

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.



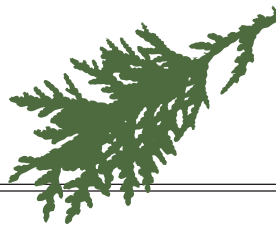
PLACING THE TREE

- 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 are listed by a qualified 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

- ! **Nearly half** of home Christmas tree fires is 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 **one in every four** of the fires.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing you peace, joy, and good health this holiday season.

Thank you for being a valued part of our community – we're grateful for your support and look forward to the new year!

Warm regards,

San Miguel Community Services District

CLOSED/CERRADO @12PM.....12/23

CLOSED/CERRADO.....12/24 - 1/2



TREE RECYCLING

San Miguel Garbage collects Christmas Trees on your normal pickup days from the day after Christmas through the second week of January each year. Please remove stands and decorations and place the trees next to your regular trash containers. Cut tree into 4-foot or smaller lengths.

If you don't have green waste collection service, you can take your Christmas tree to any landfill or transfer station and it will be recycled. For locations go to our website at www.iwma.com or call (805) 782-8530. Note that a fee will be charged at these facilities.

The San Luis Obispo County Integrated Waste Management Authority and your local garbage company thank you for recycling your Christmas tree.