

# Tips for Holiday Electrical Safety

Holiday lights help make the season beautiful.

They can also cause home fires. Help keep your family safe.



- Look at each string of lights carefully. If any are cracked or damaged, buy new ones.
- When you buy new lights, look at the box for a label that shows they have been tested for safety, such as ETL or UL.
- Follow the directions on the box. It will tell you how many strings to use together.
- Hang or mount light strands carefully to avoid damaging the cord's insulation
- Do not plug in too many things at one time. Use a surge protector
- Unplug all holiday lights when you go to sleep or leave home.
- Plug outdoor decorations into outlets protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shock.
- Automatic lighting timers can be used to ensure that lights are not left on by mistake.
- Do not put electrical cords under rugs. Try to keep them away from places people walk.
- When replacing a holiday bulb, be sure to use the correct bulb size (wattage) that is right for the fixture.

- When buying a live tree, look at the needles. If they are brown or break easily, choose another tree.
- Test for freshness by bending a few needles in half. If the needles snap in two, the tree is dry - look for a tree with needles that spring back to their original shape.
- When you take your tree home, put it in a sturdy, non-tip stand filled with water.
- Give the tree plenty of water. Dry trees can catch on fire easily.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any flame or heat source.
- Never put candles on or near your tree.
- Put your tree near the electrical outlet. Do not block the exit.
- Before you put the lights on the tree, look at every bulb. If the string of lights does not look perfect, throw the lights away and get new ones.
- Lights do not last long. Replace your lights as soon as you see any signs of damage.



Please consider joining us by making a charitable donation to  
**Operation: Give Smiles** this holiday season.

This public awareness message sponsored by the Wind River Health, Safety & Environmental Committee, the Oil & Gas Producers, Contractors and their employees.



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