

A MESSAGE FROM BAYHAM FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

*Christmas is a time for celebration and being thankful.
Especially this time of year, your Fire Department does not want to be responding to calls.
But in order to accomplish this, we must all pitch in and remember our safety messages.*



Remember, a Christmas tree is a living thing. Look after it carefully as you would a cut flower. Once you select a Christmas tree, following these suggestions will keep it fresh and safe for up to 3 weeks:

1. If you buy a tree several days before you plan to set it up, store the tree outdoors or on a cool porch or patio until you are ready to decorate it. An area that provides protection from the wind and sun will help the tree retain its moisture.
2. If you plan to store the tree for several days, make a straight cut across the butt end of the tree about one inch from the end. This opens the tree stem so it can take up water. Store the tree upright and place the butt end in a container of water.
3. When you bring the tree into the house for decorating, make another fresh cut across the trunk about an inch from the original cut. Use a tree stand that holds plenty of water.
4. Trees are thirsty. They may drink up to four litres of water per day, so be sure to check daily and supply fresh water as needed. A stand that holds at least four litres of water is recommended. If you allow the water level to drop below the bottom of the tree, a seal will form just as it does on a cut flower and a new cut will be necessary.
5. Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators, television sets and other sources of heat. Turn off the tree lights when you leave and before you go to bed at night.
6. Avoid the use of combustible decorations. Check all electric lights and connections. Do not use lights with worn or frayed cords and **NEVER** use lighted candles on a Christmas tree.

BE PREPARED IN CASE OF A TRAVELLING EMERGENCY

Remind your parents to have a survival kit in their vehicle that includes a shovel, blanket, extra clothing and footwear. Other important items are sand, traction mats, tow chain, compass, paper towels and road flares.

INCLUDE FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS

The holidays are a time for celebration with friends and family. Remember a few fire safety tips:

- Never leave candles unattended
- Create a safe area for children in the kitchen
- Check holiday lights for burnt out light bulbs or frayed wires, and replace older light bulbs with newer ones that produce less heat
- If you decorate a cut tree, water it regularly to keep it from drying out
- Unplug your tree lights when you leave the room

We are all responsible to make the holiday season free from fires. When we have a holiday season without fires, we are also helping to keep our local firefighters safe so they can enjoy the holiday season with their families.