



Christmas Safety



Christmas Tree:

- If you are buying an artificial tree, purchase one that is labeled “Fire Resistant.” While this type of tree can catch fire, it is manufactured to resist burning and extinguish quickly.
- If you purchase a live tree, choose one that has green needles that do not fall off when touched. Fresh trees are green and the needles are hard to pull from the branches. To check for freshness, pull on the needles near the branch; they will not break when you bend them. Check the base of the trunk, the sap should be sticky. Always get a fresh cut from the tree lot. Tap the base of the tree on the ground a couple of times; a green tree loses very few needles.
- When you get your live tree home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators, heater vents or any other source of heat. A heated room will quickly dry a tree out and then it becomes a fire hazard.
- Make sure your tree is not blocking any exits and that it is watered daily.
- Prevent choking hazards when decorating your home and Christmas tree. Ornaments and decorations with sharp, small and movable parts can be easily swallowed by small children. Ornaments and decorations that resemble food or candy may cause a child to try and eat them.
- Never use live candles to decorate your tree. Use “UL” approved holiday lights and fire-safe ornaments.

Lights:

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Check your lights, as some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Do not overload your electrical outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways or heaters.
- Be sure extension cords are not pinched behind or under furniture, and unplug all decorative lights before leaving your home or going to bed.
- Never run extension cords across lawns, driveways or traffic areas. Power for all outdoor lighting should be supplied by permanent weatherproof wiring installed by a professional electrician.

Candles:

- Do not leave burning candles unattended. Make sure they are in a secure place where children and/or pets cannot knock them over.
- Put candles in a non-tip candle holder before you light them.
- Make sure all candles are extinguished before you leave your home, office or go to bed.

After Christmas:

- Dispose of your tree after the holiday.
- Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or outside against the home.
- Do not attempt to burn your tree in the fireplace or outside.
- Utilize green waste systems available from waste management companies.
- Bring in outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards.

Be Prepared:

- Test all smoke detectors in your home to make sure they are in proper working order.
- Install fresh batteries in your smoke detectors every six months
- Make sure all family members and visitors know how to call the fire department, and create an escape plan so that everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

Chino Valley Fire District Wishes You A Safe and Happy Holiday!

