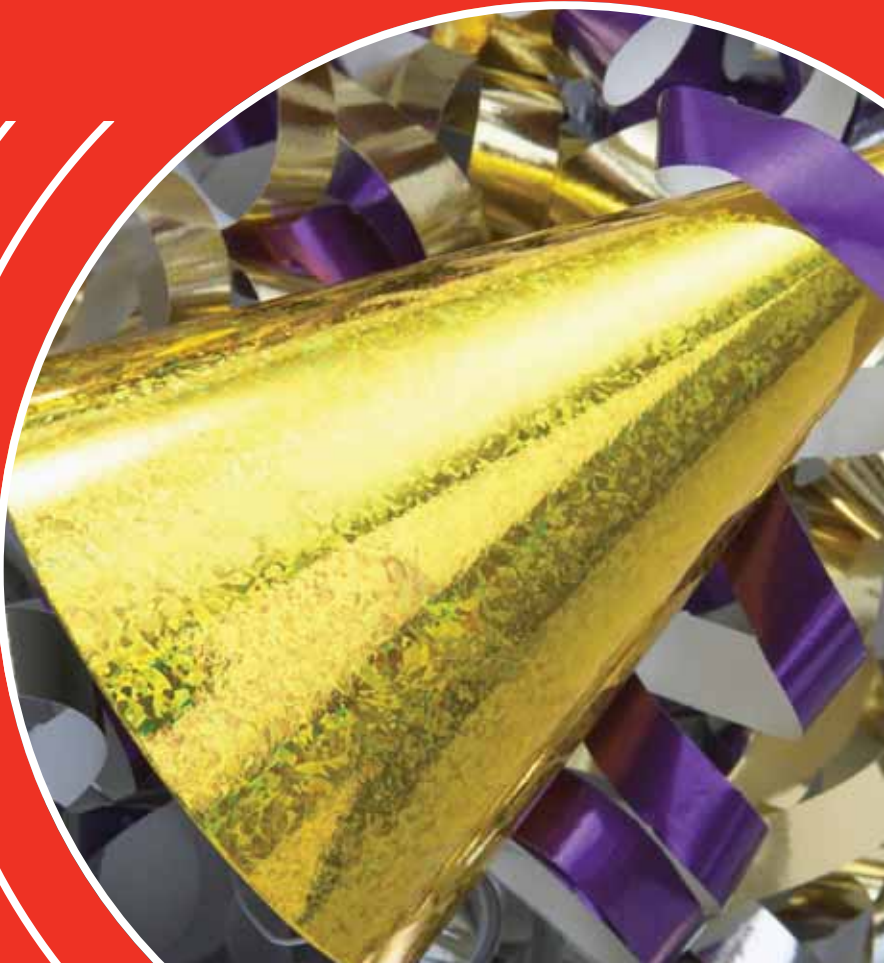




Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Celebrate Safely





Fire safety may be the last thing on your mind when you're celebrating. But think about it - lots of guests, extra decorations, people smoking, drinking alcohol - everyday fire risks get bigger.

Don't let fire safety stop you enjoying yourself - know the risks and plan ahead

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Decorative Lights

Decorative lights get used far less often than everyday lights, and therefore need more care.

- Always comply with manufacturers' instructions.
- Always buy from a reputable retailer and check that the lights comply with the relevant safety standards.
- Check the fuses are the right type.
- If bulbs blow, replace them.
- Don't leave decorative lights on when you go out or when you go to sleep.
- Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper.
- Don't overload sockets and extension leads.
- Only use outside leads for outside lights.

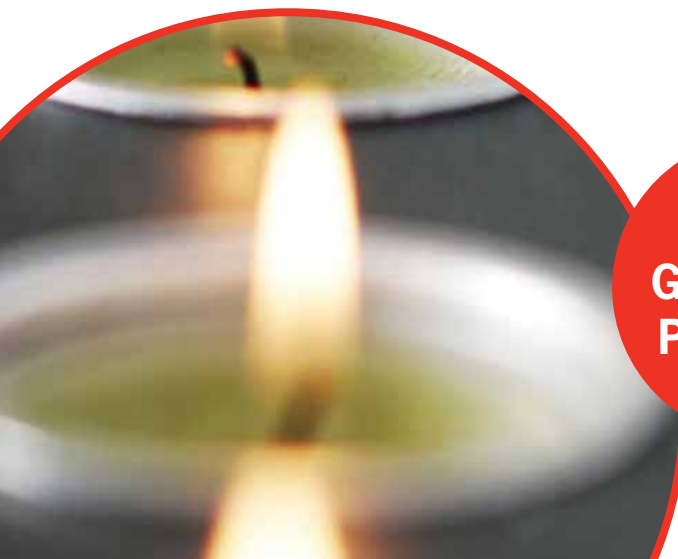
A close-up photograph of several colorful decorative lights (green, red, blue, yellow) is partially visible in the bottom right corner. A red callout bubble with three curved lines pointing towards it contains the text "If you're Going Out, Put it Out!".

**If you're
Going Out,
Put it Out!**

Candles

The flame may be small, but on average five fires a day are started in the UK by candles. It only takes a moment of distraction for a fire to start but the consequences can be tragic.

- Keep them away from draughts and anything that can easily catch fire like furniture or curtains.
- Don't let candles fall over! You need to keep candles firmly upright in a proper holder.
- Always place candles on a heat resistant surface. Night lights and tea lights can melt plastic surfaces like TV tops and bathtubs.
- Don't lean across candles! You could set fire to your clothes or hair.
- Always leave at least 10cm (4") between two burning candles.
- Don't let anything fall into the hot wax.
- Use a 'snuffer' or a spoon to put candles out. It's safer than blowing them, which can send sparks and hot wax flying.



**If you're
Going Out,
Put it Out!**

Decorations and Wrapping Paper

Decorations made of light tissue paper, plastic or cardboard burn easily.

- Don't attach decorations to lights or heaters.
- Don't put decorations and wrapping paper immediately above or around the fireplace.
- Keep them away from candles.
- Carefully dispose of your wrapping paper as soon as possible.
- Take care when using streamers and party poppers near naked flames.



Fireworks

A quick reminder of how to be safe with fireworks.

- Attend an organised event.
- If you decide to use fireworks, only buy from a reputable trader.
- Make sure your fireworks are marked with British Safety Standard 7114 and always read the instructions.
- Read the instructions by torchlight not by a flame.
- Keep fireworks in a metal box and take them out one at a time.
- Never go back to a firework once it has been lit.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby.
- Wherever you are, protect children from fireworks!



**Never
play with
fireworks!**



Religious Dates and Cultural Festivals

Whatever your background, cultural and religious festivals can be an enormously important part of your life and the life of the community in which you live.

Without wishing to dampen spirits, they can also be a time of year when the celebrating community is more likely to be distracted and less aware of risks, such as fire.

When celebrating your festival, think ahead:

- Ensure that you check the smoke alarms in your home are working, check them on a weekly basis.
- Make your plan. Get out alive – plan your escape route in the event of fire and ensure all your guests know where the door and window keys are kept.
- Don't be distracted when cooking, fire starts when your attention stops.
- Don't leave candles unattended.
- Put candles in proper holders so that they cannot fall or be knocked over.
- Keep decorations, cards and wrapping paper away from candles, open fires and heaters.
- Provide sufficient safe ashtrays for smokers to put their cigarettes out.
- Take care with long hair and clothing, both are very flammable.
- Take extra care of children at these times.

In 2005 there were 61 reported firework injuries in Wales. A third of these injuries happened to children and young people aged between 5 and 15 years old.

The Fire and Rescue Services in Wales urge people to be aware of the dangers and consequences of fireworks during religious and celebratory times in the year and attend organised and safe displays as an alternative to the risk of storing and setting off fireworks.



**If in an event of
a fire - get out,
stay out and
phone**

999

**For a free home fire safety check from
your local Fire and Rescue Service
please call 0800 169 1234**