



FSA – Keeping You Safe

Avoid Christmas Tree Safety Hazards During the Holidays

Christmas is a special and joyful time of year. Many love to decorate and make their homes feel festive, but there are important things to keep in mind while preparing for the season. Even when it comes to decorating the Christmas tree, there are precautions that should be taken. As we get closer to Christmas Day, below is a list from Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivy of things to keep in mind when decorating this holiday season:

DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

1. If using a “real” tree make sure it is fresh and doesn’t have dry needles that quickly become a fire hazard.
2. Remember to cut the base of the tree so that a fresh core is exposed and water the tree daily.
3. Make sure that smoke detectors are properly working. It is important to do this throughout the year.
4. When purchasing an artificial tree, be sure to select a tree that is labeled “Fire Resistant.”
5. Never position the tree near heat sources such as fireplaces.
6. Never leave the tree lighted while away from home or when going to bed.
7. This one sounds simple but when using a ladder to install lights and other decorations make sure the ladder is stable, level, and the right height. Using a ladder that is not tall enough can lead to overextending and falls.

To view this and other tips please visit [Brevard County Sheriff's Office Christmas Time Safety Tips¹](#).

For more tips please visit the Florida Sheriffs Association’s Crime Prevention Tips: flsheriffs.org/crime-prevention

¹ <https://spacecoastdaily.com/2015/11/sheriff-wayne-iveys-weekly-crime-tip-focuses-on-christmas-time-safety/>