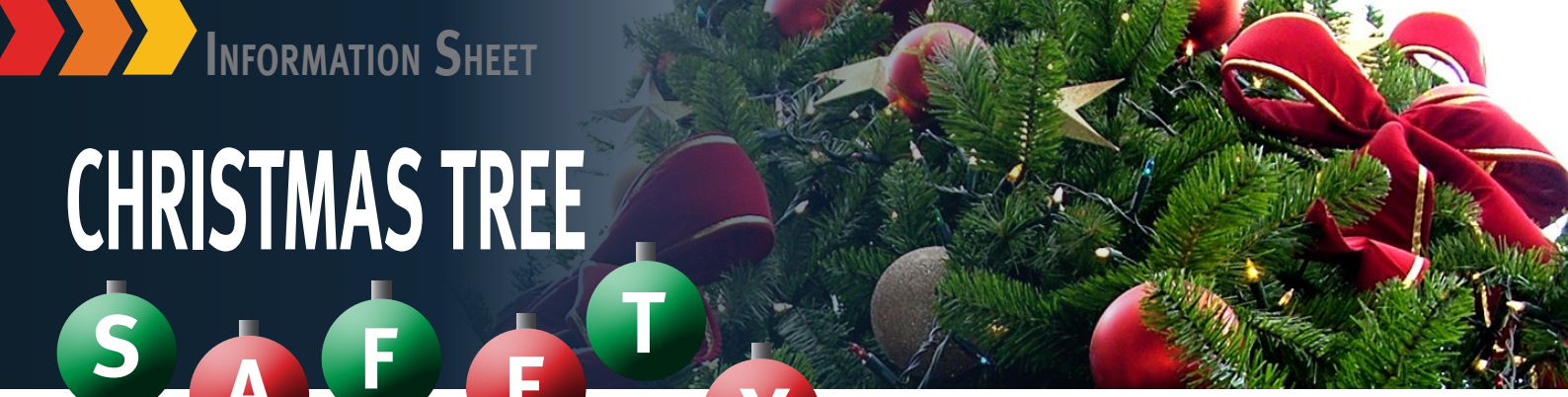
INFORMATION SHEET

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY



While Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they can be quite serious whether your tree is living or from a box.

General Safety

- Choose a tree that will fit easily into your home.
- Ensure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Make sure the tree is at least one metre away from any heat source, like candles or lights.
- Do not smoke near the tree.
- Use Australian-compliant decoration lights and follow manufacturer's instructions on setting up and operating.
- Check if your lights are for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights that have worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Don't overload electrical outlets with Christmas tree lights.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before going to bed or leaving home.
- Ensure heavy decorations are evenly distributed to avoid the tree falling over.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the festive season to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Living trees

- Choose real trees with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2cm from the base of the trunk to allow for water absorption. Add water to the tree stand.
- Avoid the tree drying out by adding water daily.
- Dispose of the tree after Christmas or if it becomes dry. Dried-out trees are highly flammable and a fire danger.
- Consider recycling your tree as garden mulch.

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