

Fire & Electrical Safety Ltd



**Supporting Notes For A
Domestic Christmas Fire Risk
Assessment**

**To Be Used In Conjunction With Our
Domestic Christmas Fire Risk Assessment Form**



Fire & Electrical Safety Ltd

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Fire Risk Assessment

The point of this domestic fire risk assessment is to remove or reduce the risk of a fire in your home and remove or reduce the chance of people being hurt if there is a fire.

What Is Fire?

At Christmas there are decorations up and the vast majority of those decorations fit into one of two categories:

- Fuel
- Ignition

Often in our enthusiasm to make the place look beautiful we can forget the basics of fire safety and put up the potential fuel with the potential ignition sources which can vastly increase the risk of a fire which would not be good for Christmas!

If you can make the place look beautiful by keeping the flammable decorations (fuel) separate from any sources of heat or electricity (ignition) this can be managed. As fire needs both to exist and cannot ignite if we keep the two away from each other.

Christmas can also increase the amount of clutter – with extra people staying with their belongings, decorations, extra food and presents. So you need to be sure that exit routes are not compromised.

What Extra Potential Ignition Sources Are Added At Christmas?

Stand back and look at each room in the house individually. Ask yourself the question “What ignition sources are there in this room that I need to consider?” The most common decorations are:

- Fairy lights
- Candles
- Christmas themed electrical appliances

What Extra Fuel Sources Have Been Added At Christmas?

The most common are:

- Christmas tree
- Christmas cards
- Hanging decorations



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With The Decorations Up, Where Might A Fire Start?

Look at how the decorations are arranged.

- Has anything been hung from light fittings?
- Are there fairy lights hanging amidst Christmas cards?
- Are there any open candles amongst other decorations or flammable things.
- Are there any battery operated decorations sitting anywhere but on their own?

With The Decorations Up, How Are People Most Likely To Get Hurt If A Fire Starts?

If a fire does start, people will be safe if they know about the fire and if they can get out. They will get hurt if they get trapped or never find out about the fire.

- Are there any decorations or Christmas paraphernalia that are blocking escape routes? Does everyone in the house, including guests, know what to do if a fire does occur?

What Changes Might Remove Or Reduce The Chance Of A Fire Happening?

By separating possible fuel sources and ignition sources a fire is unlikely to happen.

- Visually inspect lights and battery operated decorations before putting in place.
- Keep lights and battery operated decorations separate in your arrangement from anything flammable such as cards or hanging decorations.
- Read any flammability warnings with artificial trees.
- Set up any real trees so that they have access to water so they do not dry out when they have lights on them. Keep checking daily for dryness and stop using the lights if the tree gets too dry.
- If candles are in use, do not use anywhere where they are not supervised, keep them covered and stable so they cannot fall over or be knocked.
- Careful when cooking – do not leave things unsupervised in the kitchen.



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What Changes Might Remove Or Reduce The Chance Of People Getting Hurt?

By planning and making sure everyone knows what to do if there is a fire the need of communication in an emergency is reduced and escape is much more likely.

- Is it worth getting additional smoke alarms for this time period depending on your layout?
- Is it worth getting extra extinguishers, fire blankets or buckets of sand particularly in rooms where you may be using candles?
- Arrange all Christmas paraphernalia so that exit routes are clear.
- Inform guests of any family plan you have for evacuation in case of fire.

If you would like any advice on how to keep your home and your family safe, please contact us today and we will be happy to help.

