

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. Whether you use a real tree or a fake tree, hazards are all around with lights, decorations and heat sources. A small fire that spreads into a Christmas tree can grow very quickly.

PICKING THE TREE

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched. Once home, place the tree in water as soon as possible. Most trees can go 6-8 hours after cutting the trunk and still take up water. Don't bruise the cut surface or get it dirty. Place the freshly cut trunk in a bucket that is kept full of water.



PLACING THE TREE

- Add water to the tree stand – Daily.
- 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. Lowering the room temperature will slow the drying process, resulting in less water consumption each day.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Displaying trees in water in a traditional reservoir type stand is the most effective way of maintaining their freshness and minimizing needle loss problems. As a general rule, stands should provide one-quart of water per inch of stem diameter.

LIGHTING THE TREE

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized 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. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.



Did you know...

More than one of every four home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems?



HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY & FIRE PROTECTION

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/programs/communications/www.fire.ca.gov>