



## Excelsior Fire District Holiday Light Safety Notice

The Excelsior Fire District has some safety tips and reminders for business and merchants that are dressing up the exterior of their buildings, storefronts, and windows for the holidays.

Only use lights and extension cords that indicate they are for outdoor use on the manufacture's label.

Light strings and extension cords can become brittle and break over time. Lights and extension cords that have been left on the outside of buildings for months, even years, can crack and break from the heat of the summer and cold of the winter. It is wise to check all the lights and cords on the strings of your decorative lights.

Extension cords are only to be used continually for 90 days. Extension cords that have been on roof tops and the exterior of buildings for more than a couple of months should be checked for damage. If extension cords and light strings have been exposed to enough sunlight that they have faded, they should be replaced.

Use extension cords properly. Do not overload extension cords - they can get hot enough to burn.

Surge protectors and multi plug adapters made for indoor use can not be used outdoors. Keep in mind multi plug adapters can not be used on the exterior or interior of a commercial building at any time.

Purchase outdoor timers that will save you money and energy. Many outdoor timers come with multiple outlets.

All outdoor electrical decorations should be plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). You can buy portable units for outdoor use or you can have them permanently installed by an electrician.

Make sure that the strings of lights you are using outside have built-in fuses on the lines. Sometimes, these fuses are located in the actual plug.

Remember to be safe when you are putting up a ladder. Watch for over head power lines and make sure your ladder is secure.

Stay away from power lines or feeder lines (these go from the pole to the building).

Secure outside Christmas lights with insulated holders (never use tacks, nails, or metal staples) or run strings of lights through hooks. Be sure your lights are strung tightly to avoid damage from the wind.

This may be the time to update your holiday lights. Go green and switch to energy efficient LED or fiber optic holiday lighting.

### **Benefits of LED lights over conventional lighting**

- **Energy-efficient:** 0.04 watts per bulb; mini-lights use ten times more energy and standard (C-7) bulbs use 100 times more energy
- **Long life span:** up to 100,000 hours used indoors, half that outdoors, and one manufacturer provides a 5-year warranty
- **Safety:** the cool temperature bulbs are not hot enough to start a fire
- **Sturdy bulbs:** the epoxy lenses are virtually indestructible
- **Easily strung:** up to 25 strings can be connected end-to-end without overloading a typical household's electrical circuit
- **Lamp Replacement:** if a bulb does burn out, the others will remain lit along with the rest of the string.

The Excelsior Fire District wishes you all a Happy and Safe Turkey Day and a Successful Black Friday!

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