



## SPECIAL EDITION CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Hinds County Department of Emergency Management

Hinds County Board of Supervisors



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<http://www.hindscountyms.com/departments/emergency-management>

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Greetings,

We hope that you have all had a blessed year and that many memories were made. Our sincere hope is that during this holiday season you will enjoy some special moments with family & friends. We would like to share a few things that will assist you in keeping your family safe and secure.

- **Be careful to keep water in the base of your live trees! It does not take long for a dry tree to catch fire and create a very dangerous situation for your family.**
- It is very important to turn off all holiday lights and blow out candles when you leave the house unattended or when going to bed.
- Carefully inspect holiday light strings each year and throw away any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders or loose connections. When replacing bulbs unplug the string and be sure to match voltage and wattage to the original bulb.
- Vacations are common during the holiday season and criminals keep their eyes open for empty homes. Ask a friend or neighbor to pick up your mail, leave a few indoor lights on and do not leave a spare key in an easy to find place. Never discuss your plans with strangers or post on social media.
- Don't leave any food out at room temperature for more than two hours. Use sealable containers, and don't over pack the fridge; the air needs to circulate to maintain the proper temperature. Baked goods should be thrown out within a few days.
- Shop during daylight hours when possible. If you must shop at night, park closer to the stores or near a light post so when you return to your vehicle you are in a well-lit area.
- Place ornaments higher on the tree than children or pets can reach. If swallowed, ornaments or pieces of them can cause blockages or other serious injuries. The hooks that many use are detachable and pose a choking hazard.
- Keep your pets away from the table and unattended plates of food and be sure to secure the lids on garbage cans. Mistletoe berries, Holly Berry and Jerusalem Cherry can be poisonous to animals.
- The number of fires caused by children playing with fire goes up significantly during the holidays. Keep matches and lighters out of sight and kids' reach. Make sure to buy a "child resistant" lighter.

As you take some time to enjoy the holidays with your family and friends we hope you will heed our advice for the safety of your loved ones and your homes. One more thing before we go, during this festive time focus on the things you are thankful for, take long naps, eat lots of fabulous food and then talk a stroll around the block because everybody knows after the New Year begins it is all about getting healthy!

Merry Christmas,

*The Staff at the Hinds County EOC*



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