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Safety doesn't have to be spooky with simple Halloween safety tips from PNM.

(Albuquerque, NM) – With more families spending time at home during the pandemic, sales on holiday decorations have been at an all-time high. With the cancellation of so many public events, many families are choosing to create their own experience around their own homes. Halloween decorations are creeping into neighborhoods across New Mexico, and PNM has some simple tips to keep your homes and families safe from scary electrical hazards.

1. Always look up and look out for power lines when decorating outside and stay at least 10 feet away from them. Only use decorations rated specifically for outdoor use.
2. Do not carry ladders while extended and carry them horizontally to avoid potential contact with overhead power lines.
3. Do not place light strands or electrical cords into trees or vegetation near power lines and never place anything on utility poles.
4. Only use lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.
5. Make sure extension cords are in good condition, and check lights for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace any damaged strings.
6. Keep electric cords out of high-traffic areas where people or pets can trip or become entangled.
7. Don't staple or nail through light strings or electrical cords, and do not attach cords or lights to metal objects.
8. Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs protect you from electric shocks.
9. Use LED candles instead of regular candles to avoid potential fires.
10. Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

“Even though Halloween might look a little different for us this year, decorating our homes is a great way to get in the spirit,” said Chad Krukowski, director of safety for PNM. “Keeping these tips in mind can help keep customers safe during this spooky holiday.”

About PNM

With headquarters in Albuquerque, PNM is the largest electricity provider in New Mexico, serving 530,000 customers in dozens of communities across the state. PNM is a subsidiary of PNM Resources, an energy holding company also headquartered in Albuquerque. For more information, visit www.PNM.com.