

Maryland State Firemen's Association

Fire Prevention and Life Safety Committee

TIP SHEET: Christmas Tree Safety



# Christmas Tree Fire Prevention Safety Tips

*The Christmas Holiday is upon us and we would like to remind you of some simple steps that you should take when you are picking your Christmas tree with a few fire prevention and safety tips.*

When picking your tree you want to choose a fresh tree with green needles that do not fall off when you touch the tree. Fresh is always best.

Before you place your tree in the tree stand you want to cut off about 2 inches from the base of the trunk of the tree. You want to remove the layer that has been created by the sap. If you do not do this step your tree will not take on water to keep it from drying out. This is VERY IMPORTANT.

Never place a tree that is near a heat source. You want it at least three feet away. Keep the tree away from fire places, radiators, candles, vents or lights. Never place a tree that will block an exit.

***ALWAYS... WATER YOUR TREE EVERY DAY.***

Christmas Lights on your tree and around your home. When getting ready decorate for the holiday season it is important to inspect your lights for any breakage or if the wires or lights are not functioning properly. If your lights are worn out replace them with only Testing Laboratory approved lights. If they haven't been tested don't use them.

Turn your Christmas lights off when leaving your home for an extended period of time and before you go to bed.

***After Christmas and what you should do with your tree...***

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.

