



# Christmas Home Safety

Each year at Christmas time, many people show their love for family and friends through the purchase of Christmas gifts, sending greeting cards and spending time together. This year, show everyone you care by including safety in your holiday plans and purchases. Spending a little time thinking about what you need to make your home safe during the holiday season will make your home safe all year round.

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR HOME

It is very important that every home is equipped with the items necessary to respond to an emergency. Be prepared by having emergency equipment available and by teaching family members how to use it.

This year, make sure your “Santa’s Wish List” includes some of the following purchases:



**Fire Extinguishers** – Portable ABC-type fire extinguisher can be purchased at any local hardware store for under \$15 and can save your life if a fire starts in the home. Fire extinguishers should be mounted away from sources of heat such as stoves, furnaces and fireplaces. Never attempt to fight a fire that has become so large that you risk injury trying to put it out. If the fire gets out of control, evaluate the building; notify emergency services and any other people the fire may affect. Always follow the manufacture’s instructions for inspection and replacement.



**Smoke / Carbon Monoxide Detectors** – Every home needs a serviceable smoke detector. Homes heated by open-flame propane or heating oil furnaces should also have a carbon monoxide detector. Locate the detector high on the wall or ceiling of your home at locations that give occupants the earliest possible warning that there may be signs of trouble. In multi-level homes, consider having detectors for each floor.

**First Aid Kits** – A fully supplied first aid kit is essential in the home for treating minor injuries and disinfecting wounds. Many of these home first aid kits will have products that expire after a period of time making the product dangerous to use. Medicine in first aid kits should be inspected often and replaced when they reach the expiration date on the package. One method for controlling this is to write the expiration date of the medicine that will expire next on the outside of the kit as a reminder it will need replacing.



## SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY

**Other Christmas Gift Suggestions** – Buy at least one present this year for each family member that will ensure their safety. Children may have out grown the bicycle helmet and roller blade protective pads they received last year. If the equipment is now too small, buy new equipment that fits properly. Reflective clothing and belt mounted personal signal lights are always a great gift idea for every member of the family and while you’re at it, if you live and drive in a snowy area, outfit your family car or truck with snow tires and chains before winter hazards arrive.

## PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY’S SAFE ESCAPE

**Home Evacuation Plan** – Develop a plan for how each person in the house will evacuate in emergencies such as a fire, then practice it often. If your home has two floors, consider purchasing a second-floor portable escape ladder and teach everyone how it is safely used. Once outside, everyone should meet at a pre-determined place away from danger. Never attempt to re-enter a burning building and wait for emergency services to arrive.

With a few Christmas safety pre-cautions, you will be able to say  
“T was the night before Christmas and all through the house, everyone was SAFE, even the mouse”

The 233rd BSB Safety Office wishes everyone a happy and “SAFE” holiday season.

**“YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION TO SAFETY”**



**233rd Safety Gram**

