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This season - avoid Holiday Tragedies

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Halton Hills: Tragedies can happen in a moment's notice. Accidental household fires and the number of fire deaths are at their highest during this time of year. Unfortunately it is the result of what so many of us look forward to every year, the beautiful, famed Christmas tree. The hectic pace, at which Christmas seems to direct our lifestyle, makes for needless and unnecessary injuries and deaths.

Chief of Fire Prevention and Public Education Harry Olivieri says "Our lifestyle seems to unravel with all the activities that coincide with the preparations for the perfect Christmas" and "not enough time is spent taking those extra precautions necessary for a safe holiday". Olivieri adds, "The Christmas tree has unfortunately been named as being the one of the leading causes of many, many fires in past years". It is most unfortunate that the main focal point during the Christmas season can be the cause of so much tragedy.

Chief Olivieri offers a few safety tips in the care of your Christmas tree:

1. Thoroughly check the tree for brown, dry needles when selecting that perfect tree.
2. Before placing in the stand, diagonally cut 2-3" off the base of the tree.
3. Keep the tree away from any sources of heat such as fireplaces or baseboard heaters.
4. Check and add water daily.
5. Use only CSA-Labelled indoor lights.
6. Unplug the lights before leaving the home or going to bed at night.
7. Do not overload any wall receptacles or extension cords.
8. Make sure each storey of the home is equipped with working smoke alarms.

Remember: Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Additional information about fire and life safety can be obtained by calling:

David Ford, Fire Safety Specialist (905) 873-2601 ext. 2115
David Bouskill, Fire Safety Technician (905) 873-2601 ext. 2118