



Safety Starts with you

Enjoy a Safe Holiday Season

From late November to mid-January, when families gather, parties are scheduled and travel spikes, safety should be top of mind.

Traveling for the Holidays? Be Prepared

If you're traveling, be sure your vehicle is in good running condition, get plenty of rest and be prepared for any emergency. Traveling by car during the holidays has the highest fatality rate of any major form of transportation based on fatalities per passenger mile. Hundreds of people die every year in crashes on [New Year's Day](#), [Thanksgiving Day](#) and [Christmas Day](#), according to [Injury Facts](#). Alcohol impairment is involved in about a third of these fatalities.



Adjust following distance and speed in snowy or icy conditions.



Avoid aggressive and angry driving.



Designate a sober driver or arrange for a cab ahead of time if you plan to drink at holiday gatherings.

Decorate Safely

Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood, but emergency departments see thousands of injuries involving holiday decorating every season.

When decorating follow these tips from the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)



Use caution on ladders. Don't stand on chairs or furniture to hang decorations.



Keep breakable decorations up high, out of the reach of children. (Also consider keeping fragile ornaments in the box while your kids are young.)

Watch Out for Fire-Starters Candles and Fireplaces

Use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations in many homes during the holidays, means more risk for fire.

The [National Fire Protection Association](#) reports on average candles cause 46% of fires annually in December.



FACTS

- More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



[CoE Safety:](#)



[Graduate Student Safety Committee \(GSSC\):](#)



[Previous COE Safety Standards](#)

