



Crystal Park Volunteer Fire Department

#2 Waterfall Loop, Manitou Springs, CO 80829

Community Safety Bulletin #2

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Christmas Tree Tips



Decorating the Christmas tree is a favorite part of the holiday. The National Safety Council offers some safety tips to make sure a mishap doesn't spoil your holiday season.

Christmas Trees

- A real tree can add to the spirit of Christmas by filling your home with beauty and the scent of pine. But a real tree can also pose a fire hazard. Each year, more than 400 residential fires involve Christmas trees and tragically nearly 40 deaths and 100 injuries result from those fires.
- Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend and not break and should be hard to pull off the branches. On fir species, a needle pulled from a fresh tree will snap when bent, much like a fresh carrot. Also, look for a trunk sticky with sap.
- Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly. Make sure the tree is at least three feet (one meter) away from any heat source, such as fireplaces and radiators. Try to position the tree near an outlet so that cords are not running long distances. Do not place the tree where it may block exits.
- If you use an artificial tree, choose one that tested and labeled as fire resistant. Artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label.
- Safely dispose of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and should not be left in a house or garage, or placed against the house.



Tree lights

- Never place lighted candles on a tree or near any flammable materials. Only use indoor lights indoors. Look for the UL label. Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Replace or repair any damaged light sets. If the glass readily separates from the bulb's base, the bulb should not be used. To avoid the possibility of a dangerous electric shock, do not insert or remove bulbs with the set plugged in, especially if outdoors.
- Also, use no more than three light sets on any one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs. Burned out bulbs should be replaced promptly because the remaining bulbs burn brighter and hotter for each burned out bulb.
- Never use Christmas lights on a metallic tree because a person could be electrocuted if the tree becomes charged with electricity from metallic tree needle decorations getting into the light sockets.
- Any set to be used outdoors should be specifically constructed and labeled for outdoor use. Do not use indoor lights for outside lighting. Remove outdoor lights as soon as the season is over; they are not designed for prolonged exposure to the elements, especially in winter weather.

Tree ornaments

- Always use the proper step stool or ladder to reach high places. Read labels before you use materials that come in jars, cans and spray cans. Avoid placing breakable tree ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower branches where small children or pets can reach them. Do not hang popcorn chains and candy canes on the tree when small children are present. They may think that other tree ornaments are also edible

How to contact us: If it's an emergency – Dial 911
Visit our Website at: Crystalparkvfd.org

Email the CPVFD Officers
Chief – John Hennessey – jhennessey@crystalparkvfd.org
DChief – Paul Welsch – pwelsch@crystalparkvfd.org

Test your fire safety IQ

Fire kills thousands of people in North America every year, most in their own homes. Most of these occur needlessly. Understanding the dangers of fire, how to avoid them and how to react when fire occurs will lessen the chances that you will become a victim. In taking this fun quiz it is our hope that people will learn something about the cause of fires and change the way they respond when they occur.

The answers are listed at the bottom.

1. What is the number one cause of home fire fatalities?

- a) Smoking materials
- b) Cooking equipment
- c) Lightning
- d) Heating equipment

2. Where do the majority of fire related deaths occur?

- a) School
- b) Work
- c) Home
- d) Vehicles

3. Which of the following time segments account for the largest number of home fire deaths?

- a) 6PM to midnight
- b) Midnight to 4AM
- c) 4AM to 10AM
- d) 10AM to 6PM

4. In what room do the largest number of home fires start?

- a) Recreation room
- b) Bedroom
- c) Kitchen
- d) Utility room

5. Most fire-related deaths result from burns.

- a) True b) False

6. If a fire occurs while you are asleep, the smoke will awaken you.

- a) True b) False

7. If your clothing were to catch on fire, you should:

- a) Run to the tub or shower
- b) Call the fire department
- c) Stop, drop and roll
- d) Put baking soda on it

8. If a grease fire starts in a pot on the stove, what should you do?

- a) Escape and call the fire department
- b) Pour water on it
- c) Slide a lid over the pan
- d) Turn off the heat

9. If you receive a burn while cooking, what should you do immediately?

- a) Smear butter on it
- b) Run cold water on it
- c) Apply ointment
- d) Pack it with ice

10. In what season do the largest number of home fires occur?

- a) Spring
- b) Summer
- c) Fall
- d) Winter

Answers: 1a, 2c, 3b, 4c, 5f, 6f, 7c, 8c & d, 9b, 10d

Other Fire Safety Tips

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplemental heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space. Use hot water or a UL-labeled device such as a hand-held dryer for thawing.
- If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event fire should strike. Be sure that all windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.
- If there is a fire cistern near your home, you can assist the fire department by keeping the cistern cover clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be easily located.

Finally...

- Be sure every level of your home has a Working smoke detector, and be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis. Batteries should be replaced at seasonal time changes (April and November) each year.
- Contact your local fire department (non-Emergency number: 685-1444) for advice if you have a question on home fire safety.

FOR AN EMERGENCY: DIAL 911

Don't Forget: We now have emergency equipment in the park ~ Stop & Pull to the curb when you see the emergency lights!