

# HOLIDAY FIRE PREVENTION

## **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**

Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long and has probably dried out.

## **Caring for and Disposing of Your Tree**

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Do not put your live tree up too early. Keep the tree stand filled water at all times.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. Dispose of your tree by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

## **Holiday Lights, Decorations and Candle Care**

- Maintain your holiday lights inspect for damage before using.
- Do not overload electrical outlets or link more than 3 light strands.
- Do not leave holiday lights unattended.
- Use only nonflammable or flame-retardant decorations and place all decorations away from heat sources.
- Never put wrapping paper in a fireplace.
- Make sure artificial or metallic trees are flame retardant.
- Never put lit candles on a tree
- Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame – candles, lighters or matches.
- Avoid using lit candles, if you do, use stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked over.
- Never leave the house with candles burning.