

HOW TO EXTINGUISH A CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE

1 Assess the size and nature of the fire.

Quickly determine if the source of the fire is electrical, and observe how large an area of the tree is burning. A fire larger than the size of a small wastebasket cannot usually be contained, even with a home extinguisher. If the fire is that large, evacuate the building and call the fire department from a cellular phone or a neighbor's house.

2 If the fire is small and not electrical, douse it or smother it.

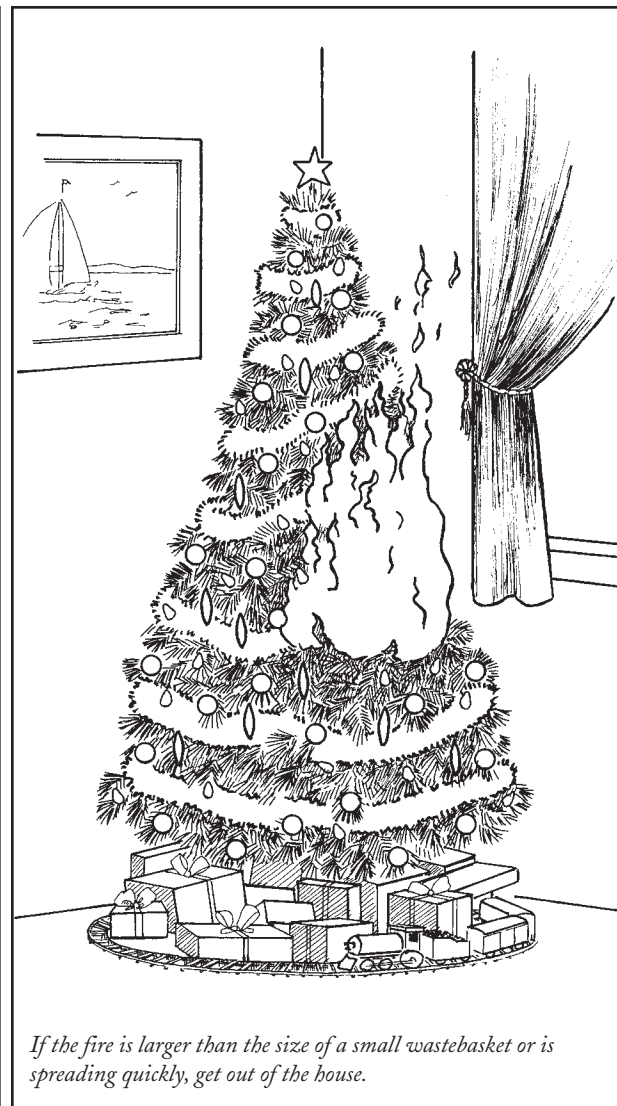
Extinguish the fire with a bucket of water or a multi-purpose (Class ABC) fire extinguisher, or smother it with a wet blanket.

3 If the fire is electrical, use a fire extinguisher.

Do not throw water on an electrical fire. Use a multi-purpose (Class ABC) home fire extinguisher.

4 When using a fire extinguisher, stand with your back toward an exit, six to eight feet from the fire, and Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep (PASS).

Pull the release tab, aim at the base of the fire, squeeze the lever to release the pressurized chemicals, and sweep from side to side as you slowly move closer to the fire.



If the fire is larger than the size of a small wastebasket or is spreading quickly, get out of the house.

- 5** **If the fire is still spreading, exit the house.**
Evacuate the building quickly. Do not attempt to save ornaments, Christmas presents, or other valuables.

HOW TO PREVENT A CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE

- 1** **Select a fresh tree.**
A dry tree is a major fire hazard; to get the freshest tree, cut it yourself. If you purchase a precut tree, run your hand down a branch to make sure it is not dry and shedding needles. Test the tree by bending a needle: If it snaps, the tree is too dry.
- 2** **Leave the tree in a bucket of water overnight.**
Place the tree in the stand the next day. Water it daily.
- 3** **Place the tree at least three feet away from a fire-place, radiator, or other heat source.**
- 4** **Unplug tree lights when not in use.**
Do not leave the lights on during the day, when you go to bed, or when you leave the house.
- 5** **Do not place lit candles on or near a tree.**
If tradition requires candles, use specially weighted sconces that do not tip over. Do not add electric tree lights or other electric equipment to or around the tree (such as a train set), in the event that water must be thrown onto the tree. Do not leave the tree unattended.

