

Holiday Time Good Time to Think of Safety Tips

"Holiday time is a good time to consider some home safety tips," urges Frederick McGinnis, Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services. "Don't mar your Christmas holidays with an accident."

Christmas trees are a source of fire accidents each year. If fresh trees are used, the following safety precautions are recommended:

1. Select a truly fresh tree. It is fresh if:

- The needles are hard to pull off.
- The needles bend without breaking.
- The base of the tree trunk is sticky with resin.
- The needles don't fall off when the tree is bounced on the ground before placement in a tree stand.

2. Cut off 2 inches of the trunk, mount the tree in a bucket of wet sand or in a waterholding stand with

widespread legs. Fasten the tree to the ceiling or walls with fine guy wires to prevent its tipping over. Keep fresh water in the base of the holder.

3. Locate your tree away from a fireplace, radiator, hot air register, gas heater, or other heat sources.
4. Avoid blocking a doorway with the tree in case there should be a fire.

As more and more people

use artificial trees, the fire hazards are reduced, but only if customers insist on non-burnable trees.