



# Cathedral City

[www.cathedralcityfire.org](http://www.cathedralcityfire.org)

## Fire Department

The Firefighters and Staff at CCFD have put together a few HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS for you! From our family to yours, Happy Holidays and have a safe and prosperous year in 2010.

### TREES & LIGHTING

#### **Where to place a Christmas tree in your home:**

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree and cause it to more easily ignite by heat, flame or sparks.
- Never put holiday tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Protect your tree from direct sunlight, as this will cause your tree to dry out more quickly.

#### **Decorations:**

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wire, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets and excessive kinking or wear.
- Use only lighting evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
- Do not overload outlets. Connect strings of lights directly to an outlet or UL approved power strip that is protected by a self-contained circuit breaker.
- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- When decorating indoors, use only those lights listed for indoor use. Read the directions. Only use as many strings of lights as it says is safe to use.
- Do not leave lit holiday lights unattended. Unplug all lights, inside and out, before going to bed or leaving home.
- According to the National Fire Prevention Association, more than 15% of all Christmas tree fires are caused by improper or defective lighting



#### **Proper care of your Christmas tree:**

- When you get the tree home, if a fresh cut wasn't made at the tree lot, make a fresh cut of 1 to 2 inches on the trunk and immediately place the trunk of the tree in water to prevent the fresh cut from sealing itself and thus not being able to absorb water.
- Christmas trees can take in as much as one gallon of water every two days. Be sure to check the water level in the tree stand daily.
- Always use an approved stand to ensure the stability of your tree.
- When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is to take it to a recycling center or have it collected by a community pick-up service.

**Did you know....There are an estimated 300 fires and 30 injuries resulting from Christmas tree fires each year?**

### CANDLE SAFETY

- Extinguish all candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Keep candles at least one foot away from anything that can burn including curtains, blinds, wallpaper, clothing or any other material that can catch fire.
- Don't place lit candles in windows or near doorways where drafts could bring combustibles in contact with the flame.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface—away from edges and any place where they could be knocked over by kids or pets.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch.
- Extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of their holder or any decorative material. Extinguish candles carefully, using a long-handled candle snuffer or a soft, directed breath.
- Because Hanukkah candles are intended to burn down completely, they should be given special attention. Ensure your Menorah has a sturdy base. Do not leave the room until wicks have stopped glowing.
- Avoid using candles during a power outage. Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting on hand for emergency lighting.
- Never leave a child unattended in a room with a burning candle.
- Don't allow kids or teens to burn candles in their bedrooms.
- Don't let kids play with candles or dripping wax – or with materials that could catch fire near candles.
- Store matches and lighters up high and out of children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.

~ NEVER LEAVE A CANDLE UNATTENDED ~