



HOLIDAY SAFETY

Halloween

Halloween is a fun holiday for the whole family! While you're out trick-or-treating, be sure to stay in a group. Don't let young children wander off by themselves. It's best to choose a safe, slow-moving neighborhood with few entry/exit points, even if that means you have to drive a little out of the way. Trunk-or-Treat parties around town are a great alternative to standard trick-or-treating. Be sure to check your children's candy for any safety concerns such as allergies or tampering.

Remember, costumes are for Halloween! There are exceptions for children under 16 on Halloween, theatrical performances, and other lawful character impersonation, but generally speaking, city code states that it is unlawful to wear masks, false faces, or any other disguises while on public property.

You can read more Halloween safety tips from the Kingsport Police Department [here](#).

Fireworks

More fires are reported on the Fourth of July than any other day of the year, and most of those fires are caused by fireworks. The National Fire Prevention Association's official stance is that you shouldn't use consumer fireworks because of the risk of fire or injury. Your safest option will always be to attend a professional fireworks show like the one Kingsport has downtown every year.

However, if you do want to use fireworks at home, here are some safety tips you can follow to ensure that the night is fun and fire-free:

- Always read the directions label on your fireworks clearly and carefully.
- A responsible, sober adult should supervise all fireworks. Never let your children light fireworks, and if you give them sparklers, keep a close eye on them.
- Only use fireworks outdoors in a clear, open area.
- Keep a bucket of water or hose nearby for accidents. If a fire starts, call 911.
- Keep your pets indoors and out of the way, for their safety and yours.



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Winter Holidays

No matter what you celebrate, winter is a magical season! All those decorations can pose a safety hazard, however. Follow these tips to ensure your holidays stay happy:

- Clean your chimney regularly. Dirty chimneys are a fire risk.
- Make sure any holiday lights you hang outside are meant for outdoor use.
- Don't overload electrical circuits or extension cords.
- Practice ladder safety when hanging lights or decorations or climbing in and out of your attic. Ask a family member or friend to spot you.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor lights before going to bed or leaving your home. An easy way to remember is to set your lights on timers, which plug directly into the wall and shut off at a time you designate.
- Keep your Christmas tree away from heat sources, such as radiators and fireplaces. If your tree is live, keep it well watered to prevent it drying out.
- Place your menorah or candles on a stable, non-flammable service away from curtains and other flammable items. Be sure children and pets can't reach the flames, and blow them out when you leave the room.
- Be careful in the kitchen—don't leave cooking food unattended.