

## Address Signs Help Us Get There Faster

Failure to provide clear address markings may be inviting disaster in the event of an emergency where seconds might make the difference.

Depending on the location of your home (rural or residential), fire departments suggest the following methods of marking your address:

### RURAL

\*For a single driveway off a main road, affix your address to a post at the entrance to your driveway.

### RESIDENTIAL

\*Paint four-inch numbers on the curbing in front of your home.

\*Place numbers that are at least four inches tall near the front entrance (or a location easily visible from the street) in a color in contrast to the color of your home (i.e., light numbers on a dark background).

\*For apartments and other buildings with multiple occupancies, mark each separate occupant's number.

\*For a single driveway leading to multiple driveways for individual residences, affix the addresses of all residences to a post at the entrance of the main driveway. At the intersection of individual driveways,

affix addresses with arrows pointing toward individual residences.

Remember, proper addressing will assist the fire district in handling your emergency more quickly.

The fire district provides reflective address signs for a fee of \$15. Included in the price is the cost of the materials to make the sign, a signpost, and installation of the sign by qualified district personnel in an appropriate spot.

If you are interested in obtaining a reflective address sign, please call the fire district at (503) 769-3282. Help us help you.

## Natural Christmas Trees Need Special Care

Many people love having a real Christmas tree in their homes during the holidays. Real trees add a certain something to the atmosphere that you just don't get with fake trees.

State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr would like to remind everyone that natural Christmas trees need special care to keep their freshness and fire resistance.

Orr advises putting the tree in water as soon as possible. If the tree is purchased from a lot, make a fresh cut at least one-half inch up on the butt of the trunk. This will open up the pores, which have been clogged with sap, and improve the tree's ability to absorb water.

Orr also stressed the importance of watering the tree every day. An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water each day. If the water level in the tree stand drops below the cut end of

the tree trunk, a seal will form on the cut and the tree can no longer absorb water.

Keep the tree away from sources of heat to preserve its freshness. Miniature lights are a better decoration choice than standard sized lights. The cooler miniature lights do not dry the tree needles as quickly. Use only UL (Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc.) approved lights and check all decoration lights for frayed wires, broken cords, loose sockets or other electrical defects before using. Be sure not to overload the electrical circuits. Disconnect lights before retiring for the night or when you leave your home.

Fresh trees will retain some natural fire resistance as long as the needles are flexible and a glossy green color. When the needles get brittle and dull and begin to fall from the tree, it is time for the tree to go.

A dry evergreen tree burns with such astonishing intensity that flames can completely incinerate the tree within seconds and quickly ignite anything flammable. Careful disposal of Christmas trees prevents fires. Improperly discarded trees can be targets for vandals or children playing with matches or lighters.

Orr advises everyone to check and see if any volunteer organizations collect trees in your neighborhood. Scouts or service clubs often provide this service for a small contribution.

If you dispose of a tree yourself, cut it into small pieces and put in an outside covered trash can. Many communities have recycling centers that will take Christmas trees, too. Never burn the tree, branches or Christmas wrapping paper in a fireplace or woodstove. The extreme heat and numerous sparks can start a flue or roof fire.

# Cooking Corner: BBQ Turkey Steaks

Submitted by Gary Rychard

Note: This recipe requires approximately 10 boneless turkey breasts (turkey steaks).

## Marinade

- 2 cups "cheap" Chablis white wine
- 1 cup soy sauce
- 1 cup peanut oil
- 1 tsp garlic juice or canned minced garlic

Marinate thawed turkey breasts in the refrigerator for at least 24 hours.

**\*\*DO NOT save or reuse marinade.**

## Dipping sauce (We call this GRAVY!)

- 1 box brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups hot style mustard (adjust to taste)

Simmer sauce ingredients on low until mixed and heated through. Be careful not to burn. Serve sauce warm.

Barbecue turkey breasts on medium high heat. Be careful not to overcook. Keep spray bottle of water handy. Wine in marinade will cause flare ups. When breasts are just slightly underdone, place on upper rack to finish off.

**\*\*Note:** If you buy breasts in bulk (25-pound block), partially thaw to remove the amount needed. If you are slicing breasts yourself, make sure not to cut too thin or meat will overcook and become dry.

Turkey breasts are great the next day reheated or served cold.

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# Have a Fire Safe Holiday Season

## Candles:

- ◆ Keep candles away from Christmas trees, evergreen clippings, decorations, presents and wrapping paper.
- ◆ Place candles in a sturdy fire-proof candle holder where they cannot be knocked over.
- ◆ Make sure all candles are out before going to bed or leaving.

## Tree Care:

- ◆ Choose a fresh tree with a natural, deep green color and flexible needles.
- ◆ Cut off about two inches of the tree trunk at an angle to expose fresh wood for better water absorption.
- ◆ Water the tree every day. An average tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day. If the water level drops below the cut end of the tree, a seal will form on the cut and the tree will not be able to absorb any more water.

- ◆ Keep the tree away from all sources of heat to preserve its freshness. Miniature lights are a better decoration choice than standard sized lights. The cooler miniature lights do not dry the needles as quickly.
- ◆ When the needles get brittle or dull and begin to fall from the tree, it is time for the tree to go back outside.

## Lights:

- ◆ Use only lights that are UL approved. Check every set of lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections before using. Throw away anything that is not in perfect condition.
- ◆ Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can be charged with electricity from faulty lights and cause electrocution. Use colored spotlights as an alternative.
- ◆ Use no more than three sets of lights per single extension. Fol-

low the manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strings in one circuit.

- ◆ Always turn off all tree lights and decorations before you go to bed or leave your home.

## Trimming:

- ◆ Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.
- ◆ In homes with small children, avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable; keep trimmings with small removable parts out of reach of children; and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food.

## Woodstove/Fireplace Safety:

- ◆ Remove all greens, boughs, paper and other decorations from fireplace/woodstove area.
- ◆ Make sure the flue is open.
- ◆ Use a fireplace screen at all times when a fire is burning.
- ◆ Don't burn wrapping paper, boughs or trees in the fireplace. The heat could cause a flue fire.