



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY HOLIDAY SAFETY FACT SHEET 2025



- An average of 12 percent of candle fires occur in December and 10 percent occur in January (NFPA 2025).
- Year round, 33 percent of home decoration fires are started by candles (NFPA 2025).
- An average of 835 home fires are started each year by decorations, and an additional 155 are started by Christmas trees (NFPA 2024).
- One in every five Christmas tree fires are caused by a heat source that is too close to the tree (NFPA 2020).
- Almost 30 percent of home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems (NFPA 2020).
- Christmas is the peak day for candle fires (USFA 2023).
- Home electrical fires are responsible for an estimated \$1.5 billion in property damage each year (NFPA 2022).
- Over 50 percent of home fire deaths occurred in homes where the fire was started by electrical issues that occurred between midnight and 8 a.m. (NFPA 2022).
- Space heaters cause 88 percent 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 percent of fires involving decorations (NFPA 2022).
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50 percent (NFPA 2021).
- 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).
- 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).