



COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE • COMMUNICATIONS PRESS RELEASE

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Permits Needed for Over-Road Displays in Unincorporated Areas

Property owners in the unincorporated areas of Orange County planning to stretch holiday displays over public roadways must coordinate with OC Public Works to assure the displays are safe and properly permitted.

The festive over-roadway displays, popular in some neighborhoods during Halloween and Christmas, require an advance permit and safety inspection.

Encroachment permits ensure that the displays provide adequate clearance for emergency and service vehicles, and proper electrical connections. The fee for a permit is \$583, plus payment of a refundable \$1,000 surety, which will be returned if no incidents occur during the display period. A \$1 million insurance policy also must be obtained.

“Public safety is the County’s top priority,” said Shane Silsby, director of OC Public Works. “We want residents and homeowner groups to be aware of the options available to them as they look to enjoy the holidays through lights and decorations. We have a process in place that is necessary to maintain the health and safety of the entire community we serve.”

Holiday display encroachment permits are necessary only for those considering lights or decorations stretched across public streets. Displays fully contained on private property do not need a permit.

OC Public Works will be working with interested Homeowner Associations and individuals to provide additional information about the permit process in advance of the holidays. During this past holiday season, expedited permits were temporarily processed at no charge after homeowners indicated they were unaware of the regulations.

To learn more about obtaining an encroachment permit, individuals can contact OC Public Works’ permitting division at (714) 667-8867 or visit our web site at www.ocgov.com/gov/pw

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