

Christmas Tree Safety

The holiday season should be a joyous time of the year. However, certain types of fires and injuries associated with holiday decorating are common during this season. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

Facts

- Christmas trees have caused eight fires in the last three years in Indiana.
- These fires caused an estimated \$500,000 in direct property damage.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes 27% of Christmas tree fires.

Picking the Tree

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is indentified 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.
- Make sure the tree does not block an exit
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the Tree

- Check if they are for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights that have worn or broken cords, and broken bulbs.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights when leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

- Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried out trees are a fire hazard.
- Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards.

For more information on Christmas tree safety, visit www.in.gov/dhs

