

Emergency Management

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

EOC News

NOVEMBER 27TH, 2024

Stay Cautious of Holiday Decorations and Their Hazards



With the holiday season approaching, make sure to remain vigilant about the potential risks associated with decorating your home. Twinkling lights and festive ornaments bring joy, but they can also pose significant hazards if not handled properly. Here are a few tips to ensure your festivities remain safe and cheerful:

1. **Inspect Lights and Cords:** Before hanging lights, check for frayed wires, broken bulbs, or loose connections. Replace any damaged components to prevent electrical fires.
2. **Choose Safe Decorations:** Opt for non-flammable or flame-retardant decorations. Keep them away from heat sources such as candles, fireplaces, and space heaters.
3. **Secure Christmas Trees:** If using a real tree, ensure it is fresh and well-watered to minimize fire risk. Keep it away from heat sources and exit paths.
4. **Avoid Overloading Circuits:** Use extension cords and power strips wisely to avoid overloading electrical outlets. Always unplug decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
5. **Candle Safety:** Never leave burning candles unattended. Consider using battery-operated candles as a safer alternative.

By taking these precautions, you can enjoy a safe and joyous holiday season without unexpected mishaps.

Additionally, remember also:

1. **Ladder Safety:** If you need to use a ladder for decorating, make sure it is stable and on a flat surface. Have someone hold the ladder for additional support, and never stand on the top rung.
2. **Outdoor Safety:** When decorating outside, ensure all lights and decorations are rated for outdoor use. Secure them properly to withstand winter weather conditions.
3. **Child and Pet Safety:** Keep small or fragile decorations out of reach of children and pets to avoid choking hazards or accidental breakage.
4. **Test Smoke Alarms:** Ensure all smoke alarms are functioning properly. Replace batteries if needed, and test them regularly throughout the holiday season.
5. **Plan for Emergencies:** Have a fire extinguisher easily accessible, and make sure everyone in your household knows how to use it. Review your emergency exit plan with family members.



By integrating these safety measures into your holiday preparations, you contribute to a festive environment that prioritizes the well-being of your loved ones. Here's to a season filled with

warmth, joy, and peace of mind!



Emergency Management Staff, Volunteers, & Stakeholders

Shining a spotlight on the people who make this agency function.

Franklin County Volunteer Fire Departments



Franklin County is home to seven dedicated volunteer fire departments, whose commitment is crucial to our community's safety. This holiday season, let us take a moment to express our gratitude for their invaluable contributions. Their tireless efforts often require them to work under challenging and hazardous conditions, selflessly responding to emergencies to protect our homes and loved ones. Whether they are combating fierce fires, assisting in rescue operations, or providing essential first aid, their presence is indispensable.

As we celebrate this festive season, I encourage everyone to consider ways to support and thank our local volunteer firefighters. Simple gestures, such as sending a heartfelt note, participating in fundraising events, or even volunteering your time, can significantly impact and reflect our appreciation for their unwavering dedication.

Let us come together as a community to honor and support these local heroes, ensuring they have the resources and encouragement necessary to continue their vital work.

Holiday Electrical Safety Tips

There are two main safety concerns with holiday decorations: fire load and electrical connections.

- **Fire Load:**

- Decorations, including dried-out Christmas trees and presents, are highly flammable and can accelerate fire spread.
- To mitigate fire risks:
 - Ensure smoke detectors have fresh batteries.
 - Avoid placing flammable items near the tree.
 - Consider using an artificial tree.
 - Unplug decorations when not monitored.

- **Electrical Safety:**

- Holiday decorations may overload circuits and create spark risks, especially with extension cords under rugs.
- Use LED lights and position decorations near outlets for easy unplugging.
- Always unplug when leaving the house.

- **Fire Extinguishers:**

- Keep a "K" rated fire extinguisher in the kitchen for grease fires.
- Have a lid handy when frying, and avoid using water on grease fires.

- **Heating Safety:**

- Space heaters are common in poorly heated homes but can cause fires if misused.
- Ensure they are modern and have safety features, and never use extension cords.

- **Carbon Monoxide Risks:**

- Propane heaters can produce deadly carbon monoxide.
- Use modern heaters with safety features and install carbon monoxide detectors.

Stay vigilant and prioritize safety to prevent holiday-related accidents.

See What We Are Up To





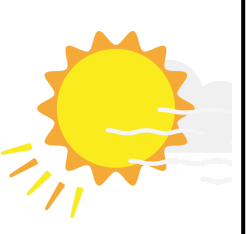
A glance at the projects that each staff member and prominent volunteer is undertaking.

- Jennifer Daniels, the Director, has been working on reimbursement for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and also updating our directories; also, she recently attended the FEPA planning committee, to which she is the co-chair.
- Amanda Anthony, the Coordinator, is preparing instructor notes for upcoming classes and updating our Survival Guide.
- Jessica Lockhart, the SPN Coordinator, is working on updating the pet preparedness plan and taking training to further her knowledge about the field of Emergency Management.
- Tim Keith-Lucas, the Operations Chief, is refining our checklists to ensure comprehensive hurricane preparedness, updating our communications plan, and applying for the CERT Grant, and also currently equipping our Mobile Command Trailer.
- Scott Bush, the Quartermaster, is currently reorganizing the EOC trailers to accommodate a wider array of events, coordinating the organization of the Hangar, and also assisting with equipping our Mobile Command Trailer.
- Judi Ring, the CERT President, is developing educational materials to raise awareness about the CERT program among the public, updating our event schedule, and applying for the CERT Grant.
- Rob Zingarelli, the Lead Radio Operator, is concentrating on the radio wiring setup within the command trailer.
- Robin Daniels, the Inventory Manager, is in the process of consolidating equipment from various areas within the EOC to both the command trailer and its supporting trailer.
- Robin Gibson, our Vehicle Inspector, has been diligently checking and ensuring that our county vehicles are maintained and ready at a moment's notice.
- Allen Sanders, the Groundskeeper, has resumed grounds maintenance activities in preparation for the forthcoming summer season and is currently maintaining chainsaws.
- The team eagerly awaits the review and approval of the new building plans by the state Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation.

Upcoming Events

Event	Description	Date	Time	Location
Thanksgiving	Holiday	Thursday Nov 28	All Day	-
Holiday on the Harbor	Festival and Boat Parade of Lights	Saturday Dec 14	12 PM - 7 PM	Carrabelle, FL

Weather Outlook

	<u>Wed, Nov 27</u>	<u>Thurs, Nov 28</u>	<u>Fri, Nov 29</u>	<u>Sat, Nov 30</u>	<u>Sun, Dec 1</u>
Weather					
	AM Clouds/PM Sun	Partly Cloudy	AM Clouds/PM Sun	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
Temp. (F)	67 / 77	54 / 78	41 / 63	41 / 62	40 / 64

EOC Tip of the Week

Holiday Travel Tips

If you're planning to travel by car, try to avoid the peak travel times and follow these American Red Cross tips to help keep you safe:

1. Make sure your car is in good condition for a road trip.
2. Pack an emergency preparedness kit, supplies and a first aid kit in your vehicle.
3. Share travel plans with a family member or friend.
4. Check the weather before departing and along your route. Plan for travel around any storms that may be coming.
5. Be well rested and alert.
6. Buckle up, slow down and don't drive impaired.
7. Follow the rules of the road and use caution in work zones.
8. Give your full attention to the road. Avoid distractions such as cell phones.
9. Make frequent stops. During long trips, rotate drivers. If you're too tired to drive, stop and get some rest.
10. If you have car trouble, pull off the road as far as possible.



Let Us Know What You Think

Address
28 Airport Road
Apalachicola, FL 32320

Phone
(850) 653-8977

Email
emfranklin@franklinemergencymanagement.com

Website
www.franklinemergencymanagement.com

Social Media
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinEOC>

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
0830 - 1630

