



## ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY HOLIDAY SAFETY TALKING POINTS 2023



- Holiday decorations are responsible for more than \$11 million in home fire damages each year.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches from flammable materials and place them on heat-resistant surfaces.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Extinguish all candles before leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections before using.
- Replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulb.
- Don't overload electrical outlets with too many lights or decorations, and make sure all extension cords are marked for proper use.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.
- 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 does not block doorways.
- Ornaments and other holiday decorations should be non-combustible or flame-resistant.
- Watering your Christmas tree regularly can make the tree more resistant to ignition and fast-spreading fires. Remove your tree promptly from your home after the holidays.
- Hire a professional to clean, inspect, and service your home's heating equipment, fireplace, and chimney annually.
- Purchase space heaters that have an automatic shut off.
- Always plug space heaters directly into wall outlets and unplug them when they are not in use.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent sparks and embers from escaping.
- Keep space heaters away from children and pets.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Do not overload wall outlets or power strips.



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- Do not run electrical cords across doorways or under carpets.
- Install tamper-resistant electrical outlets if you have young children.
- Only use extension cords for a short period of time.