As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

PICKING THE TREE

▷ If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire-retardant.
▷ 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, but not both.
▷ 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.
▷ Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
▷ Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

FACTS

⚠️ Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees.
⚠️ 48% of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.
⚠️ A heat source too close to the tree causes 27% of the fires.

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