Holiday Fire Safety Tips

The holiday season is a time when families and friends come together to celebrate. During this season, there is also an increase in the usage of holiday lights, decorations, candles, Christmas trees, and other potential fire hazards. Here are some tips to help minimize the risk of fire and other injuries.

Christmas Trees
- When purchasing an artificial tree, make sure it bears the “Fire Resistant” label.
- When purchasing a natural tree, buy the freshest one you can find. A fresh tree is green, the needles are hard to pull from the branches, and when the trunk is tapped on the ground the tree shouldn’t lose too many needles.
- Make sure the tree is placed at least three feet away from any heat source (i.e. fireplaces, radiators, candles or heating vents.)
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

Holiday Decorations
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory and inspect them for frayed wires, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before use.
- Do not link more than three strands of lights together unless the directions state that it is safe.
- Do not overload the circuits.
- Do not leave lights on unattended.

By following these tips, your family and friends can enjoy a memorable and safe holiday season.

How to Buy a Green Gift...
- Be thoughtful about your purchases and select items built to last. Even green options don’t make good gifts if they end up in the attic or landfill.
- Select products made from recycled or renewable materials.
- Look for fairly traded imports, such as jewelry, housewares, and handicrafts.
- When in doubt, buy food. Organic, Fair Trade Certified, and locally grown foods are a safe bet and usually don’t go to waste.

Recycle your live Christmas tree! If you’re not sure how or where to recycle your tree, check out Earth911 [http://earth911.com/seasonal/green-your-holidays/] for tips on the tree recycling options nearest you. If you are a city of Irvine resident, you can recycle your tree for free at:

Sunset Environmental Transfer Station
16122 Construction Circle West
Irvine, CA 92606
(949) 451-2600