

Safety Sense

Holiday Happiness



'Tis the season of celebrations, decorations, gatherings, traditions, and special moments that create new memories with family and friends. Keep your holidays safe and happy at home and at work by following these holiday season safety tips.

Christmas Tree and Decorations:

- Keep the tree – whether it's real or artificial – at least 3' from any heat source (fireplace, vents, or space heater) and make sure it's not blocking an exit.
- Only use lights approved by a testing laboratory; assure that all light bulbs, strings, and connections are in good working order; and always turn off tree lights before leaving or going to bed.
- Never use lit candles to decorate a tree.
- If you add fresh florals to your decorations, keep in mind that some winter plants (like poinsettia and holly) are poisonous and need to be kept out of the reach of children and pets.
- When using a ladder to put up decorations, select the appropriate ladder for the task – considering height, weight capacity and style (step or extension ladder). Always secure the ladder to prevent slipping, choose a height that keeps your body centered and avoids overreaching, and never-ever stand on the top step.

Menorah and Kinara (Kwanzaa candelabra) Lighting:

- Place the holiday candelabra on a stone, marble, steel, or glass (non-flammable) surface and, if you choose to put it on a table, make sure it's stable and won't tip over.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Keep the candelabra out of reach of children and pets, especially when lit or when lighting candles.

Traveling:

- When driving, avoid peak travel times, buckle up, check weather alerts, and never drive impaired.
- Keep an emergency kit and first aid supplies in your car.
- If you're flying, wash your hands often – carry sanitizer and wipes to keep them handy.
- Minimize your risk of getting sick by avoiding touching your face and sneezing or coughing into a tissue or your sleeved elbow.
- No matter how you're traveling, always share travel plans and arrival time with someone.
- Set your security system before leaving.

Take steps to keep yourself, your family, and your employees safe during the holidays so everyone has a very merry season.

