

DECORATIONS

 Decorations should not block any means of egress nor access to doors, windows, utility shutoffs, including faucets, outlets, or meters.

Indoor Lighting

 Buy/use only lighting sets & extension cords that bear the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) label.

 Be careful not to overload electrical outlets.

Outdoor Lighting

 Check all light sets for fraying, aging, & heat damage.

 Connect sets of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into an outlet.

 Always test your light sets **before** setting up your ladder.

 To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples; do not use nails or tacks.



Tree Safety

 Decorate the tree first, & plug in the lights last.

 Try to ensure the bulbs/lamps do not touch the tree or other decorations.

Fresh trees

 The trunk should be sticky with resin. Fresh trees should be green and the needles should be difficult to pull from the branches. Branches on fresh trees should bend, not break.

 A dry tree significantly increases the risk of the tree catching fire.

 Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals.

Artificial trees

 The most important thing to look for is the fire resistant label.

 Never use electric lights on metallic trees, use spotlights for illumination.

Greens

 Evergreen cuttings may be used in limited quantities, but keep greens away from heat sources and don't smoke near trees or greens.



Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office

SHERIFF LEROY RAVENELL

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS



*A New Day in
Orangeburg County!*

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FOOD PREPARATION

-  Fully cook meats & poultry, & thoroughly wash raw vegetables & fruits.
-  Always keep raw foods & cooked foods separate, & use separate utensils when preparing them.

Turkey Fryers

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-  Should always be used outdoors & at a safe distance from buildings & other flammable materials. Never use in a garage or on a wooden deck.
 -  Avoid oil spillover by placing the fryer on a flat surface, & do not overfill the fryer.
 -  Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby.

SHOPPING

Be Alert

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-  Don't carry large sums of cash.
 -  Don't overburden yourself with packages.
 -  Teach your children to ask for help from a store clerk or a security guard if they get separated from you.
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-  Plan your shopping during the day. If you have to be out at night, shop with a friend & park near streetlights. Check the interior of your vehicle before getting in.
 -  Women-Carry your purse under your arm. Men-Keep your wallet in an inside jacket pocket.
 -  When returning to your vehicle, keep your keys in your hand & be prepared to enter as quickly as possible.

AT HOME

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-  Lock doors & windows, even if you are only going to be gone a few minutes.
 -  Make your house appear occupied even when you are away, use light timers & a radio or television.
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-  Christmas presents should not be visible from an exterior window.
 -  If you will be away for an extended period of time, alert your alarm company & law enforcement.
 -  Record serial numbers of all valuables including televisions, audio equipment, & video games and store in an easily retrievable location.

 Be wary of strangers soliciting for charitable organizations, give to charities that you are comfortable with or check the Secretary of State's Scrooges & Angels List before handing over a donation.

 Test your smoke detectors.

IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- Offer to pick up mail & newspapers for neighbors who will not be home for the holidays.
- Host a crime watch party so neighbors can get to know each other.
- Provide the elderly citizens with take home plates to ensure they have an extra meal.

DRIVING

-  Obey posted speed limits!
-  Carry or take a cellular telephone, but don't use it while driving; this is now unlawful in many states.
-  If you will be traveling any distance, check traffic & weather reports before you leave. Leave your travel itinerary with a trusted family friend or relative.
-  The heaviest holiday travel traffic occurs the days immediately before or after Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day. So if possible, extend your plans.
-  Avoid overeating if you will be driving after the meal. Consider a caffeinated beverage before getting on the road.
-  Pack a flashlight, portable fire extinguisher, empty gas can, blankets, booster cables, water, flares, emergency triangles, tire gauge, work gloves, duct tape & a first aid kit.
-  Do not keep original ownership papers in your vehicle.

TRAVELING

-  Remember that homes you visit may not be childproofed, so keep an eye out for danger spots.
-  Inquire if the home you will be visiting has guns or other weapons. Insist on them being stored unloaded & locked, with ammunition locked & stored separately.

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