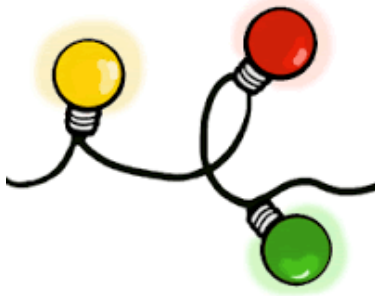




North Coast Schools' Insurance Group

901 Myrtle Avenue • Eureka, California 95501-1294 • 707/445-7126 • FAX 707/445-7084
SERVING DEL NORTE COUNTY AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOLS

Lights Out for Safety!



POP QUIZ! Name a major festive celebration that is likely to cause electric shock, fire and falls both in homes and workplaces!

If your mind turned to holiday lights, you are correct! December is perhaps the busiest month of the year. At this time, most people are caught in a bustle of activities, decking the halls and walls with all that is festive!

Just imagine all of the holiday lights during the winter season and you can smell danger lurking around the corner bringing with it, its own gifts. You wouldn't want to be on its list when electricity shock, fire and falls are in its holiday sack. Holiday lights cause electric shocks or fire primarily due to two main reasons – choosing the wrong type of lights and improper use and maintenance of those lights.

Light Safety Tips

Without further ado, below are basic safety guidelines pertaining to the use of string lights:

- ❖ Follow all rules and guidelines at your workplace – they're there for a reason!
- ❖ Use lights that are recommended by a reputable testing laboratory. Such lights are usually labeled "UL" or "ETL".
- ❖ Inspect lights and extension cords for defects or damage prior to use. Check for loose connections, cracked or broken sockets and bare or frayed wires.
- ❖ Immediately replace burned-out bulbs with ones that have the same wattage. Unplug lights when replacing bulbs.
- ❖ Make sure you don't create a maze of wires, cords and plugs when plugging in lighting.
- ❖ Never use outdoor lights indoors. Make sure lights and other electrical outdoor decorations are plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
- ❖ Use insulated holders to secure outdoor lights. Never use nails or tacks to secure cords.
- ❖ Ensure that your outside receptacles are GFI-protected to eliminate electric shock hazards.
- ❖ Never overload extension cords.
- ❖ Make electrical outlets and timers readily accessible in case of emergencies.
- ❖ Always turn off lights before leaving the premises. Never leave lights on overnight.