

Holiday Hazards

The Holiday season is upon us, and brings not only joy and celebration, but also extra work and stresses at home and in the workplace. This season is full of hazards not often found in our environment during the rest of the year. Here are a few safety tips that will assist you in avoiding hazards:

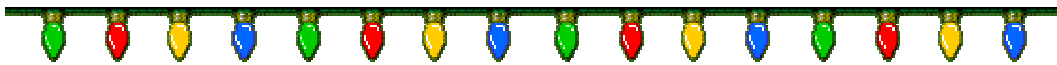
Christmas Trees



- Artificial tree should have a "Fire Resistant Label". Do not use lights on a metal tree! Some trees are heavy; avoid straining your back, Get Help!!
- Natural trees should be fresh; needles should not fall out and should be flexible. The tree butt should be sticky with resin. When you set up your tree, cut an inch or two off the base. Place in water, and keep the water reservoir full! Place away from fireplaces, radiators, or portable heaters, out of the way of traffic; do not block doorways. Secure the tree to prevent it from falling over.

Holiday Lights

- All lights should be UL (Underwrites Laboratories) or FM (Factory Mutual) approved only, including extension cords. NEVER string cords across traffic areas. Test lights before installing, and if they are broken, replace them.
- Use only appropriate lights for outdoors: ground-fault-circuit-interrupters (GFCI's) are mandatory. Use hooks, and insulated staples. Avoid stapling into strand of lights.
- Use a safe and sturdy ladder while installing. Do not lean away from ladder; stay between the upright frame of the ladder. Hold the frame, as the steps may be slippery. Don't pull or tug lights to remove.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you are away or asleep!!



Childproof Your Home

- Small children can very easily swallow small ornaments and decorative pieces. Hang small ornaments high on the tree, and place decorative pieces on higher-level furniture, out of the reach of little ones.
- Glass ornaments can become very sharp hazards if broken by a child.
- Block areas off from children where power cords are exposed.
- Small children may think that holiday plants look good enough to eat. Many plants can cause severe stomach problems. Pick up all leafage that falls from holiday plants. Avoid: mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis.
- Homes that you visit may not be childproof. When visiting with your small children, survey the home for hazards.



Reduce Stress

- Limit the number of tasks you tackle and complete one before beginning another. Make a checklist.
- Allow extra time for traffic and keep your gas tank full.

May you and your family have a safe and wonderful Holiday season!!