



Winter Holiday Safety

- **Beware of holiday lighting.** Take care when burning candles. Be sure they are kept away from decorations or other combustible materials. Don't leave children unattended in a room with lit candles, and always keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of the reach of children. Never display lighted candles in windows or near exits. Lit candles should not be used as tree decorations.
- **Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials.** Avoid using candles during parties. If guests will be smoking, provide them with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After the party, check inside and under upholstery and in trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.
- **Keep Christmas trees fresh.** Choose a fresh Christmas tree and secure it in a sturdy stand. Place the tree away from heat sources and exits, and water it daily. If you purchase an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant. If you plan to hang stockings on your fireplace, do not use the fireplace for fires.
- **Designate a driver.** When attending a party, always designate a non-drinking driver. If you are the host of a holiday gathering, be sure there are non-alcoholic beverages available for guests who are driving.
- **Buckle up.** During the holiday months, people travel more than ever. Wearing a seat belt is the easiest and best way to prevent injury in a motor vehicle collision. Ensure that all passengers are also wearing safety belts.
- **Enroll in a first aid and CPR course.** Although these tips can help prevent an emergency, it is also important to be prepared should an emergency situation arise. To enroll in a first aid or CPR course, contact your local Red Cross.
- **Get your furry friends a special gift.** Our Pet First Aid book is an important reference guide for anyone with a cat or dog. Contact your local Red Cross to purchase your copy, or ask for Pet First Aid at your local bookstore.