

Safety Meeting Topic

November Monthly Safety Topic

November, 2008

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season injure 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damage. According to the U. S. Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can help make their holiday season merry and safe.

Toys and Gifts

- Be especially careful when you choose toys for infants or small children.
- Be sure anything you give them is too big to get caught in the throat, nose or ears.
- Avoid toys with small parts that can be pulled or broken off.
- If you are giving toys to several children in one family, consider their age differences and the chances that younger children will want to play with older kids' toys.
- Select gifts for older adults that are not heavy or awkward to handle.
- For persons with arthritis, make sure the gift does not require assembly and can be easily opened and closed.
- Choose books with large type for anyone with vision impairment.

Plants

- Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. But many plants can cause severe stomach problems.
- Plants to watch out for include: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis. Keep all of these plants out of children's reach.

Alcohol, Parties and Driving

- Being a smart party host or guest should include being sensible about alcoholic drinks.
- More than half of all traffic fatalities are alcohol-related.
- Use designated drivers, people who do not drink, to drive other guests home after a holiday party.

Stress

- The holiday season is one of the most stressful times of the year.
- You can't avoid stress completely, but you can give yourself some relief.
- Allow enough time to shop rather than hurry through stores and parking lots.
- Only plan to do a reasonable number of errands.
- When shopping, make several trips out to the car to drop off packages rather than trying to carry too many items.
- Take time out for yourself. Relax, read, or enjoy your favorite hobby at your own pace.

Smoke Detectors

- Install and check smoke detectors (alarms) batteries on a regular basis.

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- Develop a home fire escape plan.
- Familiarize children with the sound of your smoke alarm.
- Have at least two ways out of each room.
- Get out and Stay out.

Decorations

- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.

Christmas Trees

- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.
- If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Electrical Safety



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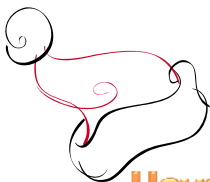
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- Inspect holiday lights and extension cords before decorating. Replace any that are fraying or otherwise damaged. Pay special attention to lights, cords or decorations that may have been damaged from winter weather conditions.
- Check for red or green UL marks on all light strings and extension cords. The green holographic UL Mark means the light strings should be used only indoors. The red holographic UL Mark indicates the light strings can be used both inside and out -- and can withstand conditions related to outdoor use.
- Follow manufacturer's guidelines for stringing light sets together. As a general rule, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) recommends using no more than three standard-size sets of lights together.
- Do not overload extension cords or electrical receptacles.
- Unplug all holiday lights when you go to sleep or leave home
- Automatic lighting timers can be used to ensure that lights are not left on. These are available for both indoor and outdoor applications.
- Roll up excess electrical cords and keep them away from high traffic areas. Do not run electrical cords under rugs.
- Never keep an extension cord plugged in when it is not in use.
- When replacing a light bulb, make sure that the replacement bulb is of equal or lesser wattage than that recommended by the manufacturer.
- If you have children in your home, use safety caps on all electrical receptacles.



ALWAYS MAKE SURE:

- ✓ your equipment/decorations are grounded.
- ✓ cords aren't pinched between doors/windows.
- ✓ power is off when replacing lights/decorations.



Have A Safe And Peaceful Holiday Season.