



Christmas Tree Safety Tips from Arcanum Fire Chief Kurt Troutwine

Christmas season is fast approaching and I wanted to give you some tree safety tips. These tips are from the National Fire Prevention Association.

If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacture as fire retardant.

If you are going to buy a fresh cut 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 (3) 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, but not both.

Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three (3) strands of mini string light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.

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 when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage or placed outside against the home. Recycle your cut Christmas tree with the Darke County Solid Waste District. For more information, Visit their website : www.co.darke.oh.us/solidwaste or call 937-547-0827