



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mark A. Hartwig
Fire Chief / Fire Warden

DATE: *December 19, 2016*
CONTACT: *Louis Penna, Public Information Officer*
(909) 387-5870

Remember: Christmas Trees Can Burn Your House Down

Fire officials remind residents to properly dispose of natural cut trees

Fire officials advise residents to promptly remove their natural Christmas trees from their homes and properly dispose of them after Christmas or when the tree begins to dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home.

Avoid a mess when removing your tree by placing a plastic tree bag (available at hardware stores) underneath the tree stand. Pull the bag up around the tree, stand and all, and carry it outside.

IMPORTANT: Residents are strongly urged to **NOT burn Christmas trees in home fireplaces**. Christmas trees can burn explosively, putting your family and property at risk when burned in-home. The pitch in the wood creates huge, fast-moving sparks that can jump right out of the fireplace and into your room, or up the chimney and onto the shingles of your roof potentially causing a fire.

There are many safe and responsible tree disposing options available to residents:

- **Curbside pick-up:** Many waste management providers will collect trees during regular pickup schedules the two weeks following Christmas. Check with your local provider for requirements and details.
- **Drop-off recycling center:** Some jurisdictions will have free drop-off locations and/or recycling containers. Check with your local government office for more information.
- **Yard waste:** Cut your tree to fit loosely into your yard waste container.
- **Mulch:** A Christmas tree and its branches can be removed, chipped, and used as mulch.

Residents in the following areas have these methods of disposal available to them for Christmas tree removal and recycling:

- **Valley, High Desert, and Mountain residents serviced by Burrtec Waste**
 - Burrtec will collect and recycle Christmas trees from single-family residences. Place trees curbside during the period after Christmas (Dec. 26 through Jan. 6, 2017) on normal collection day. Trees six feet and over need to be cut in half. Take all ornaments, lights, and metal stands off of the tree.

-more-

- **Chino area residents serviced by Waste Management**
 - Curbside collection starting Dec. 28 through Jan. 4, 2017.

- **Phelan & Wrightwood residents serviced by CR&R Disposal**
 - Trees collected for recycling made via requests on Dec. 29, Jan. 5, Jan. 12, and Jan. 19.
 - Recycling container at CR&R yard in Phelan for drop-off of Christmas Trees from Dec. 27 through Jan. 23 (Phelan residents only).
 - Recycling container at Wrightwood True Value Hardware Store for drop-off from Dec. 27 through Jan. 23 (Wrightwood residents only).
 - Trees collected for disposal on regular service days starting Dec. 26.

- **Hesperia & Oak Hills residents serviced by Advance Disposal**
 - Spring Valley Lake residents will have a roll-off for tree disposal.
 - All other residents will have curbside collection starting Jan. 2 through Jan. 27. Collection will take place on normal service days.
 - Advance Disposal residential customers can also take trees to their facility at 17105 Mesa St. in Hesperia for free.

- **Twentynine Palms residents serviced by Burrtec Waste**
 - Burrtec will collect and recycle Christmas trees from single-family residences. Place trees curbside during the period after Christmas (Dec. 26 through Jan. 9) on normal collection day. Trees four feet and over need to be cut in half. Take all ornaments, lights, bags, nails, and metal stands off of the tree. Trees with tinsel, ornaments, or tree stands will not be recycled.
 - Residents living in apartments and condominiums can drop off trees to be recycled at the Twentynine Palms City Hall (west end of parking lot) located at 6136 Adobe Rd., Twentynine Palms.

- **Mountain area residents serviced by Big Bear Disposal**
 - Christmas trees will be picked up curbside for residents serviced by Big Bear Disposal. There are no special collection dates. They will be picked up on Thursdays, the regular scheduled service day. Residents do not have to call ahead of time. Trees must be at the curb and cannot have stands, flocking, or tinsel. They also must be cut in half or to lengths no longer than four feet. Residents are also allowed to bring the trees to their Clean Bear Site No. 1 at 41970 Garstin Dr. A special roll off just for trees will be placed next to the Buy Back Center from Dec. 23 through Jan. 15. Same rules apply, no stands flocking or tinsel, and they must be cut in half or to four foot lengths.

Residents not included above should check with their waste management provider or local jurisdiction.

Responsibly disposing of holiday trees helps keep homes and communities safe from fire. San Bernardino County Fire wishes all residents a safe and happy New Year—thank you for proactively helping keep our communities fire safe!

###