

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Santa Clara Unit



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**RELEASE DATE:
December 8, 2014**

Beware of Holiday Season Fire Dangers

Morgan Hill –The Morgan Hill Fire Department, South Santa Clara County Fire District and CAL FIRE are asking the public to give their families and themselves the most important holiday gift: a fire safe holiday. Holiday decoration fires are most likely to happen in the living room, family room or den. Almost half of all home decoration fires are started by candles, mostly because the decorations were placed too close to a heat source. To ensure a safe and happy holiday season firefighters offer these safety tips:

Holiday Decorations

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Use UL listed extension cords, UL listed indoor lights indoors and UL listed outdoor lights outdoors.
- Replace any light strings that are worn or have broken cords or have loose bulb connections.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep your exits clear by keeping decorations away from windows and doors.
- Use flameless candles in place of real candles.

Christmas Trees

- When selecting your live Christmas tree, choose a fresh one with green needles
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut two inches from the base of the trunk for better water absorption.
- Check the water level in the tree stand every day.
- Keep both live and artificial trees at least 3 feet away from any heat source including fireplaces and heating vents.
- Decorate Christmas trees with lights that have been tested and labeled by a recognized testing lab.
- Never use lit candles to decorate any tree.
- Unplug Christmas tree lights when leaving home or going to bed.

Find more information visit the CAL FIRE website at www.fire.ca.gov or see [Holiday Fire Safety Tips](#)

The CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit serves: Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. Morgan Hill Fire Department and South Santa Clara County Fire District

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