



DRILL BITS

SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

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Your Holiday Safety Tips

The winter holiday season has arrived, and as consumers prepare to make their homes merry and bright, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is providing a holiday decorating guide to help prevent fires and injuries this season. The common-sense safety tips include simple steps, such as careful candle placement and inspection of holiday lights for damage.

During November and December, CPSC staff estimates that, on average, about 12,000 consumers are treated in hospital emergency departments nationwide due to holiday-related decorating incidents. In addition, dried out Christmas trees are involved in hundreds of fires, resulting in an average of 17 deaths and \$13 million in property damage annually. Candle related residential fires attended by fire departments are associated with an estimated annual average of 150 deaths and \$385 million in property damage.

The good news is that these hazards in the home are preventable, and CPSC is providing consumers with a guide to a safer holiday. "Home decorating for the holidays is a wonderful tradition, and CPSC wants to ensure that this holiday season is a safe and happy one," said CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum. "To prevent a holiday tradition from becoming a holiday trag-

edy, keep lighted candles in sight, check trees for freshness, and don't use lights with broken sockets or frayed wires."

Use the following 10 safety tips as a guide for safe decorating this year:

Trees and Decorations

1. When purchasing a live tree, DO check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, its needles are hard to pull from branches, and its needles do not break when bent between your fingers. The bottom of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. 2. When setting up a tree at home, DO place it away from heat sources, such as fireplaces, vents, and radiators. Because heated rooms rapidly dry out live trees, be sure to monitor water levels and keep the tree stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic, and do not block doorways. 3. When purchasing an artificial tree, DO look for the label, "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean that the tree will not catch fire, it does indicate that the tree is more resistant to catching fire.

4. In homes with small children, DO take special care to avoid sharp, weighted, or breakable decorations. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food

that may tempt a child to eat them.

Lights

5. Indoors or outdoors, DO use only lights that have been tested for safety by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory.

6. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. DON'T use electric lights on a metallic tree.

7. If using an extension cord, DO make sure it is rated for the intended use.

8. When using lights outdoors, DO check labels to be sure that the lights have been certified for outdoor use, and only plug them into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protected receptacle or a portable GFCI.

Candles

9. Keep burning candles within sight. DO extinguish all candles before you go to bed, leave the room, or leave the house.

10. DO keep candles on a stable heat-resistant surface where kids and pets cannot reach them or knock them over. Lighted candles should be away from items that can catch fire and burn easily, such as trees, other evergreens, decorations, curtains, and furniture.

For more information or other Consumer Product Safety Commission guidance, visit: <http://www.cpsc.gov/>

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Four seconds is all the time it takes to go from flame exposure to a fully involved room when a tree is not adequately maintained.



Use UL Listed products and follow manufacturers recommendations for installation and use..



OSHA's top ten violations list

On November 1st, 2012, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced the 2012 top 10 most cited violations. While many of the violations, compared to 2011 and 2010, seem redundant, it makes one wonder if we are learning from our mistakes. It seems they may change position, but the same violations occur year in and year out.

Perhaps OSHA investigators only have ten items that they can cite. That might explain why the same ten repeat themselves. Or could the true answer lie in the idea that even though we hear and see safety reminders daily, as employees we don't take them seriously.

Whatever causes the list of violations to change order, it is up to us to assist our fellow employees through Composite Risk Management. With the use of CRM and the addition of Job Hazard Analysis we can prevent many of the accidents that occur. Also, with the exemplary record of safety within the state, we cannot let our guard down or become complacent.

Most Cited Violations of 2012

1. Fall Protection (29 CFR 1926.501) 7250 violations
2. Hazard Communication (29 CFR 1910.1200) 4696 violations (mainly

due to lack of training, labeling fail, access to MSDSs and lacking correct MSDSs)

3. Scaffolding (29 CFR 1926.451) – 3018 violations (Big problem, people using scaffoldings as ladders and ladders as scaffolding, assuming one could work for the other.)

4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134)

5. Ladders (1926.1053)

6. Machine Guarding – General Requirement (29 CFR 1910.212)

7. Powered Industrial Trucks (29 CFR 1910.178)

8. Electrical – Wiring Methods (29 CFR 1910.305)

9. Control of Hazardous Energy – Lockout/Tagout (1910.147)

10. Electrical – General (29 CFR 1910.303) 2863 violations

Most Cited Violations of 2011

1. Fall Protection
2. Scaffolding
3. Hazard Communication
4. Respiratory Protection

5. Control of Hazardous Energy – Lockout/Tagout

6. Electrical – Wiring Methods

7. Powered Industrial Trucks

8. Ladders

9. Electrical – General, 2863 violations

10. Machine Guarding – General Requirement

Most Cited Violations of 2010

1. Scaffolding
2. Fall Protection
3. Hazard Communications
4. Respiratory Protection
5. Ladders
6. Control of Hazardous Energy – Lockout/Tagout
7. Electrical – Wiring Methods
8. Powered Industrial Truck
9. Electrical – General
10. Machine Guarding

Your safety and survival throughout your career is the most important aspect of your daily life. Don't let the little issues become big problems. Stay focused and use your training, knowledge and experience to work safely each day and help those around you.

Do you know your Hazard Reporting Procedures? If you locate or observe a hazard in your shop or facility it needs to be reported to your supervisor. Many hazards can be corrected on the spot, and that is always a good thing. But it also needs to be reported to the supervisor. You may not be the first to find this condition, or correct it, and you may not be the last. If it is not reported to the supervisor each time, then it may not get the attention it needs to repair it permanently. A DA Form 4755 "Employee Report of Alleged Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions" needs to be completed for each hazard, and that must be taken to the Safety Committee for inclusion on the Hazard Log. All SMM Shops should have a reporting procedure for hazards in their Shop SOP. Know the procedure and help Stop the Loss.

Trees

Many artificial trees are fire resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement specifying this protection.

A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember:

- A fresh tree is green.
- Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.
- When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.
- The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.
- When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.

Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or ceiling. These wires are almost invisible.

“Snow”

Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels; follow directions carefully.

Lights

Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory.

Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house, walls or other firm support to protect from wind damage.

Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.

Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.

Never use electric lights on a metallic tree.

The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and any person touching a branch could be electrocuted! To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a tree, never fastened onto it!

Keep “bubbling” lights away from children.

These lights with their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break candle-shaped glass, which can cut, and a tempt to drink liquid, which contains a hazardous chemical.



Holiday Decoration Safety Tips

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Product Safety Commission

Candles

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens.

Always use non-flammable holders.

Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper.

Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.

Trimnings

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials.

Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass "angel hair" to avoid irritation to eyes and skin.

Choose tinsel or artificial icicles or plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

In homes with small children, take special care to:

- Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable.
- Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled.
- Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food. A child could eat them!

Fires

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that flue is open.

Keep a screen before the fireplace all the time a fire is burning.

Use care with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals which can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation or vomiting if eaten. Keep away from children.

Paper

When making paper decorations, look for materials labeled non-combustible or flame-resistant.

Never place trimming near open flames or electrical connections.

Remove all wrapping papers from tree and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened.

Do not burn papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

General Rules for Holiday Safety

- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. PRACTICE THE PLAN!
- Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes—particularly long, open sleeves—near open flames - such as those of a fireplace, stove, or candlelit table.
- Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous. When dry, greens burn like tinder. Flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room, or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections.

