

Seasonal Cheer Without Fire Fears

For many, December brings wonder, anticipation and joy. It also brings an increased risk of fire. Decorated trees and holiday lighting-associated fires cause about \$18.3 million in damages annually and are more than 3 times as likely to be deadly than other fires.

Take the following steps to protect your family and your home this holiday season.

1. Keep your tree well-treated.

Refilling the water everyday will help it last about two weeks.

2. Check before buying.

A freshly cut tree will have a sticky trunk and the needles won't fall off in bunches when touched.

3. Keep your tree away from heat vents and the fireplace.

Heated air dries out trees. A single, shooting spark can cause a disaster.

4. Inspect lights before using.

Check for exposed wires and broken sockets before decorating. **Never** plug in outdoor lights when the socket or prongs are wet from rain, snow, or ice.

5. Always turn off the lights.

Never leave a lit tree unattended. Trees can ignite and erupt into flames in seconds.

6. Recycle your tree.

Never dispose of tree branches by burning them in your fireplace or yard. Recycle them instead.

7. Blow out candles.

Always remember to blow out candles before leaving or going to bed.

Share these tips with your neighbors, family and friends to help everyone stay safe this holiday season.