



## Shelter in Yard Tips and Tasks:

### 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

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 2" from the base of the trunk.
- \* Make sure the tree is at least three (3') 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 a recognized 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

- \* More than **one of every four** home Christmas tree fires is 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 **one in every four** of the fires.

For more resources, visit our [Shelter in Yard](#) page on the [Santa Clara Council FireSafe Council](#) website.