



Safety and Environmental Newsletter

November 2022 — 127th Edition

ENJOY A SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON

♦ *Traveling for the Holidays, Be Prepared:*

- ♦ *Make sure your vehicle is in good running condition*
- ♦ *Get lots of rest, leave early and plan for heavy traffic*
- ♦ *Make sure everyone in the vehicle is securely buckled up*
- ♦ *Be prepared for any emergency*
- ♦ *Practice defensive driving*



♦ *Decorate Safely: Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but safety is important.*



- ♦ *Keep potentially poisonous plants - mistletoe, holly berries, and amaryllis away from children*
- ♦ *If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant”*
- ♦ *If using a live tree, be sure to water frequently and place at least 3 feet away from fireplaces or other heat sources*
- ♦ *Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets and follow directions on number of light sockets that can be plugged into one socket*
- ♦ *Turn off all lights and decorations when you leave the house or go to bed*

♦ *Watch out for Fire-Starters: The use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase of combustible, seasonal décor means more risk for fire.*

- ♦ *Place candles in a location where they cannot be knocked down or blown over*
- ♦ *Don't burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace*
- ♦ *Use a screen on the fireplace at all times when fire is burning*
- ♦ *Use flameless candles instead of lighted candles near flammable objects*





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Celebrating America Recycles Day November 15



Did you know?

Each County may have different recycling requirements. Not all Convenience Centers are the same. Check with your local Convenience Center and Solid Waste Site to find out what is acceptable for recycling. You could be hurting the recycling program and causing extra fees, which could entail losing the recycling program.

Follow links to find out more in your area:

[Delaware](#) [ESVA](#) [Ocean City](#) [Wicomico](#)
[Worcester](#)

What does WFF recycle?

Goddard
Space Flight Center

RECYCLING HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

Goddard Space Flight Center now participates in "Single Stream" recycling. All your recyclables can now go into the same bin. So, get ready, follow the chart below, and recycle away. Make sure to **RINSE** all containers and remove any food and drink residue. If you have items that are too large for your bin, mark them clearly "For Recycling" and place next to your bin, or call to make special pickup arrangements. Questions? Call 757-824-1151.



Plastic Narrow Neck Containers #1&2



Plastic Wide Neck Containers #1&2



Metal Food & Beverage Containers



Aluminum Foil & Trays



Glass Bottles & Jars



Newspapers



Light Cardboard



Food Boxes



Milk & Juice Boxes



Paper Bags & Non-Foil Wrap



Phone Books



Mail, Magazines, Mixed Paper & Catalogs



Soft & Hard Books w/o Covers



Tips to Recycle Responsibly



Try to reduce plastic waste at home.

Ensure the plastic waste you put in your recycling bin can be recycled in your community. Find out by searching: "How do I recycle?" at www.epa.gov.



Buy and use more recycled materials.

For special materials such as batteries, tires, or light bulbs, check with your community's waste management department for proper disposal regulations.



For more information, visit neefusa.org



Have you heard about Nurdels?

Nurdels are tiny pieces of raw plastic material. They come from manufacturing companies and wash up on beaches and riverbanks by the millions. Take the Nurdle Challenge and participate in cleaning up the shores. Each Nurdle found can be tracked and logged on Nurdle Patrol.

Visit: <https://nurdlepatrol.org/>





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Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home.



- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Did you know?



Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment.

Have activities that keep **kids out of the kitchen** during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done **outside** the kitchen.



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Candle Safety

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

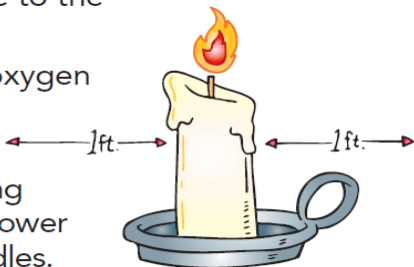
"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 1 foot (30 centimetres) away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



Candles and Kids

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ! **December** is the peak month for home candle fires.
- ! More than **one-third** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! **Three of every five** candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



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Major Storm Safety

Prevent fires, electrical shock and carbon monoxide poisoning when coping with a disaster.

Use flashlights and battery-operated candles if the power goes out

Use flashlights or battery-operated candles if the power goes out. Candle fires have more than doubled in the past decade and have turned deadly during power outages when smoke alarms also may not work.

Stock up on batteries and put new batteries in your smoke alarms

A working smoke alarm can double your chance of surviving a fire. Make sure your smoke alarms have fresh batteries. Change the batteries once a year. Install a battery operated or battery back-up smoke alarm if you only have hard-wired ones.

Carbon monoxide (CO) detectors protect your family from the *silent killer*

Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless and can be fatal. Install CO detectors on each level of your home and within 10 feet of all bedroom doors.



Make and practice a home escape plan with two ways out and an outdoor meeting place

Teach your home's escape plan to your family and your guests. If you are visiting friends and relatives, ask about the escape plan and meeting place for their homes.

Use generators outdoors only

Generators and other fuel powered machines should only be used outdoors. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors.

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FireFactors

Office of the State Fire Marshal • www.mass.gov/dfs • (978) 567-3380



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Use caution with alternative heating and cooking appliances.

During windy conditions, a sudden downdraft could blow a fire out of the fireplace and into a room. Always use a screen to contain sparks and embers.

Do not use a charcoal or propane grill indoors. This poses both carbon monoxide and explosion hazards.

Fire Extinguishers

Make sure your home fire extinguisher is handy and fully charged

Call for help

Keep cell phone batteries fully charged at all times. Be aware that fire alarm boxes may not work when the power is out. Do not be afraid to call for help in an emergency or if you think you may be in trouble. Avoid non-emergency calls to police and fire departments.

Gas safety

Report suspected gas leaks to the fire department immediately. Smell and listen for leaky gas connections. If you believe there is a gas leak (it smells like rotten eggs), go outdoors immediately and leave the doors to the building open. Do not turn electrical switches or appliances on or off. Never strike a match. Any flame can spark an explosion in the presence of gas.

Remember that water and electricity do not mix

Watch for downed wires. All downed wires should be considered "live". Explain this to children. Do not enter a flooded basement. If outlets or the fuse box in the basement is under water, it could electrically charge the water and electrocute you. Flooded water may also contain untreated sewage and cause serious health problems. If you fill the bathtub with water "just in case", be sure to keep all electrical appliances at a safe distance.

Keep vents clear

Keep outdoor furnace, hot water and dryer vents clear of drifting snow, leaves and debris to prevent flue gases from backing up into the home and creating a carbon monoxide hazard.