



## HOLIDAY ENERGY USE AND EFFICIENCY

### Know the Dangers in Your Home

The winter holiday season is an exciting time of year. Unfortunately, it is also a time when more electrical fires and accidents occur due to the increase in energy used to power lighting displays and Christmas trees, as well as the energy used to prepare meals and host friends and family in the home.

In addition to creating a potential fire hazard, lighting your home for the holidays can add to your monthly energy costs. Investing in energy efficient options this season can help to cut costs and reduce the risk of an electrical fire without sacrificing safety and fun.

### LEDs: Energy Efficient Lighting

Today's electronics are often more energy efficient than their predecessors. However, as household energy consumption continues to increase, many homes are simply being overburdened by the growing demand.

LEDs, or light emitting diodes, are small light sources that have recently become popular among consumers. LEDs reduce electrical requirements by as much as 95 percent.

Although they carry a slightly higher initial cost than conventional light sources, LEDs are safer and more environment-friendly, durable, and energy efficient. In fact, they are able to last 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

### Energy Saving Tips for the Holiday Season

- Look for ENERGY STAR qualified LED products to light interior and exterior environments.
- Opt for LED holiday lighting instead of traditional incandescent light strands.
- Before decorating, determine how many outlets are available and where they are located.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs, for added shock protection wherever electricity may come into contact with water.
- Install a programmable thermostat to automatically regulate the temperatures in your home year round.
- Plug electronics into a power strip with an on/off switch that is turned off when these products are not being used.
- Consider using batteries as an alternative source of power whenever possible
- Always look for the ENERGY STAR label when shopping for new electronic devices.
- Turn off all lights before going to sleep, leaving home, or leaving a room.

### Facts & Statistics

- More than 20 percent of Americans consider their home electrical system unsafe.
- Less than 50 percent have had their system inspected sometime in the last ten years.
- Sixty percent of Americans believe their home energy use increases during the holiday season.
- Nearly 156,000 fires in the United States occur during the winter holiday season. (Source: *U.S. Fire Administration*)
- U.S. households spend \$100 per year to power devices while they are in "standby" power mode. (Source: *Energy Star*)
- ENERGY STAR qualified decorative light strings – many of which feature LED technology – consume 75 percent less energy than incandescent lighting.
- Household electronics and appliances account for approximately 15 percent of average household energy consumption. (Source: *Energy Star*)