



# Holiday Lighting Safety

[www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org)

**Holiday Lights: Christmas lights are always festive and help get everyone into the holiday spirit but they can also be a fire hazard.**

- Only use lights - both indoor and outdoor - that have been tested for safety. These can be identified by the "UL" label from Underwriters Laboratories shown here:
- Keep "bubbling" lights away from children. Such lights are hazardous because their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break the glass which can cut, or tempt them to drink the bubbling liquid which contains a hazardous chemical.



- Turn off all lights and trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.
- Do not overload outlets or run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, on or under heaters or pinched behind furniture.
- Use no more than three (3) sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Check labels of outdoor lights to make sure they are waterproof.

Don't use indoor lights outside or outside lights indoors. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm support to protect from wind damage.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. Although safe when used according to manufacturer's directions, metallic trees can become charged with electricity from faulty lights-any person touching a branch could be electrocuted! To avoid this danger, use colored spotlight above or beside a tree - never fastened to it!



***Happy Holidays from the  
Orange County Fire Authority.***



# Christmas Tree Safety

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**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.**

**Trees:** 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.

**Happy Holidays!**