



Newsletter

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

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Holiday Hazards: Staying SAFE This Season

The end of year holidays are fast approaching, and along with the unique risks that cold weather brings, the festivities themselves are also infused with a special set of hazards. For example, many holiday decorations may increase the chances of having a house fire.

Holiday trees are the sites where fires begin for 21% of holiday light-related house fires.



TIPS FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY TREE EXPERIENCE

- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Always turn off tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

Visit www.nfpa.org/images/ChristmasTreeSafety.pdf for a complete list of safety tips.

Leading items First ignited in Holiday Light Home Structure Fires

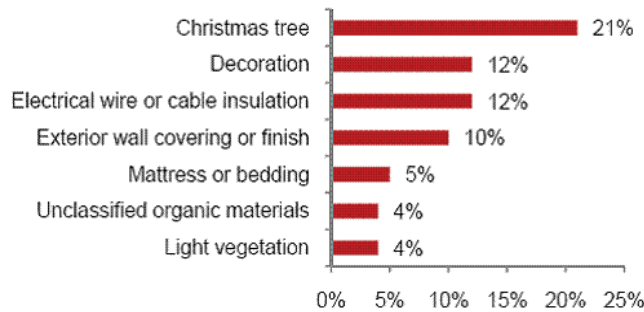


Image from: Home Fires Involving Christmas Trees and Holiday Lights, 2003-2007; One-Stop Data Shop, Fire Analysis and Research Division, National Fire Protection Association; <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/PDF/Christmastreefactsheet.pdf>

Partnership Updates and Upcoming Events

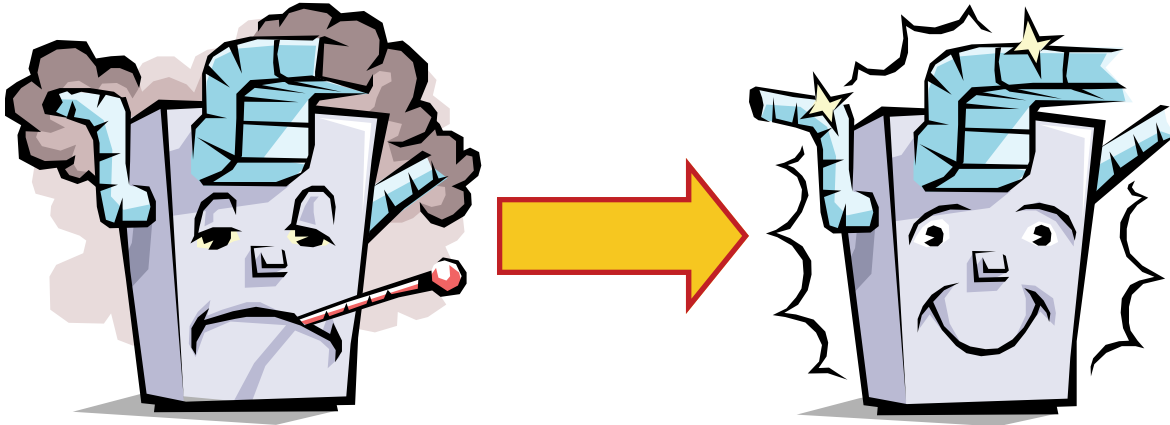
The leaders of the Partnership for a Safer Maryland have identified the top four injury indicators for the state. These are the issues that the Partnership will concentrate on through our work over the next several months.

Falls | Poisonings | Motor Vehicle Crashes | Interpersonal Violence

Stay tuned for the date of our next PSM Quarterly Meeting. At this session, experts in these issues will share insight into how each of these injury problems affects Marylanders.



COLD WEATHER CULPRITS: CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING PREVENTION



Make certain oil and gas furnaces are in proper working order to prevent exposure to carbon monoxide. Wood stoves, fireplaces, portable generators and portable heaters (kerosene or propane) are other seasonal sources of carbon monoxide. Remember, carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that is the product of incomplete burning. Carbon monoxide detectors provide an added level of safety.

Taken from: Poison Prevention Press, November 2008 Volume 1 Issue 6
Available on the web: www.mdpoison.com/publications

***Attention: ALL Partnership for a Safer Maryland members-
GET INVOLVED with PSM by joining one of these new interest groups.***

MEMBER SERVICES

- Proposes quarterly meeting topics and speakers
- Leads effort to promote Partnership events
- Coordinates responses to requests for data support by the general membership

COMMUNICATION

- Helps develop content for monthly newsletters.
- Leads effort to promote newsletter and grow the distribution list.
- Involved in drafting media releases and other communication materials for the Partnership, as applicable.

If you are interested in joining either of these groups, please email ereiney@dhmh.state.md.us or call 410-767-6779 to express your interest OR ask for more information!