

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

- >>> If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
- >>> 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 1–2” 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

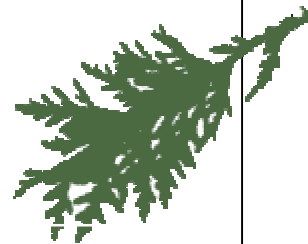
- >>> Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- >>> Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- >>> Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- >>> Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

AFTER CHRISTMAS

Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. 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

- ! Each year, fire departments respond to an average of **210** structure fires caused by Christmas trees.
- ! **48%** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- ! A heat source too close to the tree causes **27%** of the fires.