

WEEKLY SAFETY TIP – 12/14/09 – FREE HOLIDAY SAFETY VIDEOS AND TIPS

Hanukkah has already begun, and there are only 10 more shopping days til Christmas. The holidays are here. This time of year, we all could probably use something for free, so we are sharing some websites with free downloads to bring you holiday safety information, and help you share that information with others.

Christmas Trees: The spokesperson for the Consumer Product Safety Commission was interviewed on CBS news regarding selecting and decorating a tree. Here's a link to the video. Be sure to watch all the way to the end. There's a dramatic video of a dry tree erupting into flames and engulfing a room in just 9 seconds!

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=2240571n>

The Right Gifts: The recent stories of unsafe toys and products might have you a little concerned about what to purchase. Fortunately, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has done some of the research for you. On their site are links to webpages about the safest pajamas, toys and children's books. You can find their site by clicking on this link.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/> (Please note that you can toggle the site to Spanish by clicking a link in the upper left corner.)

Candles: From 2003-2006, in the US, 160 people died in fires started by candles according to the National Fire Protection Association. Candles are a popular holiday decoration, and are a beautiful way to keep your holiday spirit burning bright, if you do it safely. Read about holiday safety in general, and candle safety in particular, or listen to an audio message on the NFPA website at:

<http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=301&URL=Safety%20Information/For%20consumers/Seasonal%20safety/Winter/holiday%20safety>

For our Furry Friends: Holly, mistletoe and poinsettias are unhealthy for pets, and can cause a number of illnesses. The sugars and fertilizers added to the water in the Christmas tree stand can be harmful for non-discriminating dogs and cats that might drink it. Glass ornaments look like balls – a common pet toy. But they can be harmful if a pet plays with it and cuts themselves. Learn more holiday safety for pets from a Veterinarian at peteducation.com, linked here:

<http://www.peteducation.com/article.cfm?c=2+2098&aid=932>

Winter Safety: The National Safety Council has a variety of winter and holiday safety messages, all about one page in length, including information on cold weather, driving and much more. You can check them out at:

http://www.nsc.org/news_resources/Resources/Pages/SafetyHealthFactSheets.aspx

Charity Options: This is the season for giving. If you are looking for a way to help others, we suggest the American Red Cross. This institution is one of the first relief agencies to arrive at any disaster scene. On their homepage is a link to a donation site for their online catalog, which includes meals and blankets for the needy, and phone cards for our military so they can contact their loved ones while away from home. Take a look at:

<http://www.redcross.org/portal/site/en/menuitem.1a019a978f421296e81ec89e43181aa0/?vgnextoid=6c82c7afdc975210VgnVCM10000089f0870aRCRD>

Editor's note: Next week, look for our quarterly newsletter instead of the safety tip. We will take a break for the holidays. Look for our next safety tip on Monday, January 4th, 2010, with the next "What's Wrong In This Picture."

All the best from SCM – Happy Holidays!