

MEDIA RELEASE

17 December 2013



'Tis the season to be safe

Endeavour Energy today issued some simple safety tips for householders decorating their homes with Christmas lights.

General Manager Health, Safety and Environment David Neville said Endeavour Energy was promoting the tips to keep customers safe and minimise the risk of an avoidable accident dampening Christmas cheer.

“Christmas lights look great but extra care is needed with electricity to avoid overloading and the risk of fire,” Mr Neville said.

“Precautions that should be taken before putting up the Christmas lights including checking for loose, damaged or missing bulbs, ensuring there are no signs of wear on the cords and power leads are not overloading power points.

“Always turn off the power when adjusting lights or replacing bulbs and keep combustible material like paper decorations away from sources of heat.”

Mr Neville said other important safety tips included:

- having adequate ventilation around all electrical equipment to prevent fire
- using suitable non-metallic cables ties, clips or clamps to attach cables and lights
- keeping all electrical equipment well out of reach of children.

“When decorating outside the home, please make sure that you only use lights that have been specifically designed for outdoors and protect electrical connections with weather proof covers,” Mr Neville said.

“Stay well away from overhead power lines and other service cables when using a ladder to install Christmas lights and decorations around your home.

“It is also important not run the lights or extension leads near swimming pools or ponds and to switch off outdoor lights when it rains, before leaving home or going to bed.

“If you have any doubts about the electrical safety of any Christmas lights or other electrical equipment in your home, contact a licensed electrician,” Mr Neville said.

Endeavour Energy wishes all its customers a safe and enjoyable festive season and a successful New Year.

Customers can complete an online home fire safety audit at www.homefiresafetyaudit.com.au to identify potential risks around their homes.

Media contact: Janine Cullen 0418 425 255