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Don’t Get Burned This Winter

By Alanych Delacueva

Each holiday season, fires consume over $1 million in damages and injure to more than 3,000 people in the U.S. according to the California State University East Bay (CSUEB) Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE). Practicing and presenting in advance can reduce the chance of having a fire in the home this winter. Residents can have a fire-free holiday season. Having a working smoke detector makes the difference.

If a smoke detector goes off get out within one minute, then call 911. If it is a carbon monoxide detector, leave the home. Do notFormField the smoke detector because it is a fire-starting tool, only call 911. Do not take the smoke detector back into the home.

The National Fire Protection Association and CAL-FIRE recommends that if it is cold outside make sure that it is flame-retardant. You are going to want a lot of water in the tree,” said Candy Arcilla of ABC Tree Farms in San Jose. “In the home there is not a lot of moisture in the air so it dries the tree. The needles will start dropping and once it begins it is difficult to control, especially if it is light and it is close to the home.”

Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in 2,000 injuries and more than $1 million in property damages as per U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) as an entity of the Department of Homeland Security’s (FEMA).

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