

CHRISTMAS SAFETY ADVICE

Christmas is a special time for celebration and should not end in tragedy because of the extra hazards that are present at this time of year.

Fairy Lights

- Check the fuses are the right type (see the box for the maximum size of fuse you should use)
- If bulbs blow, replace them
- Don't leave fairy lights on when you go out or when you go to sleep
- Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper
- Don't overload sockets.

Decorations

- Decorations made of light tissue paper or cardboard burn easily
- Don't attach them to lights or heaters
- Don't put them immediately above or around the fireplace
- Keep them away from candles.

Extinguishing

Many people ask what is the best method of extinguishing a Christmas tree fire should they be unfortunate to experience one. The simple answer is that a [Fire Water Mist](#) extinguisher is a perfect option.

Christmas Trees

Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.

Selecting a Tree for Christmas

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

Caring for Your Tree

Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Disposing of Your Tree

Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.