

# 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.

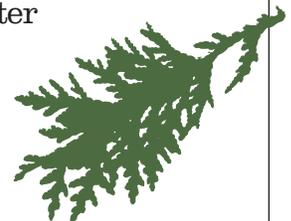


## LIGHTING THE TREE

- » 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.

## 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.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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