

Short Subjects

Fuel and Weatherization Assistance:

PMLP financially supports the Low Income Weatherization and Assistance Program administered by North Shore Community Action Program (NSCAP). You may qualify. Call 978-531-0767 for details. We thank you for your response to the Hardtimes Partnership Fund appeal in November. Donations are still being accepted and can be sent to NSCAP, 98 Main Street, Peabody, MA 01960.

Stay Safe This Holiday Season:

PMLP offers the following safety tips for you and your family to safely celebrate the holidays:

- **Select lights that have the UL symbol.** This symbol means the product has been tested for risk of fire, electric shock and other hazards by Underwriters Laboratory. They have color coded their labels for your convenience. Green labels are for indoor use only. Red many be used indoors and out.
- **Do you need an extension cord?** According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, misuse of damaged extension cords or using a cord for unintended uses can have serious consequences. Over 3000 residential fires are caused my misuse each year. All cords should be labeled with valuable information about use, size, wattage, rating and gauge of the cord. Be sure to read the labels and use properly to prevent overheating. Don't place cords under rugs, furniture or appliances. When covered, they can overheat or become frayed.
- **Be sure to inspect your electrical decorations** for cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. Damaged decorations should be replaced to avoid electric shock or starting a fire.
- **When decorating outdoors,** be sure to check for overhead power lines. Look up before raising ladders or other objects. Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. If stringing lights on trees, be sure the tree limbs haven't grown into or near power lines. Branches or entire trees can become energized if they come in contact with a power line.
- **Don't overload electrical outlets.** Overloading an outlet will trip the circuit and is a fire hazard. Use a power strip to provide the correct number of outlets and amperage for your needs.
- **Turn off all tree lights and decorations** before leaving home or going to bed. Remember to follow the use and care instructions that accompany your electrical holiday decorations.

Reducing The Cost of Holiday Lighting:

Holiday lights can add several dollars to your November and December bills. The following chart compares the cost to light an eight foot tree for 30 days, five hours per day, based on an average PMLP rate of 10 cents per kilowatt hour. See for yourself the difference the type of light bulb makes.

Light Type	Electricity Costs
Standard C-7 (125 bulbs, 4 watts each)	\$7.50
Mini Lights (300 bulbs, 0.4 watts each)	\$1.80
LED Lights (280 bulbs, 0.04 watts each)	\$0.17