Plug In to Holiday Safety

A teacher’s guide to holiday fire prevention and electrical safety for Grades 3-5

Inside you’ll find these materials to help you teach students about fire prevention and electrical safety during the winter holiday season:

- Student worksheets
- Seek-and-find poster
- Party ideas
- Family materials
P.I. Plug Is on the Case!

My name is P.I. Plug. I’m a private investigator—I find electrical dangers and fire hazards in and around people’s homes. During the winter holidays, I am very busy. I have more work than I can do on my own! Will you help me investigate this home? Circle the things that are safe. Place an X over the things that are unsafe.

Answer Key: Safe: This room has a working smoke alarm; an adult is supervising the baking of holiday cookies; an adult is plugging a single strand of lights into the outlet; a kid is spinning a dreidel.

Unsafe: Overloaded extension cord with too many strands of lights plugged into it; stockings hung over the fireplace—too close to the fire; space heater too close to the Christmas tree; the Christmas tree is dry, but should be kept healthy and watered; several cords are running across the middle of the room; a Kwanzaa candle display is within reach of an unsupervised kid; the Edradour—too close to the fireplace; a lighted candle is within reach of a little girl who is spinning a dreidel.
Test Your Holiday Safety Know-How

P.I. Plug here again. I test my electrical and fire safety skills every time I search a home for safety dangers. Now it’s your turn. Fill in the blanks with the missing words. Use the pictures to help you.

Don’t plug too many electrical decorations into an outlet.

Keep the space heater far away from the tree and other decorations.

Never leave lit candles unattended.

Make sure an adult pays attention to food that is cooking.

Have an adult test smoke alarms every month.

ANSWERS: 1. outlet; 2. heater; 3. cooking; 4. candles; 5. smoke alarms.

Congratulations! You’re on your way to being a holiday safety expert. Now you’re ready to inspect your own home for safety hazards!

Ask your teacher for Student Activity Sheet 3!
Holiday Home Inspection

Using what you have learned about fire and electrical safety, unscramble the words and use your answers to solve the riddle.

1. First, I saw an extension ___ ___ ___ ___ with four strands of ___ ___ lights plugged into it.  dorc

2. Next, I saw that the space ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ was next to the Christmas tree.  ehaert

3. No one was home, but there were ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ burning.  adlescn

4. In the ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ____, there was an unattended ___ ___ pot on the stove.  inchtek

5. All of these safety ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ could start a ___ ___ fire.  zhasard

6. There weren’t even any batteries in the smoke ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___!  aarmsl

Riddle:
How did P.I. Plug feel after he found all the safety hazards in this home?
___ ___ - ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___!