



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 and add water to the stand daily.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, candles, or incandescent lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- **Keep your real tree watered daily.**

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use and never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree after Christmas. 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.

FACTS

- Nearly one of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems.
- 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 four of the fires.

YOUTUBE: [Christmas Tree Fire: Watered Tree vs. Dry Tree](#)

www.championsfire.org