

LOCUST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS



Holiday Lighting Safety

The oohs and aahs reverberate when the Christmas tree lights are turned on. Keep these safety tips in mind for a Fire Safe Holiday Season:

Deck the Halls Safely - Indoor Safety Tips

- Examine holiday light strings each year. Discard any with frayed cords, cracked lamp holders or loose connections.
- Unplug light strings before replacing bulbs. Check to ensure replacement bulbs match the voltage and wattage of the original bulb.
- Ensure that bulb reflectors are the right size for the light string.
- Always turn off Christmas lights when you leave the house unattended or when going to bed.
- Store lights and decorations in the original packaging, as it likely contains manufacturer's instructions regarding replacement bulbs and details for proper use of the product.

Enjoying your Winter Wonderland- Outdoor Safety Tips

- Before working with outdoor wiring, turn off the electricity to the supply outlet and unplug the connection.
- Ensure that light strings, cords, spotlights and floodlights are certified and marked for outdoor use or wet locations.
- When hanging lights outdoors, keep electrical connectors above ground and out of puddles and snow, as well as away from metal eaves troughs.
- Use insulated fasteners rather than metal nails or tacks to hold light strings in place.
- To prevent moisture from entering bulb sockets, turn the bulbs to face the ground if possible.
- Whenever possible, connect all outdoor lighting into receptacles protected by weatherproof ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). A GFCI can provide protection from electric shock as it senses leakage current to ground and cuts the electrical power immediately.