



# Winter Holiday SAFETY

The holidays present an increased risk of home fires. Ensure a happy and safe holiday season for you and your family with these tips from your friends at Metro Fire.

## Candles

Consider using flameless candles!

The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

- Keep lit candles at least 12" from anything that can burn, and remember to snuff out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Never leave a child or pet alone in a room with a burning candle.

## Christmas Trees

Though Christmas tree fires are not overly common, when they occur, they are more likely to be deadly than other fire types, causing four times more deaths.

- When choosing a fresh tree, make sure it has green needles that don't fall off when touched. Cut 2" from the base of the trunk before placing it in the stand. Add water to the tree stand daily.
- Place the tree at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, space heaters, radiators, candles and heat vents or lights. Ensure it is not blocking an exit.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the home or going to bed.
- Dried-out trees are a fire hazard and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed alongside your home. When Christmas is over, get rid of the tree.

## Lights & Decor

Nearly half of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, not both. Make sure you are using the right kind.
- Lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections should be replaced.
- Check the manufacturer's instructions for the maximum number of light strands to connect.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

For more information, visit our website: [www.metrofire.ca.gov](http://www.metrofire.ca.gov)