Christmas Fire Safety

Make sure you have working smoke alarms.

Have at least one working carbon monoxide detector in the house.

Have a fire extinguisher available.

Use only lights rated for outdoor use on the exterior of the home.

Never use light strings that show signs of wear.

Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors.

Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord. Avoid overloading wall outlets.

Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground, and out of snow or water.

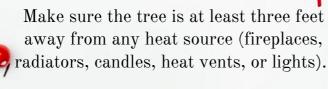Extinguish fireplace ashes before going to bed, or leaving the house.

After a party, check under and around chairs, sofas, and other furniture for smoldering cigarettes if guests were smoking in the house.

Christmas Tree Safety

Consider an artificial tree as it is much safer and cleaner. If using a real tree, leave it outside until ready to decorate. Make sure the tree is secured, and cannot be knocked over.

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source (fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights).
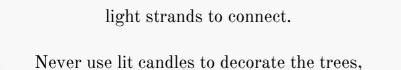
Make sure it is not blocking an exit.

Add water to the tree stand daily.

Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.

Replace any string that has worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.

Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

Never use lit candles to decorate the trees, whether it is an artificial or real tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home, going to bed, or when not in use.

Get rid of the tree. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards, and make them last longer.

FIRE SAFE South Carolina
A Community Risk Reduction Program