

Christmas Tree Safety Tips

As you decorate your home this holiday season, remember to be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when picking out your tree.

The Tree:

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing the tree in the stand cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure you place the tree at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators,

candles, heat vents, or lights.

- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand daily.

Lights:

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor use, and some are for only outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three stands of mini-string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs

for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instruction for number of LED strands to connect.

- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas:

- Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed against the home.

Holiday Shopping Tips

The holiday season is in full swing, and everyone is busy shopping for the best deals. Unfortunately, thieves love this time of the year, too. Here are a few safety tips to help make your holiday shopping a safe and happy one.

- **Shop with a friend.** You are more likely to become a target if you are alone.
- **Park your car in a well-lit area.** Try to avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows. Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked. Write down where you parked or even take a picture so you are not wandering looking for your car with your arms full of packages. Set your alarm!
- **Stay alert when you are walking to your car.** Talking or texting on your phone or digging in your purse for your keys while walking is a distraction and makes you an easy target. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask mall security to escort you to your vehicle.
- **Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook.** An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account number.
- **Tell someone where you plan to shop and what time you expect to be home.** This is especially important for those who don't normally go out very late or early. This will give family, friends, and police an idea where to start looking if you don't return.
- **Carry only one credit card and a minimal amount of cash.** Leave all the extra pictures and personal items at home.
- **Always put your purse inside the car and lock the door** (keep your keys) **before you start loading the car.**
- Never leave your purse sitting out in the cart.
- **If someone tries to steal your purse, LET IT GO!** It's not worth your life.

Facts:

- Each year fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees.
- One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
- Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every six of the fires.
- Almost half of all home decoration fires are started by candles.
- Half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

Source: National Fire Protection Association



Shoppers Beware!

Thieves sometimes linger in busy parking lots looking for valuables being moved out of sight. "Stash" your valuables before you get to your destination not after.



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PUBLIC SAFETY

“Driving Under the Influence”



Whether you are having a few cocktails at a party or reaching for that cold medicine, remember California’s drunk driving law is also a drugged driving law. It refers to “driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.” If an officer suspects that you are under the influence of drugs, the officer can legally require you to take a blood or urine test. Drivers who refuse these tests are subject to longer driver license suspensions and revocations.

The use of any drug (prescription, over-the-counter, or illegal drugs) which impairs your ability to drive is illegal.

Here are some facts to remember:

- Most drugs taken for cold, hay fever, allergy, or to calm nerves or muscles can make a person drowsy.
- Medicines taken together or used with alcohol can be dangerous. Many drugs have unexpected side effects when taken with alcohol.
- Pep pills, “uppers,” and diet pills can make a driver more alert for a short time. Later, however, they can cause a person to be nervous, dizzy, and unable to concentrate. They can also affect vision.



California Driving Laws

(from the DMV 2014 handbook)

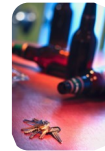
- It is illegal to drive after consuming excessive amounts of alcohol in any form (including medications such as cough syrup), or taking any drug (including prescription medication), or using any combination of alcohol or drugs that impairs your ability to drive.
- You must not drink any amount of alcohol in any vehicle.
- A container of liquor, beer, or wine carried inside the vehicle must be full, sealed, and unopened. Otherwise, it must be kept in the trunk of the vehicle or in a place where passengers do not sit.
- Keeping an alcoholic drink in the glove compartment is specifically against the law.
- Blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits:

It is illegal for any person to operate a vehicle with a:

- BAC of 0.08 or higher, if the person is age 21 or older.
- BAC of 0.01 or higher, if the person is under 21
- BAC of 0.01 or higher at any age if the person is on “DUI probation
- BAC of 0.04 or higher, in any vehicle requiring a commercial driver license (CDL)-with or without a CDL issued to the driver.

The DMV may take an administrative action against your driving privilege after you are detained or arrested for a DUI.

Designated Driver



Before you head out to your holiday party, assign a designated driver. Remember a designated driver does not consume **any** alcohol.

Holiday Cheer



If you plan to consume alcohol during the holiday season, remember these facts.

- Alcohol is the same no matter what form it takes. A 12 oz. can of beer has roughly the same amount of alcohol as a 6 oz. glass of wine and a 1.5 oz. shot of whiskey.
- Alcohol takes time to metabolize out of your system. Drinking coffee won’t speed up that time.
- Be aware that drinking on an empty stomach will allow the alcohol to enter your bloodstream much faster.
- Know what you are drinking. If you don’t know exactly what is contained in that holiday punch, you could be consuming much more alcohol than you imagined.

If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 9-1-1

Provide law enforcement with the exact location, vehicle make and model, and license plate number.

One call could save a life.

Sources: NFPA National Fire Protection Association, US Fire Administration, National Safety Commission, CA DMV Handbook, National Crime Prevention Council

**Call 9-1-1
EMERGENCY
IN PROGRESS**

NON-EMERGENCY
Fire (916) 774-5800
Police (916)-774-5000
Extension 1

Police Department
1051 Junction Blvd.
Roseville CA 95678
(916) 774-5000
www.roseville.ca.us/police

Fire Headquarters
401 Oak Street, Fire Station #1
Roseville, CA 95678
(916) 774-5800
www.roseville.ca.us/fire

**Abandoned Vehicle
Hotline**
(916) 746-1022
Alarms/Alarm Permits
(916) 774-5093
Animal Control
(916)774-5090
**Community Events &
Neighborhood Watch**
(916) 774-5050
PDCommunityServices@roseville.ca.us

Graffiti Abatement
(916) 746-1021
**Police News & Crime
Alert Emails:**
www.roseville.ca.us/enotify
RCONA
(Roseville Coalition Of
Neighborhood
Associations)
www.RCONA.org

