Tis the Season to Stay Safe!

Holiday lights and decorations are popping up all over and what a beautiful sight to see. They definitely make the holiday season festive and bright, but there is reason to follow safety precautions. There is a possibility of fires, electrical shock and even death with Holiday decorations. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) holiday or other decorative lights with line voltage were involved in an average of 150 home structure fires per year and almost half of these fires were reported in December.

Before hanging those lights & decorations, consider these tips:

Discard any fraying light strands, extension cords or any electrical cords
Make sure the tags on your lights tell you whether they are inside or outside and follow directions carefully.
Outdoor lights should be properly labeled as water resistant/UL approved for outdoor use.
Avoid overloading your electric outlets with too many lights & decorations plugged into one outlet.
Make sure cords are long enough to run along baseboards to avoid tripping.
Using a live tree? Make sure it's fresh (GREEN) when purchased and keep it well watered to prevent drying.
Keep away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources.
Artificial tree's- make sure it's fire resistant.
Unplug all holiday lights when going to sleep or leaving home or use a timer so you don’t forget.

Stay Safe and Enjoy your Holiday Season!

For more information regarding safety during the holiday season please don’t hesitate to call your local Extension office!


Virginia Cooperative Extension can provide up-to-date, research-based information regarding Holiday Decoration Safety. Visit their website, http://www.ext.vt.edu/ or call your local office for more information. Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.


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