

# Winter Safety Tips

## Christmas Tree Safety:

- Choose fresh over cheap and dry. The fresher the tree, the less likely it will pose a fire hazard. Look for flexible needles that don't break, and a trunk with sap.
- Keep the water coming. The tree stand should contain a continuous source of water and be sturdy enough to resist toppling by kids or pets.
- Don't choke the cord. Attach only three maximum strings of lights to any one extension cord, then place cords along walls to prevent a tripping hazard. Never run them under rugs or carpets.
- Trees don't need warmth. Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, candles and even a TV.
- Not any lights will do. Use low energy, safe lighting that's been certified by a safety testing lab. Don't use damaged or frayed cords.



- Shut the lights. Never leave the lights on overnight. Same goes for any appliances not in use when you are home or away.
- Don't keep a dry tree around. Dispose of it at this point properly. Don't even keep it in the garage.
- Artificial tree safety awareness. Artificial trees should be flame resistant and have a seal for an approved safety testing laboratory if the tree contains a built-in lighting set.
- Death by artificial tree. If the tree is metal, never use electric lights, as they can charge the tree and lead to electrocution.
- Keep a fire extinguisher nearby. Make sure everyone knows its location and how to use it

### **Adopt a hydrant**

As you are shoveling out your sidewalk, your driveway, your vehicle, and more ... don't forget about those fire hydrants! A hydrant that is shoveled out, with clear access for the firefighters to connect to, expedites the process of getting water onto the fire. "Adopt" your neighborhood hydrant

neighborhood hydrant and keep it clear. If you have kids, this is a great community service project for them!



## **Portable Generators**

Portable generators are useful during winter storms, but if not used safely, they can cause injuries and death.

Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.

Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.

Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.

Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.

Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.

