



Too many times each year, this scene ends in tragedy.

Put Christmas tree safety at the top of your list:

- Consider an artificial tree this season. They're less flammable than live trees and don't require watering.
- If you get a live tree, make sure it's fresh. Needles should be green and springy to the touch.
- Cut 1 to 2 inches off the bottom of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand. A fresh cut allows the tree to absorb water. Place the tree in water right away.
- **Fill the tree stand with water every day.**
- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, like floor vents, fireplaces, radiators, candles or lamps.
- Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit.
- **Always turn the tree lights off or unplug them** before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Use lights that are approved by a national testing organization like UL.
- Replace lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands you can safely connect. Make sure you are using the right lights for indoors or outdoors.
- **Remove your tree immediately after the holidays** even if you think it is not dry.



Keeping a dry tree is like inviting a forest fire into your home.

- Christmas tree fires are likely to be serious and deadly.
- Put working smoke alarms on every level of your home, especially inside and outside sleeping areas.
- Remember to test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your fire escape plan.
- Practice your home fire escape plan regularly.
- **9 out of 10 U.S. fire deaths happen in the home.** People are surprised to learn that the place they feel safest is where their risk of being in a fire is greatest.



Home fire sprinklers increase safety and provide time for escape. Think about installing a system in your home.