

Safety NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas
From the Safety Council of East Texas

December, 2008

"Working together for a safer tomorrow"

Holiday Safety by the Numbers

440

is the number of people who will die due to fires during the holiday season

3

is the maximum number of light strings that should be put on a single extension cord.

1
minute

is all the time it takes for a fire to double in size

1+

is the recommended number of people to get to shop with you to discourage parking lot encounters

6 feet

is the minimum distance you should keep your tree from a fireplace or heater.

This issue of the Safety Council of East Texas' Safety Newsletter brings to a close another year of working together with our East Texas partners for a safer tomorrow. As we look forward to 2009, the spectre of a weakened economy faces both companies and individuals. At such times there are new priorities, new challenges, and new distractions. When times are tough, the natural and prudent response is to cut back. However, we have choices as to where we cut back; and in these times, safety - both at home and at work - isn't something to cut back on. In fact, increased vigilance is

called for when it comes to safety in the coming year. The distractions of potential personnel cutbacks, tighter budgets, and having to do more with less make for an added risk.

So in 2009, let your first new year's resolution be to stay focused on the task at hand, to look for the potential hazards in every activity you undertake, and to look out for your co-workers. Let's make 2009 a banner year when it comes to safety, even if it looks to be challenging economically.

ARE YOU A DEFENSIVE DRIVER?

Don't Drive Impaired

With the arrival of the holiday season, having too much to drink at the Christmas party is an obvious cause of impaired driving. But even if you don't drink, if you're fatigued you're driving impaired; if you've taken certain medications, you're driving impaired.

SAFETY CHECK Of the month



Review your fire safety evacuation plan with your family and go through a dry run to make sure windows will open, actions are understood, etc.

Holiday Safety Tips

Make sure your tree is fresh and watered regularly so it won't dry out.

If you have small children or grandchildren, make sure the lower ornaments on the tree are kid-safe.

Don't use lighted candles as part of your Christmas decorations

ONE work related injury occurs every **EIGHT** seconds

If you are aware of it, take care of it!