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SAFETY TOPICS

SAFETY

Safety is never an accident: it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution! It represents the wise choice of many alternatives!!

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- For What It Is Worth - The Cost of Love or Keeping Track of Your Phonel

For What It Is Worth!

A group of golfers were in the clubhouse locker room when a cell phone on a bench, began to ring. After the phone rang several times, one of the men went to the phone and pushed the speaker phone button so the phone could be heard by all: "Hi sweetheart", came a women's voice from the other end, "how was your round of golf?" "Just fine", replied the man. "Dear, I am at the mall and have found a leather jacket that I just love. It is only \$1,000. May I buy it?" she purred. "Go ahead, if you like it that well", he replied for everyone to hear. "I looked at that Mercedes again and the salesman came down to \$72,000. Do you think I should go ahead and close the deal?" she asked. "That sounds great", he replied. "And, by the way, that house that we looked at last year is back on the market again at \$950,000. Can I make an offer. You know how much I really liked that house", she cooed. "If that will make you happy, go ahead, but don't offer more than \$935,000", he cautioned. "Thanks honey, you are the greatest. I love you," she beamed. "Goodbye", he replied as he disconnected the phone. At that the man turned to the other men in the room and said, "does anyone know who this phone belongs to?"

HOLIDAY SAFETY FROM CPSC

Before crawling up on the roof to string the Christmas lights, you need to know that every year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

In addition, warns CPSC, candles start about 11,600 fires each year, resulting in 150 deaths, 1,200 injuries and \$173 million in property loss. Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and an average of more than \$10 million in property loss and damage.

"Sometimes people are having such a nice time during the holidays that they forget to extinguish candles," said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. "Always put out lit candles before leaving a room or going to bed. Always keep burning candles within sight. Also, make sure your holiday lights bear the mark of a recognized testing lab to show they meet safety standards."

Since CPSC started monitoring holiday lights and decorations sold at stores nationwide, inspectors have prevented the import of 116,500 units of holiday lights that did not meet safety standards.

CPSC tips to make your holiday a safe one:

Trees:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will



Merry Christmas!

resist burning and should extinguish quickly.

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.

When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

Lights:

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards. Use only lights that have fused plugs.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Make sure the extension cord is rated for the intended use.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for

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Help me come up with a safety slogan for 2005! A few good ideas have been sent but there is plenty of room for more. Something catchy and short that will keep people thinking safety everyday-all day. A few of the ideas I have received, so far: imi Employees Should Be Seen, and Not "Hurt"; Keep Safety Alive in 2005; Strive for Safety in 2005; Safety is our Strive in 2005; Safety-not Jive-in 2005. Thanks for your help, get your ideas to me by December 22. Walt

outdoor use.

- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into older homes.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- Use caution when removing outdoor holiday lights. Never pull or tug on lights - they could unravel and inadvertently wrap around power lines.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Decorations:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place

candles where they will not be knocked down.

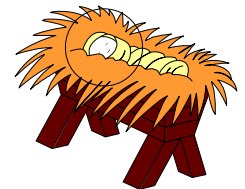
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair."
- Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

Fireplaces:

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

[Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission]

Remember the reason for the season!



Make Safety Soar in 2004