



## **Holiday Decorating Safety Recommendations** **From the Fairfield Fire Department** **Office of the Fire Marshal** **203-254-4720**

**The following are safe home holiday decorating recommendations:**



Caution should be used with lit candles and they should never be left unattended. Kinaras, Menorahs and Christmas candles need be located a safe distance away from combustible materials. They are to be in sturdy stands and secured upright. NEVER decorate a tree with candles.

All sources of lighting, both direct and indirect, should be in good condition and be tested and labeled or listed for the specific purpose by a recognized testing laboratory. All lighting should be turned off or disconnected when the area is unattended.

Use caution with all liquid fueled decorations such as some menorahs and kerosene style lamps. Like candles, these decorations should also be secured upright. ANY OPEN FLAME SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED.



All holiday decorations are to be located a safe distance away from sources of heat such as heaters, stoves, television sets and candles. Decorations should not be hung on or near a working fireplace.

Overloaded electrical outlets and faulty wires are a common cause of holiday related accidents. Worn-out electrical cords and plugs should be replaced. Avoid too many plugs in one outlet. Use multi-outlet power strips when running multiple applications.



Metal trees, artificial trees that are flame retardant and natural trees with an adequately moist root ball, pose less of a fire hazard than cut trees.

***The following are some recommendations for cut natural trees:***

Before natural trees are set up, the trunk should be sawed off above the original cut and set in a stand with a large water supply. This fresh cut opens up the sap channels in the tree so that it can take up water. Keep the tree stand water level above the cut in the trunk to prevent the tree from forming a sap seal.

All trees should be held upright in a sturdy stand having a base that is sufficiently broad enough to effectively support the tree. Guy wires may be needed to steady oversized trees.

Cut trees can drink up to a gallon of water per day – check the water level daily and supply fresh water as needed – a cut tree will stay fresh for about ten days when properly cared for.

Please feel free to contact the office if you have any questions or concerns about the safety of your decorations.



***Have a safe and happy holiday season!***