

# A little caution can prevent holiday tragedies

These tips from CVPS are part of a year-long series to educate Vermonters about electrical safety and hazards.

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About 500 U.S. fires are blamed on holiday decorations annually, but a few precautions as you set them up can ensure a safe holiday season. CVPS offers the following tips:

- Check that all electrical decorations are certified by Underwriters Laboratory.
- Check every electrical cord and light for fraying or loose connections.
- Never overload outlets or circuits by plugging numerous strings of lights into one another.
- Do not run electrical cords under carpeting or rugs.
- Never use indoor lights outdoors.
- Hang outdoor lights with hooks or string; never use nails, staples or any metal fastener.
- Be sure there is a bulb in every socket.
- Turn off all holiday lights before you go to bed or leave the house.
- Wrap outdoor cord connections and plugs with plastic wrap and electrical tape to keep rain and snow out.
- Teach children about the dangers of fire, and make sure everyone in the home knows how to get out and where to meet if a fire occurs.

For more safety tips, visit [www.cvps.com/safety](http://www.cvps.com/safety), and be sure to check out our newsletter, *Keeping Current*, which comes with your bill each month, for more from CVPS.



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