes.

“Home fires can be an emotionally devastating experience and the truth is, many are avoidable,” added Kaye.

“When it comes to holiday fire risk, it's always better to be safe than sorry.”

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**Recoveron Restoration Services** is a full-service restoration company, specializing in fire, water and mold restoration for both commercial and residential losses. Recoveron serves all of eastern Wisconsin with locations in Green Bay and Plymouth, WI. For more information, go to: [www.recoveron.com](http://www.recoveron.com)

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