

A Message from your Fire Chief...

Chief V. Thorpe points out that tests have proved that the safest tree is a tree with its butt set in water. If a tree has dried out, however, before it is set up, it cannot regain its safe moisture level. A dry tree, he warns, can be ignited by a single match, to



THE UNINVITED GUEST

burn violently to a charred state in a few seconds.

So-called "flame-proofing" of natural trees, by spraying with chemical mixtures, is not a sure protection; and even artificial trees present their own serious fire hazards. Metallic trees, because they are conductors of electricity, should never be decorated with strings of lights. If lighting is desired, it should be provided by floodlights set apart from the tree.

Some plastic trees, made from styrene materials, and those trees known as "Hong Kong" trees, are flammable and may burn violently.

Never use candles on or near the Christmas tree, or in holders made of polystyrene foam.

Fire Chief Vic Thorpe adds a final serious warning.

"Never leave small children unattended. This is even more important at a season when last-minute shopping, or visiting with friends, may tempt parents to relax their vigilance."

TERRACE BAY FIRE DEPARTMENT