Christmas Fire Safety Tips

Dublin Fire Brigade Headquarters Tel: (01) 673 4000 Email: fire@dublincity.ie

- Place real Christmas trees securely in a sturdy base filled with water – metal stands cause trees to dry out and become flammable
- Check water level daily
- Ensure artificial trees have been pre-treated to increase flame resistance
- Keep tree away from candles, heaters, fireplaces or other heat sources
- Dispose of tree properly – never burn a real tree in the fireplace
- View a video that demonstrates how quickly the fire can develop when a DRY tree is exposed to an open flame.
- Only buy Christmas lights marked with a safety standard
- Make sure a competent person checks all connections and examines the wiring for fraying
- If in doubt, throw them out.
- Don’t overload sockets
- Unplug all Christmas lights and electrical appliances before leaving your home or going to bed
- Ensure lights are suitable for outdoor use
- Check all wiring and follow manufacturers’ instructions.
- Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture building up.
- Never use indoor extension leads outside.
- Keep outdoor electrical connections above ground and out of puddles and snow.
- Ensure trees hung with Christmas lights are not touching power lines
- Keep them out of reach of children and pets
- Trim the wick on candles to 6mm (1/4 inch) each time before burning
- Always use an appropriate candleholder placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface
- Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents and air currents
- Extinguish a candle if it smokes or flickers repeatedly or if the flame becomes too high
- Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris at all times
- Do not burn a candle for longer than manufacturer recommends
- Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container
- Place lighted candles at least 75mm apart from one another
- Never place a candle on top of a TV set and keep well away from curtains
- Always extinguish candles before leaving the house or going to bed
- Never use candles on Christmas trees, even artificial ones
- Remember hot wax burns!
- Never burn wrapping paper in your fireplace
- Keep strings of Christmas cards away from candles and open fires
- Fit a spark guard in front of open fires
- Extinguish cigarettes properly and do not let ashtrays get overfilled
- Check that your smoke alarms are in perfect working order
- Never remove batteries from smoke alarm to use in children’s toys
- Clean out the oven and stove prior to Christmas

The University Safety Office wishes you all a Happy and Safe Christmas holiday

Merry Christmas