

Other Holiday Safety Tips

A real tree can add to the spirit of Christmas by filling your home with beauty and the scent of pine. But a real tree can also pose a fire hazard. Each year, more than 400 residential fires involve Christmas trees and tragically nearly 40 deaths and 100 injuries result from those fires. Here are some more tips for you that can minimize the threat of tragedy this holiday season.

1. Check your smoke detectors! Make sure they are working and test them at least once a week. If you don't have one, call the Stockton Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division for information on how to receive a free smoke detector.
2. Never burn wrapping paper or your tree in the fire place or wood burning stove, an unsuspecting person can be severely burned or perhaps cause a chimney fire.
3. Christmas trees are generally removed one or two weeks after the holidays. However, they should be removed from the house if a number of needles begin to fall.
4. Remember a Christmas tree can engulf a living room in less than 30 seconds! If a tree should catch fire in the house, do not attempt to move it outside. Get everyone out and use a neighbors phone to call 9-1-1

If you are in need
of further information,
please contact:

The Stockton Fire Dept.
Fire Prevention
209-937-8271



Stockton Fire Department

CHRISTMAS
TREE
FIRE
SAFETY



Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Every year, the Stockton Fire Department respond to tragic incidents where people suffer injuries, burns, and even death due to carelessness with holiday decorations. Trees, lights, ornaments, and fireplaces produce extra hazards in your home at a time when hectic activity distracts your attention from fire safety.

Once a tree is ignited it only takes seconds to fully engulf a room, but steps can be taken to keep your holiday a safe and happy one.

This holiday season brings along unique problems that are not found any other time of year. So here are some tips for a safe holiday season...

SHOPPING FOR THE TREE

- Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches. On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.
- Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand.
- If you use an artificial tree, choose one that is tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.

WATER YOUR TREE

Fresh, well-watered Christmas trees do not represent a fire hazard. Trees that are dried out, however, do.

- After selecting a tree, it is recommended that you soak the trunk in a container for 24 hours and then put the tree in its water base stand.
- It is important that the tree always be kept watered and not allowed to dry out. Be sure to keep the water level above the base of the tree.
- You can add some citric or lemon-lime soda to the water. This provides sugar for food and preservatives which can help your tree last longer.

LOCATION

The location of your tree is very important.

- Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources.
- Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

TREE LIGHTS

- Only use indoor lights inside and outdoor lights only outdoors.
- Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets
- Use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord.
- Turn off all lights on trees and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.

TREE ORNAMENTS

- Always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places.
- Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them.

CANDLES

- Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials.
- If you are using candles for other decoration around the home, keep them out of reach children. Place them in a secure candle holder
- Always extinguish candles before you go to bed.