



Have a safe and Merry Holiday Season with these tips from the American Canyon Fire Protection District

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year! All of us at American Canyon Fire Protection District wish you and your family a very “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year”. The following safety information is being provided to make this Christmas time and the rest of the year as fire safe as possible.

ABOUT YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

- The Christmas tree that you cut yourself is obviously the freshest. The trees sold at Christmas tree lots could have been cut up to a month ago.
- If you buy a tree at a Christmas tree lot, test it for freshness. The tree should be a healthy green color. Needles from the tree should bend between your fingers and not break. Shake the tree vigorously – very few needles should shake free and fall.
- Regardless of where you bought your tree, keep it outside, lying down, or with the trunk in a bucket of water until you are ready to put it up.
- When you do put the tree up, cut off two (2) inches of the trunk bottom because the old saw cut has probably sealed and will not let the tree “drink”.
- Keep your tree in a stand that allows you to water the tree – either a bucket filled with sand or a stand designed to take water. Also check the water daily and add water frequently.
- Keep the tree away from fireplaces, heaters and the heat registers from your central heating.
- Place the tree away from your exit paths, preferably in a corner of the room.
- If you want to be extra safe and treat your tree, have it done by a commercial establishment or purchase a State Fire Marshal approved spray and apply according to directions. Please – no home remedies for flame retardants.

ABOUT YOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

- Look for the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label on all electric equipment.
- Thoroughly check all wiring (even new) for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. Return, repair or discard lighting found to be damaged.
- Use your lighting only as tested. DO NOT use indoor lights outdoors and vice versa.
- DO NOT use lights on metal Christmas trees.
- Check the manufacturer’s recommendations before using lights on plastic trees.
- Turn off all power to the lights when leaving the house (even for a short time) or upon retiring. A good method is to plug the lights into a wall socket that can be turned off and on by a light switch.
- DO NOT plug more than three strands of lights together or into any extension cord or wall socket.

ABOUT YOUR CHRISTMAS CANDLES AND DECORATIONS

- Please . . . DO NOT use candles on your Christmas tree.
- Always use non-combustible and stable candle holders. The holder’s base should be at least one half as wide as the candle is tall (12 inch candle – 6 inch base).
- Use only non-combustible or flame resistant materials for decorations.

ABOUT CHRISTMAS DAY AND AFTER CHRISTMAS

- Have a box ready to put the wrapping paper into.
- Never put wrapping paper or Christmas trees into your fireplace or wood burning stove; they create a very hot and fast fire.

ABOUT FIRE SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Buy, install and test monthly a smoke detector for your house.
- Have and practice home escape plans.
- In case of fire . . . get everyone out of the house to a safe meeting place then call the fire department.
- Always have two ways out of every room in the house.
- Remember that smoke and heat rise, so . . . crawl low in smoke.
- If your clothes catch on fire . . . stop . . . drop . . . and roll.

