

## So you got that fresh Christmas tree home, now what?

### A few ideas:

- Get it into water. A tree may consume a gallon of water on the first day home. It is important that it stays hydrated (just like you)! Christmas trees need to keep their trunk submerged in water-check it daily.
- Hot water, sugar or aspirin really do not help keep a tree any fresher.
- Locate your tree away from heaters, vents and any heat-producing appliance.
- Use only UL approved lights on your tree. Please turn off the lights when you are not home or going to bed. New LED lights operate much cooler than old incandescent lights.
- Locate it away from heat sources such as a fireplace, heaters or heat vents.

Having a fire extinguisher handy can make a big difference!!

### After the holidays:

Disposing of a tree safely could not be much easier.

- Place your unflocked tree curbside for pickup on your regular collection day. Just cut the tree up as needed to fit inside your yard waste container and place it at the curb.
- You can drop off your tree at the Rohnert Park Community Center, after December 24<sup>th</sup> during normal business hours.
- Managers of apartments or other multi-family complexes can arrange to have special pickups. Contact your manager.
- Some non-profit organizations will pick up your tree for a donation.
- Do not “save it for firewood” or use branches as kindling. Sap-laden trees burn at a tremendous rate and can line your chimney with creosote, resulting in a chimney fire.

**Put a FREEZE on Winter Holiday Fires**

**Did you know?** A heat source too close to the Christmas tree causes **1 in every 4** winter fires.

**As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.** Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.

Make sure your tree is **at least 3 feet away** from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators and space heaters.

U.S. Fire Administration | NFPA

**Happy (and safe) Holiday wishes from Rohnert Park Department of Public Safety.**