



MEDIA RELEASE

9/12/2014

SURVIVE THE SILLY SEASON

TasNetworks is urging the Tasmanian community to be safe around electricity and to take care when erecting Christmas lights in their homes and gardens.

This festive season, TasNetworks will run a social media awareness campaign – “Survive the Silly Season” to remind customers of the dangers faced when using Christmas lights.

TasNetworks CEO Lance Balcombe said people who were decorating their homes needed to be particularly careful when re-using Christmas lights.

“Lights and cords can deteriorate when they have been in storage for eleven months, so householders should carefully check them for cracking or other damage before they plug them in. Most importantly, if the cord is frayed or perished it should be replaced by a licensed electrician, or the set of lights should be discarded immediately,” he said.

Mr Balcombe reminded householders wishing to install lights on home exteriors, and in gardens, to ensure they were labelled as suitable for outside use and to check extension cords were properly insulated.

Customers are encouraged to use common sense in order to enjoy the pleasure of seeing gardens and homes alight with festive colours, with complete safety.

Mr Balcombe said using common sense could help ensure a safe festive season:

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Keep in mind the following tips:

- **Keep your Christmas lights well away from water** - If you’ve pulled out your old Christmas lights and they’re a bit dusty, make sure you clean them before you plug them in. Remember, don’t touch them if your hands are damp and always keep your lights well away from water – inside and outside.
- **Check your Christmas lights for damaged cords and cables** - Before you set up your Christmas lights, check them carefully for frayed, damaged or worn cords and cables. If they are damaged, you either need to get them fixed by a licensed electrician or throw them away. If everything’s ok, unwind them fully before you plug them in to test them.

- **Never piggyback adaptors or powerboards** - When setting up your Christmas lights, please make sure you don't 'piggyback' double adaptors or powerboards. It's simple to stay safe this Christmas!
- **Always unwind your extension cords** - When hooking up your Christmas lights, make sure any extension cords are fully unwound. Extension cords that are tied or 'knotted' up can overheat and become a fire threat. It's simple to stay safe this Christmas!
- **Be careful near powerlines** - When carrying or using ladders, or installing Christmas lights near powerlines, make sure you stop, look up and look out. Touching, or even getting too close to powerlines can be fatal.

"If we all take these and other safety precautions we can enjoy the festive season in the knowledge that we are safe at the same time," Mr Balcombe said.

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