

# CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER JIMMY PATRONIS' RUNDOWN

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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## Floridians,

The holidays are here, and throughout the Sunshine State our communities are buzzing with excitement during this wonderful time of year. As you enjoy this special time with family and friends, it's important to remember a few safety tips to avoid holiday accidents and scams.

As State Fire Marshal, I'm warning all Floridians to beware of the hazards associated with Christmas trees, lights and decorations. Keeping a dry Christmas tree is like inviting a forest fire into your home. Electrical or lighting equipment was involved in more than [44 percent](#) of home Christmas tree fires. Be sure to water your tree often and always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving your home or going to bed.



With holiday shopping in full swing in Florida, crooks can use package deliveries as an opportunity to scoop up your gifts and make a quick buck. This year alone, the U.S. is projected to exceed more than [\\$135 billion](#) in holiday online spending. You may consider investing in a smart doorbell or security camera. Smart doorbells will alert you when there is motion at your front door. Also, consider asking a neighbor for help watching for deliveries. If all else fails, the safest delivery method is to pick packages up directly from your local post office. While this may not be the most convenient, you won't have to deal with missing items.

Protect yourself and your family this holiday season by using some [simple tips](#) to ensure your gift shopping—and deliveries—goes smoothly.

Sincerely,



*Jimmy Patronis*  
Chief Financial Officer  
State of Florida

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## News Releases

**[\\*\\*Photo Release\\*\\* CFO Jimmy Patronis Meets with FEMA Acting Administrator Gaynor in Washington D.C.](#)**

**[\\*\\*Consumer Alert\\*\\* CFO Jimmy Patronis: 4 Tips to Protect Your Deliveries This Holiday Season](#)**

**[CFO Jimmy Patronis Reappoints Sophia E. Eccleston to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women](#)**