While holiday lighting and electrical decorations do contribute to the splendor of the season, they can also significantly increase the risk of fires and electrical injuries if not used safely. Given these safety hazards, it is crucial that SAFETY is a foremost concern.

A friendly reminder from the DOE-CWPO family this holiday season...

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**Holiday Lighting Safety Checklist** 

## Before you plug in and light up for the holidays, run your decorations through this quick safety checklist.



Inspect light strings.
Discard any that are damaged. Frayed or cracked electrical cords or broken sockets are leading fire hazards.



Exterior lights, unlike those used inside the house need to be weather-resistant. The same goes for any extension cords used outdoors.



Check the connections between strands to be sure they are compatible and the extension cord easily reaches the plug. Check the

manufacturer's recommendations for the maximum number of strands to connect to each other.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
The general limit for connecting multiple strings is three strings.



Don't use outdoor lights indoors. They are too hot for interior use. For the coolest bulbs and greatest energy efficiency, try LED lights, which come in a wide range of styles and colors.



Take exterior lights down within 90 days. The longer they stay up, the more likely they are to suffer damage from weather.





Replace burned-out bulbs promptly. Empty sockets can cause the entire string to overheat.



Don't attach light strings with nails or staples. They can cut through the wire insulation and create a fire hazard.



Store lights safely after the holidays and store in a sturdy container until next year.