



BE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY

It's hard to believe that the Christmas season is here: decorating, shopping for gifts, visiting with friends and family, wide eyes of children, aroma of Christmas trees and holiday cooking. We all look forward to joyful events during the season. Too many times, however, the happiness is abruptly interrupted by disasters that can happen during the season if some simple safety rules are ignored.

Let's start our safety check with the Christmas tree. If using a live tree, be sure to keep it watered to avoid premature drying which can turn a beautiful tree into kindling. Check the electric lights for frayed or exposed wiring which could short circuit and start a fire. Are all the lights rated for use on the trees? Could the light overheat and ignite the tree or decorations? Are too many lights being plugged into one extension cord? Extension cords should never cross walking areas and become a trip hazards. Never allow pets to play with or chew on the lights or cords. Be sure to keep all cords away from water reservoir of the tree stand to prevent shock hazards. Presents under the tree should be clear of contact with the lights and away from heat vents to avoid heat damage to the wrapping or gifts inside.

Other electric decorating lights used inside the house should be checked for frayed or exposed wiring or damaged bulbs. Be careful of overheating the surfaces they contact. Too many times, electric candles in windows overheat and ignite drapes or curtains they touch. Lights and extension cords for outside decorating must be designed for outside use and never where rainwater or ice could cause shorting or shock hazard. Again, eliminate extension cords in walkways.

Many decorations now dance, sing, or rock, utilizing motors. These motors must be checked for safe, unobstructed operation. Blocked movement could cause overheating and a potential fire hazard. If used outside, be sure the decoration is designed for outdoor use or again, shorting and fire can occur.

The holiday season often sees an increase in use of the fireplace. Have the fireplace, chimney, damper and flue checked for safe operation. Be sure the damper is correctly set to avoid fumes, unnecessary draft or soot puff backs. Do not place decorations, presents, or plants too close to the fireplace where heat or sparks from the hearth could damage or ignite them. Keep screens in place and be sure children are told not to play with the fire.

We all enjoy burning holiday candles for their beautiful appearance and scent. Remember, however, that these present potential safety hazards of open flame, combustible heat, dripping hot wax, and soot. Be careful about placement of these candles, keeping them away from any decorations, presents, plants, or other materials the candles could ignite or damage. Also remember those scented candles or potpourri may be irritating to some guests, so monitor the effects.

Inside or outside, it is very good practice not to leave any electrical decorations on or open flame burning while away or after you retire for the night. Also be sure all your fire/smoke alarms are operating properly.

Finally, the increase in cooking during the holiday season increases the incidence of kitchen fires, so be careful to use all cooking devices and venting equipment safely and don't let the increased activity distract you to forget that pot on the stove.

ACTION RESTORATION wishes you a very safe and happy holiday season!

Praying For Gifts

Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers when the youngest one began praying at the top of his lungs, "I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE. I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO. I PRAY FOR A NEW VCR..."

His older brother leaned over and nudged the younger brother and said, "Why are you shouting your prayers? God isn't deaf." To which the little brother

replied, "No, but Gramma is!"

WHEN IT COUNTS MOST

After others criticized him for his "snap decisions," General George S. Patton replied, "When a surgeon decides in the course of an operation to change its objective, to splice that artery or cut deeper and remove another organ which he finds infected, he is not making a snap decision but one based on knowledge but one based on knowledge, experience, training. So am I."

There is more to decision making than what takes place in the few moments surrounding the decision. Gather facts, learn from experience, get good counsel, and making decisions based on principle of good character.

When choosing a vendor, try to discern the integrity of the individual and the company. When reporting sales or productivity, give truthful information, even when it hurts. When taking a break, keep track of time so that you don't cheat your employer a few minutes everyday. Ask yourself, "What is the right thing to do?" and do it.

Even if you find "compelling" reasons to do something wrong, stop, and evaluate your decision in light of good character. Act with integrity so that others can trust the decisions you make .A good moral compass will help you make good



decisions.