

UTAH MAKES A LIST AND CHECKS IT TWICE: ARE THESE CHRISTMAS TREES, LIGHTS NAUGHTY OR NICE?

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Fallout from last week's disastrous Christmas tree fire at the Utah Governor's Mansion has dampened the holiday mood.

In fact, lights are being turned off in public buildings long before the last person leaves.

Gov. Mike Leavitt's Capitol office Christmas tree has been removed as a precaution, and state building officials have warned other agencies to unplug lights and remove trees if they appear dry.

"Our beautiful 15-foot tree came out Monday because we were concerned over fire safety," said Leavitt spokeswoman Vicki Varela. "We weren't sure if it had been treated {with fire retardant}."

Workers also have been ordered to turn off lights on the giant state tree in the Capitol Rotunda, except during special events.

On Tuesday, state officials continued sifting through the fire-damaged mansion at 603 E. South Temple in Salt Lake City. Officials say repairs could take a year and cost more than \$1.7 million.

The blaze was sparked by faulty wiring in the mansion's 25-foot Christmas tree. Officials have asked state agencies to inspect all trees and Christmas wiring.

In the meantime, the Leavitt family has left a Salt Lake City hotel and moved into a downtown condominium.

The Leavitts also joined holiday shopping crowds but with a unique mission: They must replace wardrobes and personal items lost in the blaze.

Except for the clothes he was wearing, all Leavitt's suits were ruined. Due to a longtime arrangement with Mr. Mac's high-volume suit store, he was able to phone for replacements.

Varela said the public has responded not only with offers of housing but also with gifts. Someone sent the governor a tie and card that said: "For the man who needs everything." Leavitt has asked that people donate to those who are "truly needy."