Safety Reminders for Decorative Lights

- Inspect light strings—Discard any damaged strings, frayed and cracked cords or broken sockets are leading fire hazards.

- Follow manufacturer’s instructions for connecting multiple strands—General rule is three strand limit.

- Don’t run cords under rugs, carpeting, or furniture—Traffic can cause damage to cords run under carpets and rugs and can also lead to cords overheating causing fire.

- Insert plugs completely into wall outlet—Partially inserted plugs can heat up causing fire as well as an electrocution risk.

- Don’t attach light strings with nails or staples—These could cause damage to the wire insulation and create a fire hazard, use hangers that are designed and approved for use with light strings.

- Make sure that all cords and light strings are rated for their intended use—For indoor decorating use only indoor lights or indoor/outdoor rated lights. Outdoor only lights tend to be too hot for indoor use.

- Use only cords that are certified by a testing lab (i.e. Underwriters Laboratories, or UL)

Any questions contact EH&S – Fire & Life Safety at firelife@fpm.wisc.edu or visit or website at www.ehs.wisc.edu/firelife

Environment, Health & Safety
FACILITIES PLANNING & MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—MADISON