

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

CHRISTMAS TREE INFORMATION HANDOUT

The Culver City Fire Department, in conjunction with the California State Fire Marshal, wishes you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. To better assure this, the following is suggested:

TREE

- Select a fresh tree with needles that do not pull out easily from the branches and that do not break when gently bent.
- Consider having your tree sprayed with a California State Fire Marshal approved flame-retardant chemical. (If the tree is to be used in a public location, the tree is required to meet State guidelines – see the handout for “Christmas Trees used in Public Locations.”)
- Re-cut the trunk at least one inch above the old cut as soon as you get home. This opens the pores which have been clogged by tree sap and allows the tree to absorb water. The fresh-cut surface should be creamy-white, not yellow or brown.
- Clean your tree stand with a capful of bleach mixed with water to inhibit the growth of organisms that can block the tree’s intake of water. Be careful not to spill any bleach on your carpeting.
- Place the tree into a sturdy stand which holds at least one gallon of water as soon as possible. If the tree is not going into the house soon after purchase, it should be stored in a bucket of water on a cool porch or patio away from wind and the sun.
- Check the water level in the tree stand daily and refill when necessary with lukewarm water (commercial floral preservatives can be added.) An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the trunk, a seal will form and no additional water will be absorbed by the tree.

PLACEMENT

- Place the tree away from heat sources such as heating vents, fireplaces, wood stoves and fireplace inserts, radiators, television sets and sunny windows

Culver City Employees take pride in effectively providing the highest levels of service to enrich the quality of life for the community by building on our tradition of more than seventy-five years of public service, by our present commitment, and by our dedication to meet the challenges of the future.

- Be careful not to block exit ways with the rearranged furniture or with the tree.

LIGHTING

- Never use candles on your tree or on any evergreen decorations. We recommend the use of miniature lights which produce much less heat thus reducing the drying effect upon the tree.
- Check all lighting sets for having an Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) label.
- Do not connect more than 200 midget lights together through one string or cord.
- Always check lights before putting them on the tree. Replace sets if any bare wires or bulb filaments are exposed, sockets are cracked or broken, or plugs and connectors have loose or missing