

**The Moreno Valley Fire Department would like offer the following safety tips for proper disposal of Christmas trees:**

Now that the holiday season has passed, the Moreno Valley Fire Department would like to remind everyone about the importance of proper Christmas tree disposal. It's important to remember; when a tree becomes dry it does become a fire hazard. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), almost half of the Christmas tree fires reported were in December and more than one-third were in January. Never attempt to burn a Christmas tree in a fireplace, wood-burning stove or even outdoors.



Christmas tree recycling is offered by Waste Management of the Inland Empire for all Moreno Valley residents. Christmas tree collection and recycling is available for the first two weeks following Christmas on your regular collection day.

- Trees taller than six feet must be cut in half.
- Please remove all tinsel, metal ornaments, and metal strands from trees.
- Flocked trees will be collected but cannot be recycled.

For more information please visit <https://www.wm.com/location/california/inland-empire/moreno-valley/residential.jsp>.

**The Moreno Valley Fire Department would like to remind you the importance of replacing the batteries on smoke detectors.**

- One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm."
- Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of every level of your home and both inside and outside bedrooms as children and older people can sleep though the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Make sure your escape plan includes someone that can help children and others wake up immediately to escape from the home.
- If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of each bedroom.
- Check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.



- Never take smoke alarm batteries out to put into other items like games or remote controls.
- Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear the alarm sound.
- If there is a fire, leave the home right away by crawling low under the smoke and never go back inside.
- If smoke from cooking makes the alarm sound, press the "hush" button, if your alarm has one. You can also turn on the kitchen fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm until it stops making the sound. Never take the battery out of the alarm.
- Most alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last for up to 10 years. If your smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it with a new alarm and a new battery.
- If you rent, talk to your landlord about placing a working smoke alarm in your home. You still need to buy a new battery at least once a year for the alarm.

**The Moreno Valley Office of Emergency Management would like to offer important flood preparedness information.**



The Office of Emergency Management would like to remind everyone floods are one of the most common hazards in Riverside County. They can cause injury, death property damage and even contaminate drinking water and cause electrical disruptions which can severely impact the City of Moreno Valley. All floods are not alike and can develop slowly over time but can also progress very quickly

in just a few minutes. Flash floods often have a dangerous wall of rapidly moving water that carries rocks, mud, debris and can sweep away anything in its path. Be aware of flood hazards no matter where you live, but especially if you live in low lying areas, near water or even near flood prone areas or intersections. Do not attempt to cross an area or intersection that appears to be flooded but rather find an alternate route of travel.

**Before the Flood Warning or Watch**

Be prepared to respond to flooding by taking the following actions before the rains and flooding begin:

- Assemble emergency supply kits for your home, workplace, and vehicle.
- Store a seven-day supply of food and water (at least one gallon per person, per day) in closed, clean containers.
- Obtain Sandbags
- Stage Plastic sheeting
- Teach children not to play in or near rivers, streams, or other areas of potential flooding.

- Identify safe routes from your home or work place to high, safe ground. Determine whether you can use these routes during flooding or storms. Be familiar with your geographic surroundings.

### **During the Flood**

- Avoid unnecessary trips.
- Do not drive or walk through moving water. You can be knocked off your feet in as little as 6 inches of water.
- Do not “sightsee” or enter restricted areas.
- Stay away from streams, rivers, flood control channels and other areas subject to sudden flooding.
- Move to higher ground if you’re caught by rising waters.
- Use the phone only to report dangerous conditions or emergencies that are life threatening.

