



# Environmental, Health and Safety News

December 2011

We're Proud of Our Work

## Something to Think About

*Help me out with a Safety Slogan for 2012! The new year will be here before you know it! Do you have a good idea? Let me hear it!*

## Candle Fire Safety from the Dallas Fire-Rescue Department

December is the peak month for candle fires, with nearly twice the average number of incidents. 44% of reported candle fires in the home started in the bedroom.

### Safety Points to Remember

- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire.
- Use candleholders that are sturdy, won't tip over easily, are made from a material that can't burn and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Don't place lit candles in windows, where blinds and curtains can close over them.
- Place candleholders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface and do not use candles in places where they could be knocked over by children or pets.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Keep candlewicks trimmed to one-quarter inch and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within two inches of the holder or decorative material. Votives and containers should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax starts to melt.
- Avoid candles with combustible items embedded in them.

everyone's thinking, it is an effort to get everyone to consider safety in everything we do. I know from personal experience that thinking about what can go wrong with a task and taking precautions to prevent it can pay rewards in avoiding serious injuries.

We also get warning signals in the form of close calls. None of us take advantage of these close calls or near misses, if you prefer, like we should. Many times when we have a close call, we quickly look around to see who might be watching in the hope that embarrassment will be avoided. That is just human nature. Rather than think about the embarrassment of a near miss we need to think about how this could help someone else. It could be helpful to take advantage of stories about near misses.

Here is where you can help us; it has been brought to our attention that the same old tool box talks are getting stale. After all how many different ways can you talk about three-points-of-contact! So the EHS group would like to use personal experiences by our work force as topics for tool box talks. They can be related to working with imi or away from work. We have always encouraged reports of near misses in the work place and we even have a form for that within the aggregate group, but reports of near misses are practically non-existent.

If you will share your personal near misses with imi you do not need to provide your name or the location where you work. Send me the story and I will keep the author and location strictly confidential but we think that the information may assist in preventing future incidents. The story will be shared across the Company as tool box talk topics.

## Near Miss Reporting

Thanks go to Trenity Shaw for this suggestion!

The EHS Group would like your assistance again. Regular tool box talks are encouraged in every division, with some requiring weekly meetings. The reason for these tool box talks is to bring safety to the front of

## Near Miss?

**Don't ignore it, report it!**

**Have a Very Merry and Safe Christmas!  
And a Happy New Year!**

2012 is on the way . . . .  
Safe and Healthy, please let's stay!



