

# American Red Cross 12 Holiday Safety Tips

**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 keep candles, as well as matches and lighters, out of reach of children. Never display lighted candles in windows near exits.

**Test Tree Trimming-** When decorating with lights, be sure to purchase only those labeled by a testing laboratory. Never use candles to decorate a Christmas tree. For outside decorations, use only those lights labeled for outdoor use. Don't overload electrical outlets, and always unplug all lights before leaving home or going to bed. Never put electrical lights in a metal tree.

**Prepare for Holiday Parties-** Decorate only with flame-retardant or noncombustible materials. Avoid using candles during parties. If guest will be smoking, provide them with large deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After the party, check inside and under the upholstery and in ash 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 fireplaces for fires.

**Inspect Fireplaces-** Have your chimney inspected by a professional prior to the start of every heating season and cleaned if necessary. Cresol, a

chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and can cause a chimney fire if not properly cleaned. Always protect your family and home by using a sturdy screen when burning fires. Remember to burn only wood-never burn paper or pine boughs, which can float out of the chimney and ignite a neighboring home. Never use flammable liquids in a fireplace. If you are purchasing a factory-built fireplace, select one listed by a testing laboratory, and have it installed according to local codes.

**Watch Your Wood Stoves-** Be sure your wood or coal stove bears the label of a recognized testing laboratory and meets local fire codes. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for proper use and maintenance. Chimney connections and chimney flues should be inspected at the beginning of each heating season and cleaned if necessary. Follow the same safety rules for wood stoves as you would for space heaters. Burn only wood, and be sure the wood stove is placed on an approved stove board to protect the floor from heat and hot coals. Be sure to check with your local fire department and check local codes before having your wood stove installed.

**Be Cautious With Portable and Space Heaters-** Place space heaters at least three feet (one meter) away from anything combustible, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets and people. Never leave space heaters operating when you are not in the room or when you go to bed. Don't leave children or pets unattended with space heaters and be sure everyone knows that drying wet mittens or other clothing over space heaters is a fire

**Cook With Care-** When cooking, don't wear loose fitting clothing. It can be ignited by hot burners. Always turn pot handles in. Don't store items on the stove top, they could catch fire. Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition, and turn them off after use. Don't overload electrical outlets, and don't use appliances with frayed or cracked wires.

**Designate a Driver-** When attending a party, always designate a non-driving 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.

**Prepare a Winter Storm Plan-** Have extra blankets on hand and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, hat, and water-resistant boots. Stay tuned for storm warnings by listening to NOAA Weather Radio and your local radio and television stations for updated storm information. It's also important to have your car winterized before winter, storm season.

**Enroll in a First Aid & 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.

**Family first Aid Kit-** Every home should have a first Aid Kit. Your local Red Cross Chapter has many to choose from.

Don't forget your local Red Cross Chapter this Holiday Season. Hope you and your family have a Happy and Safe Holiday.

From the Staff of the Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

## Catch the Spirit of the West!

Adopt a Wild Horse or Burro from the Federal Government. For an information packet call 1-800-417-9647

## Mother Teresa: Saint of the Gutter

Hailed as a living saint, Mother Teresa dedicated her life to caring for the dying, the outcast and the abandoned. When she recently passed away - just days after her eighty-seventh birthday - the world lost one of the most revered and admired figures of the Twentieth Century, a charismatic leader respected by people of all religions and nationalities.

From her earliest childhood dreams of helping the poor to her tireless work as the leader of the Mission of Charity, Mother Teresa's life was dedicated solely to helping those in need. With a steady resolve, and the backing of religious, international and political leaders, she eventually created the Missionary Sisters of Charity, an order of over 4,500 sari-clad sisters, who extend themselves to everyone from huddled, starving masses around the world to the victims of AIDS. And from her charitable work, came inescapable fame, along with the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal and the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award, among others.

Her inspirational story took her from the convent years in Calcutta to her meetings with presidents, prime ministers and royalty. To make a donation or offer services to the Missionaries of Charity call (718) 292-0019.

## News From Pembroke VFW

"VFW Post #2843 Count of Active Duty Members Down"

Urgent call to VFW Post #2843 Members ( Please send your yearly dues to headquarters in Kansas City before December ends) Not to Mr Ardell Jacobs at the Post. They must be mailed to headquarters

The VFW Post #2843 had it's monthly meeting on Monday December 15th at Post Headquarters, Union Chapel Road, Pembroke. There were several guests for dinner and the Voice of Democracy Winners ( 1st and 2nd place) from South Robeson and Purnell Swett High Schools. Dinner was served shortly after 7 pm. The menu was as follows: Juicy Fried Chicken, Mash Potatoes, Rich Gravy, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Banana Pudding for desert and Lemonade-Coffee for refreshments. Prayer was by Rev. Smith Locklear to bless the food.

Chaplain Archie Oxendine introduced the two outstanding students after the meeting was called to order by Post Commander Harold Hunt and Opening Prayer by Chap. Oxendine, rendering honors to the flag.

The topic of this years was " My Voice My Democracy". South Robeson High School was represented Miss Vivich Patterson ( a senior). Purnell Swett High School was represented by Mr. Eric Trent Locklear ( a sophomore) Each read their essays and following that Mr. Oxendine announced the 1st & 2nd place winners ( their essays were judged on Sunday, December 14th). Miss Patterson is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Patterson. She was 1st Place Winner and will enter the Armed Forces after graduation. Mr. Eric Trent Locklear is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Locklear of the Red Banks area. They received Gold Pins, Certificates, Checks and other mementos of their efforts. Miss Patterson received a replica Mike and Plaque from the Post

(trophy) to sit in her home and admire and tell others of her achievement. Parents and students were both congratulated for their efforts. Afterwards a brief recess was called while guest departed. The Ladies Auxiliary returned to their meeting place.

Closed meeting was called to order. There were 4 new members names put before the Post all were accepted. Two that were present were sworn in and given the Cross of Malta by Post Commander Hunt. Mr. Dennis S Strickland Jr. & Mr. Ed Sol Locklear took the oath and were welcomed into the Post. Mr. Randell W. Chavis, Mr. Milton Eugene Arnold were absent.

Minutes of the meeting for November were read by Post Adjutant James B. Locklear. Mr. Ardell gave the Quartermaster Report. The Veterans Day Plate Sale was a great success. Tickets need to be turned in and their money by holding same. Mr. John Harrelson thanked everyone for helping cook & serve the plates.

"I want to thank our friends who bought plates from us to make this our best yet. God bless you for your support." N.C. State Junior Vice Commander Art Shull gave his report. (He is urging all veterans to go to the VA Hospital and register). The more Vets that are registered the better service we will get. The Veterans wish to thank Congressman Mike McIntyre and Senator Faircloth for their support and speaking out on our behalf.

The Post's January meeting will be Monday, January 12th, 1998 at 7 pm. District #8 meeting will be at Post #2843 Feb. 1st, 1998 at 1 pm. here at the post. The Ladies Auxiliary is having a Social Hour, Monday December 29, 1997 at the Post and are inviting all post members to come.

Merry Christmas ( keep Christ in Christmas) to all. God Bless.

Ervin Jacobs  
Post Surgeon.

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