



Amy Newton, Digital Lightbridge for S&S Electric Co., Inc.  
(813) 264-6753 or (813) 433-8525 mobile  
anewton@digitallightbridge.com

Shawn L. Smith, Vice President, S&S Electric  
(813) 855-6692, ssmith@ss-electric.com

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**For Immediate Release**

## **S&S Electric Offers Holiday Decorating Electrical Safety Tips**

**(OLDSMAR, FLORIDA, December 3, 2004)** — There are only 22 days until Christmas and many homeowners are beginning to decorate their homes for the holidays. But homeowners beware! According to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, each year hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for injuries related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees. In fact, Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually. S&S Electric of Oldsmar, Florida, offers these decorating electrical safety tips:

- Carefully inspect each electrical decoration before plugging it in. Check for cracked sockets, frayed, loose or bare wires, and loose connections, as these can cause an electrical shock or start a fire.
- Do not attempt to repair a damaged cord unless instructions indicate the proper procedure and equipment for doing so. For most household decorations, maintenance is limited to replacing a fuse or light bulb.
- Always unplug light strings or electrical decorations before replacing light bulbs or fuses.
- Don't overload extension cords, it could cause the cord to overheat and start a fire.
- According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, misused or damaged extension cords cause about 3,300 residential fires each year, killing 50 people and injuring 270 others. Never use indoor extension cords outdoors and never keep an extension cord plugged in when not in use. Don't use a cord that has been cut or damaged.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions to determine the maximum number of light strings that may be connected together. However, if you do not have the instructions, Underwriters Laboratories offers this rule of thumb: do not connect more than three midget (push-in bulbs) light strings together. And light strings with the screw-in bulbs should have a maximum of 50 bulbs connected together.
- Do not use light strings and other electrical decorations on artificial trees that have metallic needles, leaves or branch coverings.
- Look for the UL (Underwriters Laboratories) Mark on light strings and electrical decorations. The UL Mark on a product means that UL engineers have tested samples of the product for foreseeable safety hazards such as fire or electrical shock.
- If you have a light string and you are unsure if it is for outdoor or indoor use, just look at the UL Mark. Lights intended for indoor-only use will bear a green UL Mark. Light strings intended for indoor and outdoor use bear red UL Marks.

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- Don't use staples or nails to hang lights. They might damage the cord's wire insulation.
- Turn off all electrical light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.
- Make sure that your home's smoke alarms and fire extinguishers are working properly.
- S&S Electric wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Founded in 1947, S&S Electric installs more than 4,000 home technology systems annually in West Central Florida, including electrical distribution; lighting design and control systems; indoor air comfort and quality systems; and audio, video, voice and data network systems. Recently, S&S Electric was awarded the 2004 CEA TechHome Dealer of the Year award, the 2004 Florida Family Business of the Year award, and the company was featured on the cover of the June 2004 issue of *CE Pro Magazine*.

With more than 275 employees, and offices in Oldsmar, Tampa, Sarasota and Ft. Myers, the company's award-winning team of designers, installers and technicians are recognized throughout the industry for providing customers with value-added, reliable, quality system installations. For more information about S&S Electric and its many services, please visit [www.ss-electric.com](http://www.ss-electric.com).

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