

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Legislator Steve Stern urges residents to follow important safety tips



HUNTINGTON, NY – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th LD) would like to inform residents of important steps they can take to ensure that their holidays are happy and safe. With Thanksgiving and Hanukkah occurring together this year and Christmas just a few weeks away, here are some steps we can all take to keep the holiday season a time of joy and festivity.

- Chanukah and Christmas celebrations often feature lit candles. If you place a menorah in a window, it is important to keep candles away from materials that can ignite, such as curtains. Do not use lit candles on Christmas trees.
- Candles should be secured in stable holders and they should be kept away from children and pets.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.

- Christmas trees can ignite easily. If you purchase an artificial tree, look for a “Fire Resistant” label. Live trees should be checked for freshness. Needles should be green and hard to pull from branches.
- Place trees away from fireplaces, radiators and portable heaters. Cut the trunk to expose fresh wood and keep the stand filled with water to keep the tree from drying out.
- Make sure all lights are in good condition and do not have frayed wires, bare spots or damaged bulb sockets.
- If you have small children or pets place tinsel and breakable ornaments only on higher branches.
- Christmas plants such as holly, mistletoe and poinsettias can be toxic to pets and should be kept out of reach.
- Before lighting a fire in a fireplace, remove all decorations from the fireplace area. Check to make sure the flue is open and that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are working.

“I wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving and a safe and happy holiday season filled with joy, good health, good food and friendship,” Legislator Stern said.