

# SMUD News Release

Sacramento Municipal Utility District

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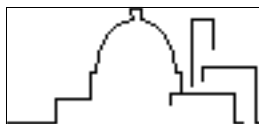
For Immediate Release: November 13, 2007

## **‘Tis the season for holiday lighting** *SMUD offers holiday lighting safety and efficiency tips*

Sparkling lights are a holiday tradition. The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) reminds customers to practice safety and conservation when using lighting to decorate this holiday season. The following simple electrical safety tips should be observed when decorating with lights:

- Inspect all holiday decorations as you unpack them, looking for broken or cracked sockets and frayed or bare wires. Damaged light sets should never be used.
- Keep ladders away from overhead power lines and electrical service lines to your home when hanging outdoor lights.
- Only use Underwriter’s Laboratory (U.L.) or Factory Mutual (F.M.) approved electrical devices, extension cords, and lights. These approvals indicate the product has been tested for electrical safety and reliability when used as advertised.
- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions when stringing lights. Most directions allow no more than three sets of lights to be plugged together.
- Use one long extension cord instead of linking several shorter ones together.
- To prevent falls, keep extension cords off of walkways.
- Always unplug lights and electrical cords before stringing and hanging.
- Keep paper and ribbon away from hot lights.
- Unplug or turn off all decorative lights before bedtime or prior to leaving the home.

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## 2-2-2-2 Holiday lighting

- Make sure outdoor electrical outlets have shock protecting Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI).

## Conserve electricity too!

Efforts to conserve energy are important all year long but shouldn't prevent customers from enjoying holiday lights. Consider these holiday lighting energy conservation tips:

- Use low-wattage LED holiday lights. Vibrant LED lights come in a variety of colors and use 80% less energy than conventional lights. LEDs are cool to the touch, fire and shatter proof.
- Put your lights on a timer so they turn on and turn off at a certain time.
- If using incandescent lights, use those that have mini-transformers within each light string's plug.

The lights then operate at a much cooler temperature and use less electricity.

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