

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.



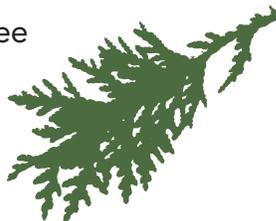
PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three 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

- ! **One** of every three home Christmas tree fires are 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 roughly **one in every four** of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

CANDLES
IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLAGE

The codes cited below have been adopted by and are in full force and effect in the City of Wyoming:

OPEN FLAME	<p>“NO OPEN FLAME DEVICE SHALL BE USED IN ANY PLACE OF ASSEMBLY”</p> <p>The use of candles may be allowed on the stage, platform or altar of a church or other place of assembly, <u>provided they are securely supported in either a candlestick or candelabra and are well separated from any combustible materials.</u></p>
USE ON TABLES	<p>Candles may be used on tables designated for food service <u>if securely supported on a substantial non-combustible base</u> and located as to avoid danger of ignition of combustible materials.</p> <p>Candle flames shall be protected at all times.</p>
LOCATION	<p style="text-align: center;">“CANDLES SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED IN AREAS USED BY OCCUPANTS TO STAND OR IN AN AISLE OR EXIT”</p> <p>This expressly <u>prohibits the use of candles on the ends of church pews, in windowsill ledges, in the lobby or narthex area</u> and also <u>prohibits carrying candles down an aisle in procession.</u></p> <p>Protecting the flame by use of a glass “chimney” or any other device <u>does not</u> make use acceptable.</p>
FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS	<p style="text-align: center;">“NO FLAMMABLE LIQUID SHALL BE STORED OR USED IN ANY SCHOOL, CHURCH, THEATER, HOTEL, ETC.”</p> <p>The use of kerosene or any other liquid burning lamp is prohibited.</p>

NFPA Life Safety Code 101, 2000 edition

Exceptions to the above may be allowed as the situation permits.
Please contact Fire Inspector Bill Aman (616-249-3478) to discuss a possible exception.

CHRISTMAS TREES AND DECORATIONS **IN PLACES OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLAGE**

IF YOU CHOOSE A NATURAL TREE:

SET UP/USE	Not more than (7) days prior to Christmas. <i>School buildings:</i> seven (7) days prior to Christmas vacation.
HEIGHT	Shall not exceed eight (8) feet.
REMOVAL	Within 24 hours after Christmas day. <i>School buildings:</i> 24 hours after vacation begins.
PREPARATION	Tree trunk must be freshly cut at least one (1) inch above the original cut and placed in a container of clear water at least 72 hours before setting up.
WATER/ SUPPORT	Tree holder must be equipped with a container for water which must be kept filled while located inside the building. The tree must be substantially supported so that it cannot be easily tipped or knocked over. Any tree showing signs of unusual dryness shall be dismantled and removed from the building immediately.
LIGHTING	Use of electric lights shall be restricted to those bearing the label of the Underwriters Laboratories seal of approval for such tree. Electric lights shall be "on" only when under constant supervision of an authorized and responsible person.

IF YOU CHOOSE AN ARTIFICIAL TREE:

TYPE	Only a non-combustible artificial tree may be used.
LIGHTING	Only miniature lights may be used. No lights may be used on metallic trees.

BOTH NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL TREES:

LOCATION	Trees shall not be placed in or near any aisle or corridor of any building or at any location which may constitute a barrier to an exit.
DECORATIONS	The use of candles, paper or other flammable tree decorations, regardless of whether or not they are flame-proofed, is prohibited.