

# NOVEMBER

Division of Environmental Services

## Safety message

### ...from the Division Chief

The Holiday Season is upon us. People are running around, starting too focused on the Holiday Season. Whether you are at work or at home planning on visiting family or friends for the holidays, slow down and take a moment and look around. Do not rush. I am asking you, especially at work and off work to slow down and take the time to assess your surroundings. There is no job so important that you cannot stop and take a moment to evaluate what is going on around you. It may be illegal to drive while talking on a cell phone or drive while under the influence; unfortunately a lot of people on the roads are talking on cell phones and enjoying holiday parties and driving themselves home. It is ok to enjoy the Holiday Season, just be responsible, know your limits and watch out for those that are not.

Sincerely,

Dean Messer, Chief

#### TURKEY FRYER Do's and Don'ts

- Have an Class B Extinguisher
- Turn Off the Burner Before Lowering the Turkey Into the Oil
- Use Safety Goggles, Long Sleeves, and Oven Mitts
- Do Not Deep Fry a Frozen Turkey
- Don't Use Too Much Oil
- Don't Deep-Fry Indoors, in a Garage, on a Wooden Structure, or Under Any Structure
- Don't Leave a Fryer Unattended

### November tips:

#### Fire Safety

Thanksgiving is the time for family and friends and great food. When preparing food, make sure to keep an eye on the microwave, stove top, and oven to prevent a fire. It's best to cook your meat while you're awake and can monitor the food instead of cooking it all night long while you sleep; doing so is a beneficial preventative measure that ensures safety.

If you like to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday sitting around a fireplace in your home or a fire outside, be careful as well. Whether it's a holiday or not, never leave a fireplace or fire burning without the supervision of an adult. Also, keep flammable objects like paper or clothing away from the fire. If children will be around the fire, explain to them the dangers of trying to touch or throw things into the fire.

#### Food Safety

If you're tempted to cook your Thanksgiving feast just a tad faster for your hungry dinner guests, think again. Undercooked food, especially meat, can cause severe illness like Campylobacter or food poisoning. According to MedicineNet.com Campylobacter is most often spread by contact with raw or undercooked poultry. So make sure that anyone washes their hands before and after handling the turkey. It may also be wise to ask guests about any food allergies they may have.

#### Driving Safety

Holidays mean more traffic with people coming in and out of town for the holiday season. Drive carefully, abiding any traffic signal or signs and watch out for pedestrians. Don't rush in bad weather conditions (or normal weather conditions for that matter) so that you protect yourself from the increased chance of getting into an accident because of such weather and road conditions.

Think Safety visit <http://dessafety.water.ca.gov>, <http://swpsafety.water.ca.gov> for more information.  
Send Safety suggestions to: [dessafety@water.ca.gov](mailto:dessafety@water.ca.gov)