



CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY

The Orange County Fire Authority wants you and your loved ones to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. We are providing the following safety tips to ensure your holiday celebrations are fire safe and injury free.

Christmas trees are a traditional part of the Christmas holiday. They can also be a major source of fuel in a fire.

A fresh tree will be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, trees should have the following:

- Needles are hard to pull from branches.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk-end of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- When the trunk of a fresh tree is bounced on the ground, only a few needles will fall off the tree.

Do not rely on chemical coatings or sprays to flame-proof your tree. Any cut tree, even those treated with flame retardant, will still dry out. Daily care and watering help a tree remain relatively fire resistant longer.

- Place your tree away from fireplaces, radiators, heater vents, air ducts, and other heat sources. Make sure the tree is out of the way of day-to-day traffic and doesn't block doorways.
- Cut off approximately two (2) inches of the trunk. Mount the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide-set legs. Fasten a large tree to walls or ceiling with thin guide wires.
- Fill base of holder with water daily, maybe even twice a day. Keep it full of water while the tree is indoors (just as you would with fresh flowers). Remember - heated rooms dry trees out very quickly, creating fire hazards.
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments on lower branches where children and pets can reach them.
- Ornaments and other holiday decorations should be non-combustible or flame resistant.
- Remove your tree promptly from your home after the holidays. A dried-out tree is extremely hazardous. An ignited tree can be totally consumed by fire in 3-5 seconds, and generate over 2000 degrees of radiant heat.



**Orange County
Fire Authority**

714-573-6200

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