

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2009

CONTACT: Daniel Valenzuela, Firefighter/PIO

623-695-7668 Cell

GLENDALE FIREFIGHTERS ARE ASKING FOLKS TO BE SAFE WHILE DECORATING HOME FOR HOLIDAYS

GLENDALE, Ariz. – Glendale Fire is asking everyone to be safe as families begin to decorate their homes during *the most wonderful time of the year!* According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), on average, Christmas trees are the ignition source of approximately 300 U.S. home fires each year resulting in 14 fatalities, 21 injuries and \$16.8 million in property damage. In addition, 44 percent of Christmas tree fires are caused by an electrical problem or malfunction.

Here are some tips from the Glendale Fire Department and the NFPA:

- Decorators should make sure that any electrical cords used are in good working order.
- If you put up a real Christmas tree, regularly check your tree for fresh, green needles. Remember to keep your tree watered at all times and make sure your tree is at least 3 feet from fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, heating vents and other sources of heat. Don't place the tree where it blocks an exit.
- Ensure outside lights, decorations and extension cords are rated for outside use.
- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration – new or old – before plugging it in.
- Don't use staples or nails to have lights strings.
- Test all smoke alarms.
- Create and practice your home escape plans.

More safety information can be found at www.glendaleaz.com/fire or www.nfpa.org

**Season's Greetings from every member of the Glendale Fire
Department!**

Glendale Firefighters are available for media interviews in regards to Holiday Safety.

###

NEWS
Glendale, az

The Glendale
Fire Dept.
is a nationally
accredited
agency

The Glendale
Fire Dept.
responds to
more than 26,000
calls a year

Glendale
firefighters
remind you to
use supervision
around water

City of Glendale
Public Safety
6835 N. 57th Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85301
www.glendaleaz.com