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Stay safe when stringing holiday lights



Various strategies can help homeowners safely decorate their homes’ interiors and exteriors this holiday season.

Lighting displays are one of the many things that help make the holiday season a special time of year. Often awe-inspiring, holiday lighting displays present a perfect opportunity for communities and individuals to showcase their festive sides.

Safety should always be a priority when stringing holi-

day lights both inside and outside a home. The National Fire Protection Association notes that, between 2009 and 2014, fire departments in the United States responded to an average of 210 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. Lighting displays strung on home exteriors also can pose safety risks if

homeowners do not exercise caution. Fortunately, various strategies can help homeowners safely decorate their homes’ interiors and exteriors this holiday season.

- Choose a fresh tree. The NFPA recommends celebrants who prefer natural Christmas trees choose ones with fresh, green needles that do not fall

Light up the Night & Lefse Fest Nov. 16

It’s almost here! There’s just one month to go before Fosston holds its annual Lefse Fest on Friday, Nov. 16! The Fosston Civic Center will be packed with lefse vendors serving up their delicious homemade recipes. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. that evening, and while they’ll close at 7:00 p.m., if previous years are any indication the lefse will be sold out well before then. Taste and vote on your favorite lefse and pick some up for the upcoming holidays or place your order for lefse with one of the vendors.

Admission to Lefse Fest is just \$1.00 per person, or \$2.00 per family. Sandy Johnson from the Loaves and Fishes food shelf will be collecting non-perishable food items at the door. If you would like, you can bring a non-perishable food item in place of the entry fee (families, please bring multiple non-perishable food items). Local author Erin Green of Erskine will be at the Civic Center signing copies of her latest novel, *Running*, which was just published a few weeks ago. The City Bus will

be running from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with free rides to Lefse Fest.

Also on Friday, Nov. 16, Fosston will hold its annual Light Up the Night celebration! Enjoy shopping our wonderful local retailers while they offer special deals and keep their doors open late for you! Don’t forget to register at each participating business for your chance to win some Fosston Bucks.

Enjoy the beautifully-lit businesses and get in the holiday spirit this year during Light up the Night!

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off when touched. Dry trees are more likely to catch fire than freshly cut trees. Adding water to the tree stand each day will keep trees fresher longer. When placing the tree, avoid placing it too close to heat sources, making sure it is at least three feet away from fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights.

- Check all lights before stringing them. All lights, including those going on trees inside a home and those being strung outside, should be inspected prior to being strung. Look for any worn or broken cords and replace any defected lights.
- Employ the buddy system. When stringing lights, always work with at least one other person. This makes it safe for homeowners who must climb ladders to string lights on especially tall trees and/or on their home exteriors.
- Avoid working in inclement weather. The weather during the holiday season can sometimes be unpleasant or unpredictable. Check the forecast before stringing exterior lights to ensure Mother Nature won’t pose a threat. Avoid hanging lights if the forecast predicts wet, icy or windy conditions that can

make ladders unstable.

- Turn lights off when going to bed and/or leaving the house. Interior and exterior holiday lights should not be left on when no one is home or everyone inside is sleeping. If left on overnight or when no one is home, lights may contribute to fires that damage homes and may even prove fatal.

Holiday lighting displays help make this time of year special. Following some simple safety procedures when decorating with lights can ensure everyone enjoys a safe and happy holiday season.

LET’S CELEBRATE WORD SEARCH

T	H	G	V	R	E	L	I	G	I	O	N	C	H	A	N	U	K	A	H
C	T	R	E	E	M	D	E	N	G	A	P	M	A	H	C	I	W	H	D
L	M	G	Y	I	R	S	Z	V	F	N	F	E	R	L	M	G	C	V	R
H	P	N	K	C	C	E	L	E	Y	E	A	R	O	K	P	O	A	Y	E
Z	M	I	L	U	O	L	M	M	A	W	M	E	N	L	I	O	O	E	I
S	K	P	A	U	U	P	R	K	D	Y	I	F	E	L	H	Z	I	V	D
N	I	P	T	C	N	I	E	Y	I	E	L	L	M	I	S	H	L	E	E
O	N	O	K	A	T	C	O	V	L	A	Y	E	O	G	R	Z	O	R	L
I	A	H	E	N	D	N	T	H	O	R	B	C	N	H	O	G	N	G	O
T	R	S	S	D	O	I	E	W	H	S	V	T	C	T	W	O	B	R	M
I	A	I	A	L	W	R	L	O	Z	E	Z	I	P	S	I	R	W	E	C
D	T	T	S	E	N	P	T	N	S	V	Y	O	B	T	L	E	F	E	A
A	D	P	H	S	A	T	S	S	I	E	H	N	A	T	M	S	A	N	S
R	M	N	A	E	H	T	I	A	F	I	P	R	T	U	E	O	F	G	T
T	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	T	B	A	E	K	L	L	O	Z	F
U	S	O	E	B	G	O	R	K	F	E	D	N	M	R	C	U	O	S	I
P	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	A	L	A	H	H	P	L	A	T	D	P	G
N	A	A	Z	N	A	W	K	E	E	S	T	P	L	V	R	I	S	O	G
Z	G	U	T	V	C	O	C	U	M	Y	V	T	E	I	I	O	O	R	M
A	H	R	Y	E	A	R	R	E	B	M	E	C	E	D	M	N	K	C	W

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

CANDLES  
CELEBRATION  
CHAMPAGNE  
CHANUKAH  
CHRISTMAS  
COUNTDOWN  
CROPS  
DECEMBER  
DREIDEL  
EVERGREEN  
FAITH  
FAMILY  
FOODS  
FRIENDS  
GIFTS  
HOLIDAY  
KINARA  
KWANZAA  
LATKES  
LIGHTS  
MENORAH  
MIRACLE  
MISTLETOE  
NEW YEARS EVE  
OIL  
PRINCIPLES  
REFLECTION  
RELIGION  
RESOLUTION  
SHOPPING  
SNOW  
TEMPLE  
TRADITIONS  
TREE  
WORSHIP  
YEAR

Find answer key to “Let’s Celebrate Word Search” on page 8.