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## **CITIPOWER AND POWERCOR URGE VICTORIANS TO REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY DURING THIS FESTIVE SEASON**

Victorian electricity distributors CitiPower and Powercor are urging all Victorians to identify and eliminate electrical safety risks around the home during the Christmas and Summer seasons.

CitiPower and Powercor General Manager Electricity Networks, Garry Audley, said items associated with the festive season including Christmas tree lights and toys have the potential to become safety hazards.

“Christmas lights are always a festive favourite, but families should be careful when decorating their Christmas trees and homes – ensuring the lights are in good condition, correctly fitted and do not pose any electrical safety hazards.

“Always read the instructions that come with Christmas lights carefully and do not place them outside your home if they were not designed for that purpose,” Mr Audley said.

CitiPower and Powercor’s practical tips for ensuring electrical safety this holiday season include:

- Checking there is no cracking in the insulation of older lights when bringing them out of the cupboard for another year;
- Having lights inspected by a qualified electrician or replacing them if you have any doubt about their safety;
- Purchase lights which operate at extra low voltage (less than 50 V AC or 120 V DC); and
- Ensuring that children do not play with toys including kites and high-powered water guns anywhere near overhead powerlines.

Mr Audley said the practice of checking Christmas lights also should extend to checking and replacing any damaged or frayed electrical leads around the home.

“If the outer coating on the cord of your iron, toaster or any electrical device has become worn or frayed, you should contact a qualified appliance repair person or registered electrical contractor to have it replaced,” he said.

Mr Audley also urged parents to keep a close eye on young children playing near electrical equipment during the holidays.

“Children must be discouraged from putting toys or other objects in electrical outlets that don’t belong there. Safety plugs should be plugged into all unused power points.

“If your home is not fitted with electrical safety switches, then please consider having them installed as a measure to help protect your family from the potential of an electric shock,” Mr Audley said.

**MEDIA RELEASE**

For many Victorians, this time of year means time away from home. There are several helpful hints if you're going on the road during the Christmas and Summer seasons.

Some practical tips for going on holidays include:

- Turn off the power to your house for safety and to save power (unless you have a burglar alarm);
- If you do leave the power on at your house, turn off or unplug unnecessary electronic devices and appliances at the switch;
- Consider putting some lights on timers; and
- Boat and high trailer operators are encouraged to be aware of overhead powerlines.

For further information on electrical safety advice call CitiPower on **1300 301 101** or Powercor on **13 22 06**, or contact Energy Safe Victoria on 9203 9700 or at [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au).

**Media enquiries: CitiPower and Powercor Australia's 24-hour media hotline on (03) 9683 4342.**