



Weekly Safety Tip

“Your Connection for Workplace Safety”
Phone: 920-208-7520

We're about service, commitment, results, and accountability!

Merry Christmas

Our Weekly Safety Tip provides valuable and current safety information relevant for Work, Home & Play.

And, you will be kept current on the latest Safety Compliance issues.



SCI SAFETY NEWS OR TIP



SCI OSHA NEWS OR COMPLIANCE



SCI HEALTHYLIVING and WELLNESS NEWS

We want to hear from you! Send us your feedback and give us ideas for future safety topics.

Let us know how you feel about our new look!

Safety Slogan

Best gift you can give your family is YOU! Please be safe

James Lehrke-SCI

Of the week

SCI Safety Tip: Christmas Tree Safety Tips

Source: <http://www.nfpa.org>

Date: November 2013 (NFPA's "Home Christmas Tree and Holiday Light Fires" by John R. Hall, Jr.)

Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.

Facts & figures

Between 2007-2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 230 home fires that started with Christmas trees per year. These fires caused an average of 6 deaths, 22 injuries, and \$18.3 million in direct property damage annually.

On average, one of every 40 reported home fires that began with a Christmas tree resulted in a death, compared to an average of one death per 142 total reported home fires.

Electrical problems were factors in one-third (32%) of home Christmas tree structure fires.

Two of every five (39%) home Christmas tree fires started in the living room, family room, or den.

Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. Carefully decorating Christmas trees can help make your holidays safer.

Picking the tree

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1" - 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.

- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Also see: [Fact sheet on Christmas trees and holiday lights](#) (PDF, 51 KB)

SCI OSHA News: OSHA Announces 2014 Regulatory Priorities. Are You Ready?

Source: <http://www.blr.com>

Date: December 11, 2013

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), which includes OSHA, has issued its Fall 2013 Regulatory Agenda. The document includes 28 OSHA-related items. Keep reading to learn about OSHA's rulemaking plans and what they mean for you and your employees.

The labor department says the regulations it is pursuing in 2014 are part of a plan/prevent/protect approach, "designed to ensure employers and other regulated entities are in full compliance with the law every day, not just when the Department of Labor engages an employer."

The DOL is emphasizing greater openness and transparency by giving employers, workers, and others greater access to information concerning workplace conditions and expectations. The goal, says the department, is for compliance to become a more cooperative exercise.

The DOL is currently engaged in a review of existing rules to analyze whether they significantly reduce burdens on small businesses. This will continue in the new year.

OSHA anticipates several new final rules in 2014

OSHA plans to issue several final rules in 2014, as well as move proposed rules closer to implementation. Initiatives addressed in the regulatory agenda include:

- *Confined spaces in construction.* A final rule is expected early in 2014.
- *Occupational injury and illness recording and reporting requirements.* OSHA plans to revise the reporting requirements regarding the obligations of employers to report to OSHA the occurrence of fatalities and injuries that require hospitalization. A final rule is scheduled for April 2014.
- *Slips and Falls—Personal Fall Protective Systems.* OSHA has a final rule awaiting action by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that will incorporate personal fall protection systems into the existing general industry rule for Walking and Working Surfaces (29 CFR 1910.23) that reflects new technologies. The final rule is expected in June 2014.
- *Electric power transmission and distribution.* A final rule awaiting action by the OMB would update requirements for foot protection and aerial lift fall protection for electrical installations.

OSHA proposed rules moving forward in 2014

- *Modernizing recordkeeping.* Under a proposal, certain employers would be required to submit injury and illness recordkeeping data electronically.

- *Injury and illness prevention plan (I2P2).* OSHA is shaping a proposed rule that would require employers to develop a formal program to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses through a systematic process that proactively addresses workplace safety and health hazards. A notice of proposed rulemaking is expected in September 2014.
- *Occupational exposure to respirable crystalline silica.* A proposal published in the Federal Register on September 12, 2013, would establish a new limit of 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air. Hearings on the proposal are scheduled to begin on March 18, 2014.
- *Whistleblower protection.* New rules have been proposed to establish consistent and transparent procedures for filing whistleblower complaints.
- *Cranes and derricks in construction.* The agency plans to issue a notice of proposed rulemaking that would address operator certification and other issues.

A number of regulations are in the prerule stage or are at various levels of review:

- *Bloodborne pathogens.* The agency is considering the continued need for the rule in light of overlap and possible conflicts with other regulations.
- *Infectious diseases.* A possible standard would require that employers establish a comprehensive infection control program.
- *Preventing back-over injuries and fatalities.* OSHA has requested information and has held stakeholder meetings to discuss emerging technologies that address the risks of backing operations.
- *Reinforced concrete in construction.* OSHA says current rules may not adequately address the hazards; the agency is seeking information on the topic.
- *Combustible dust.* Rulemaking has begun, but no proposal has been issued.

In addition, OSHA continues to review its chemical standards. The majority of existing permissible exposure limits (PELs) were adopted in 1971, and only a few have been updated since that time.

HEALTHY BITES

Quick Tips for Healthy Living



Common Cold

Sneezing, sore throat, a stuffy nose, coughing - everyone knows the symptoms of the common cold. It is probably the most common illness. In the course of a year, people in the United States suffer 1 billion colds.

You can get a cold by touching your eyes or nose after you touch surfaces with cold germs on them. You can also inhale the germs. Symptoms usually begin 2 or 3 days after infection and last 2 to 14 days. Washing your hands and staying away from people with colds will help you avoid colds.

There is no cure for the common cold. For relief, try

- Getting plenty of rest
- Drinking fluids
- Gargling with warm salt water
- Using cough drops or throat sprays
- Taking over-the-counter pain or cold medicines

However, do not give aspirin to children. And do not give cough medicine to children under four. NIH: National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.



What do you think?
Send us an email at:
jlconnections@aol.com
See our bold new look @
<http://www.safetyconnections.com/>

In Loving
Memory of Jessica Lehrke