

## COMUNICADO DE PRENSA ENEL DISTRIBUCIÓN CHILE

2018 Safe Christmas

### ENEL DISTRIBUCIÓN LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS DUE TO IMPROPER HANDLING OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

- This initiative seeks to prevent and inform about the risks and consequences that the improper handling of Christmas decorations can bring, both inside and outside of homes.
- Among the risks associated with the improper handling of Christmas decorations, we emphasize the cases of children and adults who have suffered burns from coming into contact with electricity when using non-certified ornaments and elements, overloading plugs, extension cords, and multiple socket power strips.

**Santiago, December 05, 2018** – With a demonstration, which depicted the risks to which people are exposed as a result of the improper handling of Christmas decorations, Enel Distribución presented the "2018 Safe Christmas" campaign.

The objective of this initiative is to provide the necessary information to reduce electrical accidents, risks of electrocution and fires inside homes that can be produced by using Christmas decorations, plugs, triple plugs, extension cords, light bulbs, garlands, among others, without taking the necessary safeguards.

Among the dangers associated with the handling of Christmas decorations, we emphasize the cases of children and adults who suffer electrocution or burns by coming into contact with electrical current when using non-certified ornaments and elements, overloading plugs, extension cords and power strips, which can also cause fires.

Accidents can also take place outdoors, when people try to hang garlands, using poles and power lines while decorating their neighborhoods, without having the experience and safety equipment to carry out this type of work. This considerably increases the risks of electrocution, falls, and fires, and also puts the electrical supply for the entire neighboring community in series danger.

*"The call is to take all the necessary precautions when decorating our homes for the holiday season to avoid contingency situations. It is important that people buy these products only in established businesses, and that they have a SEC stamp. If they are for outside use, the label should indicate that they are suitable for that use,"* said **Hector Fuentes**, Deputy Operations Manager of Enel Distribución.

In December 2017, Enel Distribución received 162 calls related to electrical accidents due to overloading inside homes, with consequences of fires or beginnings of fire, which represented 14% more than in December 2016, so it is necessary to redouble the efforts in the awareness and privilege the use of good quality Christmas decorations.

## COMUNICADO DE PRENSA ENEL DISTRIBUCIÓN CHILE

### Advice and recommendations

- Buy garlands with thick wires, those with thin wires tend to get cut, crack, or melt due to the passage of electricity.
- When using the same garlands from the previous year, make sure that the wires do not have cuts or fissures. Otherwise, discard them.
- Do not overload the electrical installation of the house with excessive Christmas decoration, in order to avoid overheating of cables, lights, and the Christmas tree.
- For exteriors, make sure that the lights and garlands have been made specifically for the outdoors.
- Avoid decorating trees in outdoor gardens, since these areas are usually watered and kept moist, which increases the probability of electrocution.

### Extension cords, triple sockets, and power strips

- Do not for any reason make temporary installations inside the house if you do not have technical support. These can be defective and cause fatal accidents or fires in homes.
- Be careful with the use and installation of extension cords and power strips. Not only do you run the risk of overloading, but children and pets can become entangled and risk electrocution.
- Extension cables must also be certified to ensure their quality and avoid cable overheating.
- Make sure that extension cords do not have cuts, fissures, or bare wires and that the plug is in good condition.
- Look at the inside of the plugs of the extension cord, which must be protected, so that metal elements can be introduced inside.
- Avoid the use of triple and quadruple sockets because they can overload the electrical system of the home.

### What to do in case of an electrical accident

- Disconnect the electricity in the automatic switch in the fuse box and unplug the device that is in contact with the victim.
- Do not touch the injured person until the power is switched off.
- If you cannot cut off the power, stand on something made of wood or rubber and use the handle of a broom -never anything metal- to separate the victim from the element that is generating the electrocution.
- Then, wrap the injured person's feet with a dry towel and remove him/her from the power source to immediately transfer him/her to a care facility.

## COMUNICADO DE PRENSA ENEL DISTRIBUCIÓN CHILE

### Purchase certified products

- Only purchase lights that have certification from a body authorized by the Superintendence of Electricity and Fuels (SEC). In this way, you will light up the Christmas tree with a safe product, which will not overheat or cause electrical problems that can lead to serious accidents.
- Never buy extension cords on the street or from street vendors, since no one guarantees their quality and safety.
- The certification is a label that can be seen on the product packaging and attached to the cable, usually near the outlet.