



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY HOLIDAY SAFETY FACT SHEET 2023



- Home electrical fires are responsible for an estimated \$1.3 billion in property damage each year (NFPA 2019).
- An average of 440 civilian deaths and 1,250 civilian injuries occurs each year due to home electrical fires (NFPA 2019).
- Local fire departments in the U.S. respond annually to an average of 44,210 home structure fires caused by heating equipment. Space heaters cause 88% of all home heating fire deaths (NFPA 2022).
- Home decoration fires cause an estimated \$13 million in property damage each year. Decorations that are too close to a heat source, such as a candle, cooking or heating equipment, cause 44% of fires involving decorations (NFPA 2022).
- Almost 30% of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems (NFPA 2020).
- Christmas is the peak day for candle fires (USFA 2023).
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50% (NFPA 2021).
- Fires caused by children playing increase during the holiday season (U.S. Fire Administration 2002).
- Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you as little as one or two minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarms sound (NFPA 2022).
- One in every five Christmas tree fires are caused by a heat source that is too close to the tree (NFPA 2020).
- Every two and a half hours, someone is killed in a home fire in America. In a typical year, 20,000 people are injured in home fires (American Red Cross 2022).