



# Christmas Tree Safety

Downey Fire Department Monthly Safety Message



It's the most  
wonderful  
time of the  
year!

- We are well into our holiday season this year.
- This is the time to decorate our homes and spend time with loved ones.
- Many people will be purchasing and decorating Christmas trees this year.
- While Christmas trees are great way to celebrate the season, they can also become a fire hazard if handled irresponsibly.
- We would like to share some tips to keep everyone safe!
- This information comes from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) website.





# Picking the Tree

- Ensuring your safety starts when you pick out your tree.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Old, dying trees are much easier to ignite.





# Placing the Tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 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 are listed by a qualified 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.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



# After Christmas



- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry.
- 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

- Almost one third of home Christmas tree fires are 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 more than one in every five of the fires.

