

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Selecting your tree

- Choose a fresh green tree with needles that do not fall off when touched.
- If you are using an artificial tree, verify it is labeled or identified as being fire retardant by the manufacturer.

Maintaining your tree

- Before placing the tree in your home, cut off at least 1"-2" off the base of the tree.
- Locate the tree at least 3 feet away from heat sources or heater vents.
- Locate the tree so that it is not blocking any exits.
- Keep tree base immersed in water. Add water daily.
- Do not permit smoking near the tree.
- Use only lights that are certified and labeled by an independent testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Use flame retardant decorations and paper.
- Inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs, and check for defective sockets. ***Do not use damaged lights.***
- **ALWAYS** unplug lights at night and when leaving the home.
- Remove the tree soon after the holidays—before the needles dry out.
 - The tree should be removed if the tree begins dropping needles, the needles become brittle, or the needles break when bent between the thumb and forefinger.
 - 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.

For commercial occupancies of all types, the following additional requirements apply per Fire District Ordinance 2007-47, Section 806:

- Cut trees shall be treated by a California State Fire Marshal licensed fire retardant applicator. Trees shall be properly treated with an approved flame retardant.
- Trees shall bear a tag stating date of placement in the public building, type of flame-retardant treatment used, name of the person who applied the flame retardant, the name of the person affixing the tag, a permit expiration date and the name of the designated individual making daily tests.
- Trees shall be tested daily by a designated individual. The test shall include a check for dryness and adequate watering.

To access the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Christmas Tree Safety Tips, click here:

<http://www.nfpa.org/images/ChristmasTreeSafety.pdf>

To access a video on the dangers of Christmas Tree Fires, click here:

[insert video clip]