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Baltimore Gas and Electric Company Urges Customers to Celebrate the Holidays Safely and Recommends Using Energy Efficient Lights when Decorating

BGE's [Holiday Safety Tips](#) brochure available online

BALTIMORE, Dec. 4, 2009 – Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), a subsidiary of Constellation Energy (NYSE: CEG), today reminded customers to make safety a priority this holiday season and encouraged customers to download BGE's [Holiday Safety Tips](#). The brochure outlines safety tips for indoor and outdoor lighting, as well as ladder use, electrical cords and tree selection and care. Customers are also encouraged to consider using energy efficient lights which help cut costs during the holiday season.

“The holiday season is an especially festive time for our customer and employees and we want everyone to celebrate safely, particularly as it relates to holiday decorations,” said Thomas W. Valenti, senior vice president of logistics management for BGE. “Unsafe holiday decorations are dangerous and can cause injuries and property damage. By becoming aware of the safety information outlined in BGE's [Holiday Safety Tips](#) brochure, customers can help keep their holidays bright and safe.”

The following are a few safety tips customers should keep in mind when decorating for the holidays:

- Keep ladders and other objects at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Use nonflammable or flame retardant decorations.
- Only use lights that are Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) approved.
- Ensure lights and extensions cords are approved for outdoor use.
- Check electrical cords for frayed or exposed wiring and replace if necessary.

- Don't overload extension cords or wall outlets.
- Use candles with extreme caution and never leave them unattended. Be sure they are in stable, nonflammable holders and keep them away from flammable items like trees and other decorations.
- Before using a fireplace, be sure the flue is open and move wrapping paper, gift boxes or other flammable objects away from the firebox.
- If using a live tree, make sure it is fresh and watered regularly.
- If using an artificial tree, be sure it is fire resistant.

Although holiday decorations typically have minimal impact on a customer's BGE bill, it is also recommended that customers use timers on lights and other decorations requiring electricity to better control usage. For significant energy savings, consider decorative light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which can last up to 30 times longer than traditional miniature lights and use up to 90 percent less energy.

On average, 300 standard incandescent indoor miniature twinkle lights running for 5 hours per day use approximately .60 kilowatt hour (kWh) and cost approximately nine cents per day. Similar LEDs use approximately .015 kWh and costs approximately a penny per day. Seventy-five standard incandescent larger outdoor lights that require C 9 bulbs use approximately 2.63 kWh and cost approximately 39 cents per day. The LED equivalent uses approximately .263 kWh and costs approximately four cents per day.

BGE, www.bge.com, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.2 million electric customers and more than 640,000 natural gas customers in Central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,000 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a wholly owned subsidiary of Constellation Energy, www.constellation.com, a FORTUNE 500 company also headquartered in Baltimore, with subsidiaries that generate, sell and provide other energy-related services to customers throughout North America.

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