



## Holiday Safety Tips

With Thanksgiving Day, the holiday season has arrived. We would like to encourage everyone to be safe as you celebrate with friends and family over the next few months. Many of us will be decorating our homes with lights and candles which can bring along some potential dangers. [According to the U.S. Fire Administration \(USFA\)](#), there are over 2,600 people who are injured by fires over the holiday season, with over \$930 million in damages.

### Safety Tips

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration. Cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Follow the use and care instructions that accompany electrical decorations.
- Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords.
- Do not mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.
- When hanging decorations, do not connect more than three light strings together.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Never leave your toaster or stove unattended. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets, which can overheat and start a fire.
- Select a fresh Christmas tree and keep it in water at all times. Needles on fresh trees should be green and should not fall off easily.
- Know the location of your fire extinguisher and how to use it.
- Choose holiday decorations made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant or noncombustible materials.
- Before using any electrical decorations outdoors, make sure the product is approved for outdoor use.
- Never allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations.

Including family in preparing for holiday celebrations creates an invaluable opportunity to spend additional time with loved ones, ensure the safety of your home and property, and introduce safety-minded behaviors that can be reinforced year after year.