

## Press release

15 December 2010

### Keep safe and your Christmas lights will stay on

Christmas is a time for tinsel, fairy lights and brightly decorated homes. To make sure that we all enjoy our homes during the festive period, Hackney Homes is urging all residents to keep safe to reduce the risk of a fire.



A video released on YouTube shows how quickly faulty fairy lights can start a fire and spread throughout a room. (Log on to YouTube and search for Fire Kills Campaign Christmas)

Here are some tips to stay safe at home from the London Fire Brigade:

- Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard and are in good working order.
- Always switch off and unplug Christmas lights before you go to bed or go out.
- Never place candles near your Christmas tree or furnishings and never leave them burning unattended.
- Keep candles, lighters and matches out of the reach of children.
- Decorations can burn easily - don't attach them to lights or heaters and don't hang them close to candles.
- Make sure your family, and any visitors staying for the festive period, know what how to escape in an emergency. Tell them where you keep door and window keys so they can escape if a fire starts.
- Many fires start in the kitchen – make sure you don't leave your Christmas dinner unattended in the kitchen and switch off the hob and oven if you leave the house.
- Make sure cigarettes are completely extinguished and never smoke in bed, many fires start when people fall asleep while smoking.
- Check your smoke alarms. If they don't work, or you don't have one, treat yourself, it could be the best Christmas present you've ever bought as it could save your life in a fire.

For more information, log on to [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk)

Ends

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Our mission for the future to deliver excellent, accessible services and quality homes that people want to live in.