



Contact: Toms River Bureau of Fire Prevention  
(732) 240-5153

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Toms River Bureau of Fire Prevention offers Holiday Decorating Safety Tips**

(Toms River, NJ) As we continue through the Holiday Season, the Toms River Bureau of Fire Prevention would like to remind everyone of the need to practice fire safety, particularly when decorating your home and choosing a tree.

“According to the U.S. Fire Administration one of every three home Christmas tree fires is caused by electrical problems. The best way to prevent a Christmas tree fire is to water it every day and place it away from heat sources such as a fireplace, woodstove, radiator or space heater,” said Bob Yaiser, public education officer for the Bureau of Fire Prevention.

#### **Christmas Trees**

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing your tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet from any heat source.
- Add water to the stand initially and be sure to add water daily.
- Turn off the tree when leaving the house or going to bed



#### **Lighting**

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Some lights are for indoor use only. Always read the instructions.
- Replace any string of lights with worn cords or loose bulb connections.
- Never use candles to light a tree. Keep candles away from other decorations.
- Always turn off holidays lights inside and outside your home before going to bed or leaving the house.

In closing, every home should have operating an operating smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector.

For more information about fire safety, contact the Toms River Bureau of Fire Prevention at (732) 240-5153 or online at [www.trfireprevention.com](http://www.trfireprevention.com). On behalf of Toms River Township, the Joint Board of Fire Commissioners, and the Toms River Township Bureau of Fire Prevention we wish you a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

# PUT A ON **FREEZE** WINTER HOLIDAY FIRES

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

Connect  
**no more  
than**



**3** strands of  
mini light  
sets.

Although live Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are dangerous. On average,

**1** of every **40**



reported home **Christmas tree fires** resulted in **death.**

Connect  
**no more  
than**



**50** bulbs for screw-in light sets.

A heat source too close to the **Christmas tree** causes

**1** in every **6** of the fires.

**2** out of

**5** home decoration fires are started by candles.



Keep candles at least



**12** inches away from anything that burns.

Make sure your tree is at least



**3** feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents.

Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit: [www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/winter/) and [www.nfpa.org/winter/](http://www.nfpa.org/winter/)

