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**SAFETY IS AN INVESTMENT IN YOUR FUTURE.**

Everything starts with Safety at IEC

**Safety Never Takes a Holiday**

Toolbox Talk # 5014

Just like Santa working around the clock for Christmas, safety never takes a break during the holiday season. Shorter days, winter weather, travel, outdoor activities and holiday preparations bring a whole variety of potential safety hazards our way. Throw in long weekends and it’s the perfect recipe for a safety slip-up. Unlike Grandma’s Christmas sugar cookies, that’s one recipe you do not want to ask for. Instead, let’s check out Santa’s recipe for safe holiday success!

**Recipe for a Safe Holiday Season**

*1 dash of injury-free decorating*  
*2 tablespoons of safe winter driving*  
*3 cups of healthy food handling*  
*4 ounces of harmless gift-giving*  
*5 pinches of health and safety checks*  
*Mix well and do not bake – instead keep an eye out for fire starters*

In all seriousness, here are some great tips to ensure your holidays are safe.

Decorating your office and home is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire.

* Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children
* If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant”
* If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption, remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry
* Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways
* Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors, and [choose the right ladder](https://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/slips-trips-falls) for the task when hanging lights
* Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections
* Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket
* Never nail, tack, or stress wiring when hanging lights and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow
* Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house

Candles and Fireplaces  
Use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations in many homes during the holidays, means more risk for fire. The [National Fire Protection Association](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Top-fire-causes/Candles) reports that one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles and that two of every five decoration fires happen because the decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

* Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over and out of reach of children
* Keep matches and lighters up high and out of reach for children in a locked cabinet
* Use flameless, rather than lighted, candles near flammable objects
* Don’t burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace
* Use a screen on the fireplace at all times when a fire is burning
* Never leave candles or fireplaces burning unattended or when you are asleep
* Check and clean the chimney and fireplace area at least once a year

Please read and understand this important document and sign on the reverse side that you have done so.

YOUR SIGNATURE ON THE REVERSE SIDE INDICATES THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Phone 614-473-1050 email: JVan@IECCentralOH.org website: [www.ieccentraloh.org](http://www.ieccentraloh.org)

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Attendance – Toolbox Talk

Company / Employer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Topic: Safety Never Takes a Holiday

# I have read and understand Toolbox Talks, topic as shown, on date indicated.

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