12 DAYS OF WINTER SAFETY

1. UP TO SANTA’S STANDARDS
Make sure to test the fire alarms and carbon monoxide detectors within your home to make sure they are in working order. Have a fire escape plan in place.

2. SLEIGH RIDE
Winter weather means snow, ice, or sleet on the roads which leads to hazardous road conditions. Give yourself extra time to get to the places that you are going. Prepare your vehicle – have a winter emergency kit in your car, antifreeze, and winter tires.

3. LIGHTS OUT
Make sure to turn off all lights when you leave your home or go to bed. The lights could start a fire if they short out.

4. KEEP YOUR FURRIES SAFE
Be careful – Poinsettias and holly berry can be poisonous to pets. Make sure they don’t sniff out the sweet treats like chocolate that they shouldn’t be getting into. Be careful that your pets aren’t getting caught up in the lights of the holiday tree. Pick out ornaments that aren’t easily breakable.

5. STAY TOASTY
Dress properly for the weather conditions. Put on your sweater, jacket, hat, mittens, scarves, snow pants, and winter boots. Try to keep your clothing dry.

6. CLEARING THE WAY FOR SANTA
Make sure that they are placed away from any fire hazards such as fireplaces, space heaters, or radiators. Ensure that your live tree stand is always filled with water to avoid the tree drying out and becoming a fire risk. Try to purchase artificial trees that are labelled as ‘fire resistant’ to minimize the risk of the tree burning.

7. SLIPPERY SLIDE
Watch out for ice. Sometimes it’s not visible on the roads, sidewalks, or driveways and can become a slip hazard. When walking outside be cautious & wear boots with grips on the soles. Avoid moving fast on the ice.

8. MERRY & BRIGHT
Make sure to inspect your holiday lights to ensure that there is no fraying, broken/cracked sockets, large kinks, or bare areas of the cord. Make sure not to overload an electrical outlet. Make sure to use products that are approved by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

9. COZY UP BY THE FIREPLACE
Avoid throwing in your boxes or wrapping paper into the fireplace as they can burn very rapidly and cause a large flame. Clean the ashes out of the fireplace regularly. Do not hang holiday stockings above the fireplace when it is in use.

10. MERRY MATCHES
Never leave a candle or flame unattended. Avoid putting them near items that could catch fire. Place them on a sturdy surface and in low-traffic areas so that they cannot be knocked over. Keep the candle wicks short to avoid too large of a flame and uneven burning.

11. COOKING HOLIDAY DINNER
Don’t leave things cooking unattended in the kitchen. Set timers for items that you place in the oven, so you don’t forget about them. Don’t leave your home while things are still cooking. If grease catches fire smother the flames with a lid, turn the heat off immediately, pour on some baking soda for small grease fires, do NOT use water on a grease fire.

12. HOLIDAY TREE
Make sure that they are placed away from any fire hazards such as fireplaces, space heaters, or radiators. Ensure that your live tree stand is always filled with water to avoid the tree drying out and becoming a fire risk. Try to purchase artificial trees that are labelled as ‘fire resistant’ to minimize the risk of the tree burning.