

Christmas Tree Safety

(Source: www.nfpa.org/education)

Picking The Tree

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched

Placing The Tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1-2" from the base of the trunk
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting The Tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of LED strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. 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. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Fire Safety FACTS:

- **One-third** of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
- Each year, fire departments respond to roughly **260** structure fires caused by Christmas trees.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes **one in every five** of the fires.

(Facts source: NFPA Public Education Division- 1 Battery Park, Quincy, MA 02169)

Kirkwood Optimist Tree Maintenance Tips:

- Add one package of Tree Life to one gallon of water to extend the tree life during the holiday season and during storage before tree set-up.
- If you cannot set-up the tree when you first get it home, store it in the garage in a bucket of water with Tree Life. This prevents the fresh cut you received at the tree lot (or made at home) from re-sapping and feeds fresh water to the tree. Refill the water as necessary. Remove the tree wrapping to allow the branches to drop before bringing the tree into your home.
- When you do set-up the tree inside your home, place a towel beneath the tree stand to absorb any overflow water when you water the tree. This will absorb water that would be absorbed in a rug or accumulate on tile/wood flooring.
- Refresh tree stand water daily. Use an empty long-necked bottle, such as an empty wine bottle, to refresh the water in the tree stand. The long neck provides greater pouring control and reduces overflow spill. For a 6-foot Frasier Fir, the 1.5 liters of water within the wine bottle usually suffices as a daily supplement of water.

The **Kirkwood Optimist Club** wishes you a **Happy Holiday Season** and we hope you find this Christmas Tree Safety Information and Maintenance Tips of value.

Thanks for your continued patronage! Tree Lot profits are used to support various youth activities in our community. Visit our web site (<http://www.ko-mo.org/> to see the organizations/activities we support. If you are interested in joining our club, you can submit a member contact request at our web site.