

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 2024 PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS

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

HOLIDAY SAFETY

The holidays are upon us. Now is the time to start thinking of a safe Christmas, New Years and Winter.

- Start off by not plugging too many Christmas lights and decorations into outlets.
- Keep your fresh Christmas tree watered daily, they can dry out faster than you think.
- A nice warm fireplace or wood stove can be rewarding. Just make sure 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!
- Do you have ice melter and/or sand to keep your walkways and driveway safe?
- Have you put all of your storm windows in place?
- Plan your trip to distant family or friends carefully. There will be a lot of people on the road doing the same thing.
- Many families are going to spend the holidays together. Remember, for those who are not vaccinated or are vulnerable, wear your masks, stay a safe distance and wash your hands frequently. You are not just protecting yourself, but loved ones and friends as well! The flu, Covid and other illnesses are still out there.
- Do you have a winter kit in your car that includes basic tools such as a snow shovel and tow strap or chain, a blanket, reflectors or flares, a first kit, flashlights, spare batteries, reflective vest, etc.?

POWER OUTAGES: We have had a few minor power outages in this area this Fall already and anticipate more of which a few that last more than a day. Here are some suggestions in case we have power outages.

- If you are fortunate enough to have a generator or the use of one, place it outdoors well clear of doors and windows. Never run a generator in your house or garage. Consult with an electrician if your house has not already been wired for a generator.
- Be extra careful of your woodstove. Do not use a makeshift wood stove or stove pipe that could catch your house on fire.
- If you are elderly or disabled and out of power, please contact a neighbor, family, friends or dial 211 and alert them to your situation.
- There may be more than one significant power outage this Winter. Start planning now for the next one. Do you need your house wired for a generator? Do you need a generator? If so, how large and what type? Do you want an automatic one?

- Make a list of all of the appliances and electrical needs in your house. How much power does each one use? Which ones can you go without for a few hours or days?
- What normal or special functions should you plan for that depend upon electricity? Water for your animals, water for your toilets, charging your EV, starting your snow blower or tractor, charging your cell phone(s), etc.?

Have a Great and Safe Holiday season!!!

Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee: Stuart Edson, Dan Mason, Ed Neas, Mike Stoddard, Michael Rutkovsky, and Lew Stowell.