



FRANKLIN HILLS

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

BE PREPARED: **Stay Safe During the Holiday Season**

SAFETY MAY BE THE BEST GIFT we can give each other this season.

Don't let an unexpected accident dampen your celebratory spirit. We can never be too careful, too prepared, or too aware. Read and share these tips with family, friends and Franklin Hills neighbors.

At Home

- One of the most important safety tips -- during the holidays and always -- is to **know your neighbors**. It's key for many reasons, including recognizing when a person or vehicle doesn't belong in your neighborhood.
- Keep your home well lit and keep your garage door closed.
- Porch pirates – we all receive additional packages this time of year. Check your porch frequently when you're expecting deliveries or have a neighbor check for you.
- Holiday gift displays should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts.

Decorating

- Never use furniture as a ladder and keep three points of contact on the ladder: two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand. Follow the 1-to-4 rule for extension ladders: for every four feet the ladder rises, move the base out one foot from the structure.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so it can't be pulled over by children or pets. Place your tree in water or wet sand to keep it green, and place it away from heat sources.

Electrical/Fire Safety

- Ensure the wiring of any lights is not damaged or frayed.
- Consider using battery-operated candles.
- If you use your fireplace frequently, hang flammable stockings and greenery in places other than the mantel. Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.
- Don't leave stove burners or the oven unattended, or children in the kitchen alone.

[More holiday fire safety tips here and here.](#)

Away from Home

Holiday Shopping

- Stay alert to your surroundings. Lock your car at all times, and park as close as you can to your destination in a well-lit area. Keep a hand on your purse/wallet, locate your keys before returning to your car, keep hold of your purse and parcels when opening the car door, and hide valuables in your trunk.

Drive Safely

- Never drink and drive, and be alert for impaired drivers. Agree on a designated driver or use a ride share app for safety.

Traveling

- If you're leaving town for the holidays, pause your mail delivery, set a timer for your lights and **leave a radio or TV on so the house looks/sounds occupied**. Don't share your plans on social media and ask a friend or neighbor to check in while you're away.

After the Holidays

- Break down boxes showing purchases and place in your recycle bin (vs. visible at the curb), and [properly dispose of your tree](#).

Safe and peaceful holidays from the FHRA!

Interested in learning more?

Here's [a comprehensive holiday safety guide](#) from UL Standards & Engagement.

Stay safe for the holidays

