



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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## **STAY SAFE THIS HOLIDAY AND WINTER HEATING SEASON BY FOLLOWING THESE SAFETY TIPS**

**MERRILLVILLE, Ind.** – Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) today offers a number of tips on how to stay safe during the upcoming holiday season and throughout the winter heating season.

### *Be Safe and Follow these Holiday Electrical Safety Tips*

- Make sure all displays are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and outdoor displays are properly marked for “Outdoor Use.”
- Carefully inspect each decoration for cracked or frayed sockets, loose connections and bare wires, which could cause a serious shock or start a fire.
- Avoid stapling or nailing through light strings or electrical extension cords. Do not overload extension cords or allow them to run through water or snow.
- Plug outdoor lights into Ground Fault Circuit interrupters with no more than three standard-sized sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Ladders should be used carefully when outdoors, staying clear of overhead power lines.
- Turn off all lights and displays before leaving the home or going to bed.

### *Stay Warm and Safe with these Home Heating Safety Tips*

- Smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors should have fresh sets of batteries and be tested to make sure they are working properly.
- Space heaters should be used sparingly and safely, always following the manufacturers’ operating recommendations, and keeping them several feet away from all objects.
- Fire extinguishers should be recharged per the manufacturers’ recommendations and kept in areas such as kitchens and basements.
- Stoves, ovens and outdoor grills should never be used as a source of heat.
- Leave the home immediately if natural gas odors are present, and contact 911 and NIPSCO (1-800-464-7726) from a neighbor’s home.

NIPSCO, with headquarters in Merrillville, Ind., is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). With over 712,000 natural gas customers and 445,000 electric customers across the northern third of Indiana, NIPSCO is the largest natural gas distribution company, and the second largest electric distribution company, in the state. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.7 million natural gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about NIPSCO is available at [www.nipSCO.com](http://www.nipSCO.com).