Winter Holiday *Fire Safety*

Tree Safety

- Buy the freshest tree possible. Make a new 2" cut in the trunk before putting it up.
- Place your tree away from heat sources like radiators, woodstoves, and fireplaces.
- Keep trees away from doorways and exits.
- Use a non-tip style tree stand and extra guide wires.
- Water a live tree daily.
- Turn off tree lights and other electric decorations before going to sleep or leaving the house. Consider using a timer.
- Buy artificial trees that are listed by an approved testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Dispose of your tree properly, soon after the holidays. Compost or recycle it.

Give the Gift of Life.

- Artificial trees should have a fire retardant or resistant label and be listed by an approved testing agency.

Bright Lights

- Buy lights and electric decorations that are listed by an approved testing agency.
- Replace lighting that has frayed wires, broken plugs, sockets, or switches.
- Never overload outlets. Use no more than three strands of lights on a single extension cord.
- Never use candles on trees, near live or other flammable decorations.
- Never leave burning candles unattended. Consider switching to electric or battery-operated candles.
- Consider using energy efficient LED lights that stay cool.

Outdoor Lights

- Use only lights rated for outdoor use.
- Plug outdoor decorations into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). Don't overload outlets.
- Use electrical connection protectors.
- Anchor outdoor lights and decorations with insulated holders or hooks.

Department of Fire Services
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