

Department of Public Safety Newsletter

Mott Community College

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Thanksgiving Stuffing Tips

Thanksgiving Stuffing Tips are from Rick Rodgers, author of Thanksgiving 101.”

- * If making stuffing in advance, combine the bread and vegetable mixtures separately and don't mix with raw eggs until just before you're ready to stuff the bird or bake the stuffing.
- * If you make the stuffing ahead, make sure it's warm before placing in the bird; otherwise it will take longer to reach the safe temperature.
- * When checking temperature, insert thermometer (instant read or meat) into the center of the stuffing and make sure it reads 160 degrees.
- * Remove from oven and let stand 15 minutes so that the temperature reaches 165 degrees. If turkey is done first, remove stuffing from turkey and return stuffing to oven until it reaches the proper temperature.
- * Use only cooked vegetables and meats in the stuffing.
- * Don't store turkey with stuffing inside; refrigerate separately and use within two days.
- * Don't stuff turkey if you are grilling or deep-frying it.

Holiday Safety Tips—2004

Trees

- * **When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label “Fire Resistant.”**
- * **When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness because a fresh tree is less of a fire hazard. The tree should be green, needles should be hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles should not break. The trunk butt should be sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.**
- * **Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.**
- * **When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and don't allow it to block doorways.**
- * **Be sure to keep the stand filled with water, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.**

Lights

- * **Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.**
- * **Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples, not nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them.**
- * **Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.**
- * **Check all tree lights—even if you've just purchased them—before hanging them on your tree. Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.**
- * **Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.**

*******Holiday Safety Tips Source: American Academy of Pediatrics*******