



Beverly Hills Fire Department Presents:

Holiday Safety

Below are some tips to help you have a safe and happy holiday:

1. When decorating Christmas trees, always use safe tree lights. (Some lights are designed only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.) Larger tree lights should also have some type of reflector rather than a bare bulb and all lights should be listed by a testing laboratory.
2. Never use electric lights on a metal tree.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights. Any string of lights with worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used. Do not overload outlets read the recommended number of light strands to connect.
4. Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
5. Never use lit candles to decorate a tree, and place them well away from tree branches.
6. Prior to setting up a fresh tree, the trunk shall have a fresh butt cut on a diagonal at least 1 inch above original cut. Try to keep fresh trees as moist as possible by giving them plenty of water daily. Water should cover the stem at least 2 inches. Do not purchase a tree that is dry or dropping needles.
 - Checking a tree for dryness can be done at a daily basis and shall be conducted by standing in front of the tree and grasping a branch, with reasonable firm pressure pull hand towards you, allowing the branch to slip through your grasp. If needles fall off readily, the tree does not have the adequate moisture.
7. Choose a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
8. When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
9. Children are fascinated with Christmas trees. Keep a watchful eye on them when around the tree and do not let them play with the wiring or lights.
10. Store matches and lighters up high, out of the reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.
11. Make sure the tree is at least three feet (one meter) away from any heat source and try to position it near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
12. Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.



Facts:

The year end holiday season: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, New Year's - is a prime time for residential fires. Decorative lights, candles, parties where people drink and smoke, and especially the onset of the heating season all increase the likelihood of fire.

Each year, more than 400 residential fires involve Christmas trees and tragically nearly 40 deaths and 100 injuries result from those fires.