

SAFETY WAVE

O Christmas Tree

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Don't be a fire hazard.
Use artificial Christmas trees,
Or one that's flame-retardant.
Daily water so it's not dry,
Turn off lights when you go bye.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Don't be a fire hazard.



To decorate your Christmas tree
Cords mustn't be a hazard.
Use mini-lights (no more than three).
And don't obstruct the hallways.
Don't block sprinklers in any way.
No candles on your display.
O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree,
Don't be a fire hazard.

For more information on Tulane's holiday decoration policy,
see www.som.tulane.edu/oehs/HolidayDecorations.htm.

Here Come Safety Folks

(Tune of Here Comes Santa Claus)

Here come safety folks, here come safety folks,
Ready to inspect my lab.
Chain the cylinders, cap the containers.
I don't want that on my tab.
My ears are ringing, as they come bringing
News that my lab is all right.
So label your stuff and say your prayers,
Cause the safety folks come tonight.

Here come safety folks, here come safety folks,
Ready to inspect my place.
All my containers are off the floor
And goggles are on my face.
A working eyewash and safety shower-
Oh, what a beautiful sight!
I won't jump in bed and cover my head.
'Cause the safety folks come tonight.

*Contributors: Pam Fatland, Jay Folsie, & Mitzi Hithe with help
from James Balsamo, Louis Mayer, & Susan Welch*

"Thanks To Your Emails..."

Someone recently sent me an email suggesting some safety tips. It starts, "Thanks to your emails..."

- I no longer open a bathroom door without using a paper towel and I always wash my hands.
- I no longer put lemon slices in my ice water without worrying about bacteria on the peel.
- I am careful not to put my purse on the table in case it has been on the floor of a public bathroom.
- I scrub the top to every can of soda before I open it.
- I think twice before using Saran Wrap in the microwave or drinking from cups made of certain plastics because they may cause cancer.
- I do not check the coin return in a pay phone for fear I could be pricked with a needle infected with AIDS.
- I never use my cell phone while pumping gas because I don't want a spark to cause an explosion.
- I no longer buy gasoline unless I take someone along to watch for a serial killer who may try to get in the backseat while I am pumping gas.
- I can't boil a cup of water in the microwave anymore for fear it will blow up in my face.
- I can't do any gardening because I'm afraid I'll get bitten by the brown recluse spider and my hand will fall off.

But I want to thank you for the angels who are looking out for me and granting my wishes." While some of this advice is a bit extreme, the point is to use common sense, be aware of your surroundings, use caution, and be prepared for an emergency. Thanks to the angel that sent me that email...



Holiday Toy Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission was established in 1972 as an independent agency of the federal government to protect the public against injuries from consumer products. As the holiday season approaches, the CPSC is emphasizing the importance of shopping safely and knowing what the agency does to protect consumers.

The greatest number of fatalities associated with toys is due to choking and aspiration of toy parts. The CPSC has increased scrutiny of toys and takes action to remove dangerous ones from the marketplace. Today, more companies are testing their toys and reporting possible problems. In 2007, the CPSC recalled 61 toys involving 25 million units from the marketplace. The Chinese government has now agreed to inspect toys for lead paint before exporting to the U.S.

The CPSC offers the public the convenience of direct notification of recalls via email. The public may sign up for this direct notification by logging onto www.cpsc.gov. The CPSC's top tips for shopping this year are:

- Falls from riding toys, skateboards, and in-line skates can be deadly. Safety gear and helmets should be fit to size.
- Toys with small parts such as magnets, can be choking hazards, particularly for children under 3.
- Toys that act as projectiles, such as sling shots and darts that can result in serious injury, are only to be used with caution by older children.
- Electrical toys using chargers and adaptors can pose fire hazards and are to be used with supervision.

Adults and parents are urged to read all labels, observing age and safety recommendations listed. Look for toys with sturdy construction and match the toy with the abilities and skills of the child. Toys that have sharp edges or sharp points should be avoided. After opening gifts, parents and guardians should keep younger children away from toys designed for older children, pay attention to warnings on battery chargers, and immediately discard any combustible wrapping paper that could pose a danger.

Ergonomic Gift Ideas

In today's high tech work environment, a little bit of comfort goes a long way. With our society spending more and more time on cell phones, iPods, laptops, keyboards, and monitors, we need "comfort items" (something other than chocolate) to soften the blows. Since the holiday season is here, why not give an "ergonomic gift?" Here are a few ergonomic gift ideas that will buffer the blows of high tech. Best of all, they're suitable for all ages, shapes, and sizes!

- Electric stapler or an ergonomic manual stapler
- Wrist rest pad for keyboard and mouse
- Personalized mouse (one size does not fit all)
- External keyboard and mouse for the laptop user
- Document holder
- Anti-glare filter for a monitor
- Headset or phone shoulder rest
- Footrest
- Laptop holder
- Monitor arm or stacker
- Ergonomic pens/pencils
- Cups or mugs with ergonomic handles
- Left-handed scissors for your favorite lefties



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY!!!!

Environmental Health & Safety

Pam Fatland, Editor

Tulane University TW16

1430 Tulane Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70112-2699

Phone (504) 988-5486 Uptown (504) 865-5307

FAX (504) 988-1693

Web site: www.som.tulane.edu/oehs

Tulane University

Office of Environmental Health & Safety - TW16

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1430 Tulane Avenue

New Orleans, LA 70112-2699