



# Safety Matters

Environmental Health & Safety

No. 22

## Fire Prevention



Fire Prevention Week was last month, but its message is still current: “*Prevent Home Fires.*” Now that the weather is turning cooler, we are heating our homes and spending more time indoors. Here are some things that shouldn’t be forgotten.

- Stay with food when it is cooking. (Especially if you are deep-frying a turkey!)
- Establish a one-yard “kid and pet-free” zone around grown-ups who are cooking.
- Glass doors or a heavy metal screen on the fireplace will help prevent sparks from flying into the room.
- Chimneys and heating systems should be checked at least once a year, and if necessary, be professionally cleaned.
- Extension cords should be in good condition, located away from foot traffic, not covered by rugs, and most of all, they should be temporary.
- Small appliances should be unplugged when not being used.
- Test your smoke detectors once a month and change their batteries twice a year.
- Carbon monoxide detectors should be tested at least twice a month.
- Develop a home fire escape plan that includes two ways out of every room and a meeting place outside the house.
- Now is a good time to check the condition of your Christmas lights.

Environmental Health & Safety Department  
120 Physical Plant Services Building  
744-7241 (fax: 744-7148)