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Christmas and Holiday Season Home Safety Tips

Here are a few safety suggestions to consider while decorating your home during the Christmas and Holiday Season.

- Avoid the excessive use of plug-ins or extension cords in just one socket. When setting up your decorations, keep the positions of the sockets in mind, as well as their number, in order to avoid using extension cords.
- If you must use extension cords, use those that are equipped with an internal fuse.
- Do not use more than eight sockets on the same circuit.
- Do not put too many lights on the tree, as it can heat it up.
- If you are using a real tree, make sure the tree is watered frequently to minimize decay.
- Look over the lights and change those that are defective before you put them up.
- Do not use items such as decorative lights near combustible materials, such as paper, cloth, curtains, etc.
- Do not let young children play with or near electrical cords or plug-ins.
- Keep pets away from electrical decorations and their cords.
- It is a good idea to have a switch or a key that will allow you to turn off various electrical decorations at once. Turn off all electrical decorations, and unplug them before you go to bed.

Support for Alzheimer's Patients and Families

In the United States, 5.3 million people that are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and there is a new case that develops every 70 seconds. People with Alzheimer's disease can lose track of dates, seasons, and the passage of time. Sometimes they may forget where they are and/or how they got there. This is a major concern for caregivers and local authorities knowing that statistically up to 67% of people with dementia will wander away from their homes and get lost. To help with this growing problem, there are several programs listed below that can aid local authorities in helping make sure your loved ones are returned home safe in the event they become lost. For more information on Alzheimer's, please visit the Alzheimer's Association website at www.alz.org.

- Silver Alert Program <http://nationalsilveralert.org>
- Caretrak Program - <http://www.caretrak.com/>
- Comfort Zone - <http://www.alz.org>

NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT THE CRIME PREVENTION UNIT AT (772) 871-5303.