



NY Fire Consultants, Inc. Fire Safety Message

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Christmas Tree Safety Tips

A fire on any day seems bad, but a fire on Christmas seems to be the worst. Some 300 Christmas trees caught fire in one recent year, with electrical problems the most common culprit. Here's how to keep your tree green and your presents safe.

1. When you buy your tree, have the vendor make a fresh cut an inch from the bottom; this will help the tree drink.
2. If you buy your tree early and keep it outside, store it away from wind and sun, and keep the bottom in a bucket of water.
3. Make sure your lights are safe. If you need outdoor lights, make sure the ones you buy are meant for outdoor use. Make sure your lights carry certification from a testing laboratory.
4. Don't use electric lights on a metal tree.
5. Discard any strings of lights that are frayed or broken. Christmas lights are cheap.
6. Unplug your Christmas tree before you leave or go to bed.
7. Don't buy a tree that is dry and dropping needles. To check for freshness, loosely grip the end of a branch and pull your hand over it. Only a few needles should fall off.
8. Make sure your tree stand holds plenty of water, and don't let it run out.
9. If your tree seems wobbly, center it in the stand more securely and redo the bolts or screws. If your tree stand is too small; buy a larger, stronger one.
10. If you buy an artificial tree, make sure it is fire-retardant.
11. Keep your tree at least three feet from furnaces, radiators and fireplaces.
12. Try to position the tree near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances.
13. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
14. When Christmas is over or when the tree starts to drop needles, dispose of it. Don't leave it in your house or put it in your garage.
15. Keep a close eye on small children when they are around the tree; many small decorations and ornaments are sharp, breakable and can be swallowed.

Hanukah Candle Safety Tips:

- ✓ Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- ✓ Keep candles away from items that can catch fire (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, and flammable decorations).
- ✓ Use candle holders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- ✓ Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- ✓ Place candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- ✓ Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- ✓ Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Votives and containers should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- ✓ Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.

Candles & Children:

- ✓ Keep candles up high out of reach of children.
- ✓ Never leave a child unattended in a room with a candle. A child should not sleep in a room with a lit candle.
- ✓ Don't allow children or teens to have candles in their bedrooms.
- ✓ Store candles, matches and lighters up high and out children's sight and reach, preferably in a locked cabinet.
- ✓ During power outages:
- ✓ Try to avoid carrying a lit candle. Don't use a lit candle when searching for items in a confined space.
- ✓ Never use a candle for a light when checking pilot lights or fueling equipment such as a kerosene heater or lantern. The flame may ignite the fumes.

NY Fire Consultants Services:

Fire and Life Safety Consulting

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Fire Safety & Evacuation Plans
Commercial (Class E) Buildings

Interior Fire Alarms Consultants

Emergency Procedures Manuals

Fire & Evacuation Preparedness Training

Violations Correction & Removal

Environmental Control Board
Fire & Building Department
Housing Preservation & Development

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