



West Deptford Township
Bureau of Fire Prevention
Fire Safety Tips



Fire Safety Tips for Your Christmas Tree

Did you know that Christmas trees alone result in 18 million dollars, annually, in property damage? More importantly, these fires present real risk towards family and friends. When showcasing a live tree in your home, the combination of tree dryness, electrical malfunction with lights and poorly located heating sources can make for a deadly combination.



- Fresh trees are less likely to catch fire, so look for a tree with vibrant green needles that are hard to pluck and don't break easily from its branches. The tree shouldn't be shedding its needles readily.
- Always place your tree away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights, and keep the tree base filled with water to avoid a dry out.
- Make sure all your indoor and outdoor Christmas lights have been tested in a lab by the UL or ETL/ITSNA for safety, and throw out any damaged lights.
- Any lights you use outdoors must be labeled suitable for exterior placement, and be sure to plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter protected receptacle.
- Keep all your holiday candles away from your Christmas tree, surrounding furniture and décor.
- Bedtime means lights off! Don't forget to turn your Christmas tree lights off each night.

When your tree begins to drop its needles, it's time to say goodbye to your evergreen foliage until next year. 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, garage, or placed outside against the home.

