

## Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee

### December 2022 Public Safety Tips

These tips are intended for residents, visitors and property owners of Brookfield, VT but may apply to neighboring towns as well.

- 1) Holiday Safety
  - a) The holidays are upon us. Now is the time to start thinking of a safe Christmas, New Years and Winter.
  - b) Start off by not plugging too many lights and decorations into outlets.
  - c) Keep your fresh Christmas tree watered, they can dry out faster than you think.
  - d) A nice warm fireplace or wood stove can be rewarding. Just make sure and have that the chimney is cleaned and checked. Also never leave candles unattended, even if they do make your home smell nice, an Unwanted Fire is not so nice!
- 2) Many families are going to spend the holidays together. Remember, for those who are not vaccinated, wear your masks, stay a safe distance and wash your hands frequently. You are not just protecting yourself, but love ones and friends as well! Flu, the pandemic and other illnesses are still out there.
- 3) Road Safety Please remember that while the roads are meant to be used by all (vehicles, bicycles, horses and pedestrians, including dog walkers, etc.) there is a shared responsibility by everyone who uses them. For all who use the roads, it is your duty to obey the law and to use common sense.
  - a) Walkers and runners – wear reflective clothing and stay single file. Just because you can see cars does not mean they can see you! Do not wear dark clothing on a gray day! While listening to music using earbuds makes for an enjoyable walk or run, doing so makes it that much harder to hear oncoming traffic. Please do not use earbuds. Also, don't forget to walk facing traffic if there are no sidewalks. A special tip if you are walking or running on back roads with snow banks, keep looking ahead so that that you know where the next safe place is to get out of the road, on or in a snow bank and can get there quickly. With icy and narrow roads, curves and hills, drivers may not be able to avoid you if you are in the road. It should not be about the right of way at that point. Get out of the way and avoid injury. Please keep your dogs on a leash and under control.

- b) Bicycles – keep to the right and consider staying single file depending upon circumstances. ‘Share the road’ goes both ways! Use strobe lights and reflectors so others can see you, Bicycles share many of the same traffic laws as vehicles; for example, bicycles must come to a complete stop at all stop signs and traffic lights.
- c) Vehicles – please put your phones down! Waiting to read or reply to that text makes it much safer for us all. Only pass stopped vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians when it is safe to do so. Keep in your lane, do not cross over into oncoming traffic. Remember to turn on your lights at dusk or periods of poor visibility so others can see you. Look ahead for places where you could encounter another vehicle, pedestrian or bicycle that could be problematic and slow down.
- 4) For a brochure outlining the rules for drivers, bicycle riders, and pedestrians, please visit: [https://www.localmotion.org/rules\\_of\\_the\\_road](https://www.localmotion.org/rules_of_the_road)
- 5) Remember that driving is a privilege, not a right. Please use common sense when using public highways. Be it walking, bicycling, or driving, safety is not always about who is right or wrong. Let’s work together to make our roads safer for all!
- 6) Have a Great Holiday!!!