



CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY TIPS

Dear Residents:

Your safety and the safety of your family is our concern. If you have placed a Christmas tree in your home or you will be buying a Christmas tree for your home, one of the most important things to remember when decorating your Christmas tree is to use safe tree lights. Some lights are designed specifically for indoor use.

The larger tree lights should also have some type of reflector rather than a bare bulb and all lights should be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Never use electric lights on a metal tree.

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to use tree lights. Any string of lights worn, frayed or broken cords or loose bulb connections should not be used.
- Always unplug Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never use candles to decorate a tree and never burn candles in the home.
- If you have a live tree, try to keep it as moist as possible by giving it plenty of water.
- Do not purchase a tree that is dropping needles.
- Choose a sturdy tree stand designed not to tip over.
- When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled as fire-retardant.
- Children are fascinated with Christmas trees. Keep a watchful eye on them when around the tree and do not let them play with the wiring or lights. Store matches and lighters up high out of the reach of children; preferably in a locked cabinet.
- Carefully plan where your tree will be positioned. Make sure it is at least three feet away from any source of heat and do not place the tree in front of or near your exit. Also try to position it near and outlet so that you do not use extension cords and so that cords are not running long distances.
- Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are very dangerous and should not be left in a garage or placed against the house.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday!

Safety tips courtesy of Westminster Fire Department, Public Safety Center, 9110 Yates Street – Westminster, CO 80031 –
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