



NEWS RELEASE

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(Safety Tips for Hanging Holiday Decorations)

With the holiday season in full swing, many people decide to decorate their homes with bright lights and festive decorations. As with any activity that uses electrical wiring and ladders, there are a few safety tips to follow to prevent a disastrous fire, a fall or other emergency that would ruin your celebration.

Holiday Lights

- Use only lights that have been tested and certified by a product testing laboratory.
- Read and follow all instructions, particularly limitations on the number of strings that can be connected.
- Before hanging your lights, check to ensure they work properly.
- Examine lights for frayed or broken wires, broken plugs, and replace missing, broken or burned bulbs.
- Ensure lights intended for use on the exterior of your home are rated for outdoor use.
- Plug lights into outlets only after you have them hung.
- Don't overload electrical circuits.
- Use extension cords rated for the intended electrical load.
- Never run extension cords beneath rugs or carpets.

Ladders

Each year, more than 164,000 people are injured while using ladders. If you need to use a ladder inside or outdoors, make safety your number one priority.

- Read and follow all labels and instructions on your ladder.
- Avoid electrical lines when working outdoors.
- Do not step on the top step, bucket shelf or rear braces of a step ladder.
- Do not move or shift the ladder with a person or equipment on the ladder.
- Use a ladder only on stable, level surfaces unless it has been secured to prevent movement.
- Do not place a ladder or boxes, barrels or other unstable bases to obtain additional height.
- Always maintain a three point connection with the ladder (two hands and a foot or two feet and a hand) when climbing.
- Never shift your body weight outside the rail of the ladder to extend your reach.

For more fire and life safety information, visit: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire or call 503-681-6166.

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