

Have a Fire-Safety Holiday Season

These Seasonal Fire Safety Tips come from your Local Fire Department

Christmas Trees

- Select a dark green, fresh-cut tree with a strong evergreen smell.



- Make sure the base of the tree is immersed in water at all times—check the reservoir frequently.
- Use only CSA approved lighting strings—throw damaged light strings away.
- If the tree starts to turn brown—remove it immediately.
- Don't leave the tree up too long—safely dispose of trees right after the holiday.

Space Heaters

- Place all space heaters at least 1 meter (3 feet) away from anything that can burn - wallpaper, bedding and clothing.
- Turn off/unplug space heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep.



- Don't leave children/pets unattended with space heaters.
- Check electric space heaters for frayed cords or overheating.
- Use only the recommended fuel for liquid fuelled heaters. Never use gasoline. Always turn off the heater and let it cool before refueling.
- An un-vented fuel-fired heater can produce deadly amounts of carbon monoxide. Ensure combustion gases are vented outdoors.

Fireplace Safety

- Burn small amounts of wood at frequent intervals.
- Don't burn paper, wrapping paper or pine boughs. This can cause sparks to drift out of your chimney and ignite your roof.



- Have your chimney checked and cleaned by a professional each winter.
- Use a screen in front of the fireplace to keep sparks in.
- Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to light a fire. The vapours will explode.

- Dispose of ashes in a metal container, stored outside away from combustibles.

Using Candles

- Never use lit candles to decorate a Christmas tree.



- Keep lit candles away from paper decorations and other flammable materials.
- Do not leave candles within reach of children or pets.
- Put candles in non-tip candleholders and place them on a firm surface where they won't be knocked over.
- Snuff candles out when the festivities are over. Never let the candles burn down to the bottom.

Supervise Children

- Fascination and curiosity about fire can lead a child to play with matches, lighters or flames within easy reach.



- This holiday season protect your children from fire:

- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children.
- Supervise children at all times when they are in a room with a fireplace, a Christmas tree, lit candles, space heater or other open flame or hot surfaces.

Test your Smoke Alarms

- Test your smoke alarms monthly.
- Never remove the batteries from your smoke alarms for another purpose.
- Clean your smoke alarms by



vacuuming the cover.

- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace detectors that are more than 10 years old.

Plan Your Escape

- Plan and practice a fire escape with your family. Plan two ways out of every room.
- Have a family meeting place outside.

**In Case of Fire:
Get Out & Stay Out**

**Keep This 911 Information Sheet
Close to the Phone**
(Hint: Leave this out for the Babysitter)

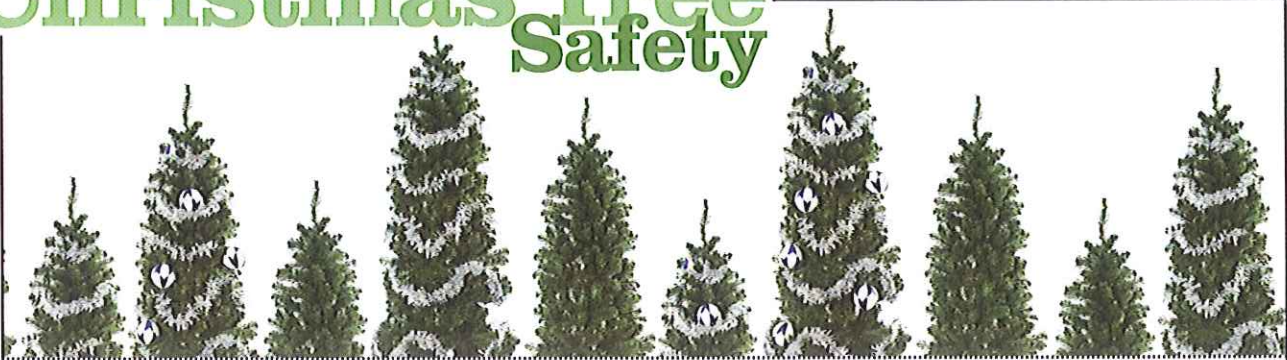
**Then Call 911
From a Safe Location**

Our Home Address is:

Our Home Phone # is:

Directions to our Home:

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

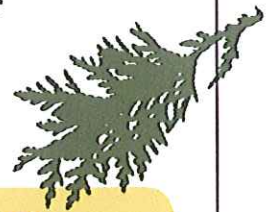


LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.



FACTS

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
- ! Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly **one in every six** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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www.nfpa.org/education