

'Tis the Season to be Safe

MySafe:LA reminds Angelenos about Holiday Fire Safety

(November 15, 2012 -- Los Angeles) The holidays are a time of joy and togetherness, but the magic of the season can turn to tragedy if there's a fire. MySafe:LA, the public education partner of the Los Angeles Fire Department, is reminding Angelenos to be FireSmart™ this holiday season.

At a safety demonstration at Los Angeles Fire Station 27 in Hollywood, MySafe:LA Education Director Cameron Barrett did live television cut-ins to show viewers how quickly holiday festivities can go up in flames.

"Christmas trees and candles and holiday lights raise the fire danger in your home at this time of year," said Barrett, displaying an overloaded electrical outlet, which can cause an electrical fire. "And all the entertaining and holiday cooking can lead to stove-top and oven-fires."

Barrett demonstrated how pouring water on a grease fire causes a dangerous flare-up while a little bit of baking soda can extinguish it.

But the real show stopper was a demonstration of how quickly a dried out Christmas tree can become a blazing inferno. With the crew of LAFD Engine 27 standing by, MySafe:LA ignited a tinder dry Christmas tree, which burst into flame within seconds. It was quickly doused by the firefighters.

"This graphic and destructive demonstration illustrates why people need to make sure their Christmas trees are adequately watered," said Barrett. "They dry out so quickly, especially when the heat is on or there's a fire in the fireplace. It's a tragedy waiting to happen."

Safety Tip - when buying a cut tree at your local lot, have a worker saw off the bottom few inches of the trunk. The fresh wood will thirstily drink up the water you put in your tree stand.

"We love that piney smell of a Christmas tree," MySafe:LA PIO Todd Leitz said. "But that's one of the cues that your tree is getting dangerously dry. If you can smell it, water it."

For more holiday safety tips, visit www.mysafela.org.

MySafe:LA is an independent 501-(c)(3) that covers a wide range of issues, including residential fire safety, wildfires, earthquakes, burns, floods, accident and injury prevention, pet/animal safety, carbon monoxide awareness as well as holiday and seasonal safety issues such as Fourth of July Fireworks safety and Christmas tree fires.



MySafe:LA



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