



LiElectro

Flash You Need

Christmas LED Lights Quick Facts & Stats

Safety, energy and cost numbers behind LED holiday lighting.

2026 edition | Updated October 23, 2026 | U.S. data

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A companion to the LiElectro LED Christmas Lights Guide

Safety by the numbers

What U.S. fire and injury data say about holiday lighting

143

home fires per year began with Christmas trees (2020-2024 average), with 7 civilian deaths, 13 injuries and \$15 million in property damage.

NFPA, January 2026

35%

of home fires involving Christmas trees happen in January, after the holidays, as trees dry out.

NFPA, January 2026

19%

of Christmas tree fires were started by decorative lights. Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 44% (2017-2021).

NFPA winter holiday statistics

14,900

emergency-room-treated holiday decorating injuries in 2023. Falls account for almost half of decorating injuries.

CPSC data, as reported by AARP

What the numbers mean

- **Lights are not the main culprit.** Decorative lights started about 1 in 5 tree fires. Dryness and nearby heat matter too: NFPA has reported a heat source too close to the tree in nearly one-fifth of tree fires.
- **Take-down timing counts.** Fresh trees dry out the longer they stay in the home, and a dried-out tree burns much more quickly than a well-watered one.
- **Falls are the biggest decorating injury.** The ladder is a bigger risk than the lights, which makes the height of your display a safety decision as well as a style one.

Fire figures are national estimates for U.S. home structure fires. Injury figures are national estimates from hospital ER data.

Cost and energy facts

What it costs to run holiday lights in 2026

18.2¢
per kWh

Average U.S. residential electricity price forecast for 2026 (EIA). Rates vary widely by state: New York averaged about 28¢ per kWh in January 2026.

Running cost lookup: 480 hours (12 hours a day for 40 days)

Total load	Energy used	Cost at 18.2¢/kWh
5 W (example low-draw LED set)	2.4 kWh	\$0.44
50 W (example mini incandescent set)	24 kWh	\$4.37
200 W (example C9 incandescent set)	96 kWh	\$17.47

Illustrative loads. Check the wattage printed on your product and use your own electricity rate.

U.S. Department of Energy estimate: lighting a 6-foot tree, same 480 hours

Light type	Incandescent	LED
Mini lights	about \$2.74	under \$1
C9 lights	about \$10	under \$0.30
Buy + run C9 for 10 seasons	\$122.19	\$17.99

DOE chart from an older year with older electricity rates. Treat it as a relative comparison, not today's dollar cost.

Quick facts

- ENERGY STAR-rated residential LEDs use at least 75% less energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs.
- Holiday LED strings are commonly cited as saving up to 90% of the energy of incandescent strings.
- U.S. residential electricity prices rose in all regions, so running costs for old incandescent sets keep climbing.

Sources

NFPA, "More than one-third of Christmas tree home fires occur in January" (Jan 5, 2026) and NFPA winter holiday statistics (2017-2021 data, as published in NFPA releases). CPSC holiday decorating injury data as reported by AARP. EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook (2026 residential price); New York January 2026 price from Empire Center for Public Policy using EIA data. U.S. DOE holiday lighting cost chart as republished by UF/IFAS and KTAR; 10-season cost from the DOE data shown by Statista; ENERGY STAR/DOE efficiency claims as reported by Architect Magazine. Figures are U.S. estimates and may differ in other countries. Always check product labels and manufacturer instructions.