

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

JOYCE E. DUDLEY
District Attorney



DA 12-220

RELEASE NUMBER

December 17, 2013

RELEASE DATE

APPROVED BY *Joyce E. Dudley*, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Joyce E. Dudley, District Attorney

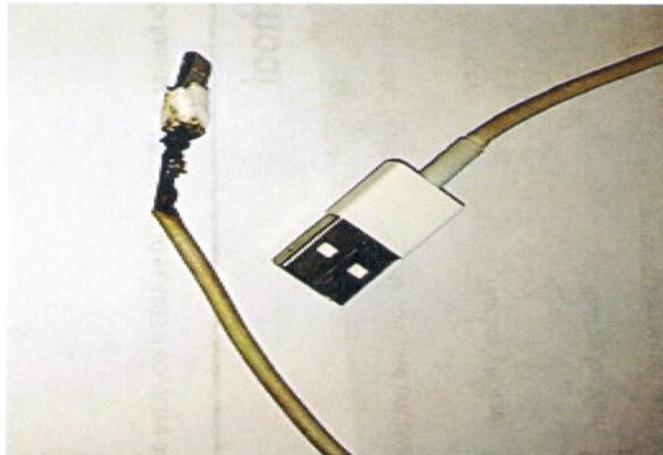
CONTACT (805) 568-2308

***** PRESS RELEASE *****

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley and Joe Poire, City of Santa Barbara Fire Marshall, both members of the District Attorney Arson Task Force, seek to alert our community about a potential fire danger. At this time of year, local Fire Departments have traditionally reminded our community about the dangers of highly flammable Christmas trees. While live trees remain the leading hazard of the holiday season, we would also like to emphasize the potential hazards of electronic chargers in use, and remind the public that even these simple, low voltage devices may start a fire.

With thousands of these devices planned for use during this gift-giving season, we ask that you please remember the following:

- During normal operation, heat is generated at the device transformer. In addition, the power cord is capable of producing enough heat to cause a fire without the device even being plugged in. It is therefore very important that consumers never leave chargers plugged in near combustibles of any kind, particularly combustibles that might have a tendency to over-insulate the device, such as bedding, carpet, furniture, paper, etc.
- The photo below illustrates an example of such a cord causing fire with no device attached. This still-connected cord was on the floor, where it burned through the carpet. Had it been in any other location, the results might have been tragic.



SANTA BARBARA OFFICE
1112 Santa Barbara Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2300
Fax (805) 568-2453

SANTA MARIA OFFICE
312-D East Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 346-7540
Fax (805) 346-7588

LOMPOC OFFICE
115 Civic Center Plaza
Lompoc, CA 93436
(805) 737-7760
Fax (805) 737-7732