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. The branches should bend and not easily snap.





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.
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. Read manufacturer’s instructions for number of LED 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

- One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
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- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they have a higher chance to be deadly. A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every five of the fires.

Source: www.nfpa.org/education

For more information or to ask questions you may contact:
Bryan Fire Department
Fire Marshal's Office
300 W. WJB Pkwy
979-209-5960