



Holiday Safety Tips



The winter holidays are fast approaching. Occupational and Environmental Safety offers the following safety tips to help our community to remain safe and injury-free while celebrating the holidays.

Wishing You a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

Holiday Effective Safety Approaches

Safety remains a top priority during the holidays. OES recommends the following safety practices to accommodate your holiday work schedule and achieve safety compliance:

- ❖ Conduct the end of year workspace or office housekeeping to avoid the potential tripping, fire and other hazards.
- ❖ Update laboratory and workshop door signage.
- ❖ Manage chemical inventory
- ❖ Complete your safety training.

The most important is to focus all your attention on the task while you are working in the laboratory or workshop. Especially when working with hazardous materials, sharp devices and powered equipment.

Fire Safety

Be mindful of potential fire hazards during the holiday season. Follow these safety tips to prevent the incidents and injuries before your holiday leave:

- ❖ Check emergency equipment, and keep exit areas clear of obstacles.
- ❖ Turn heating equipment off (e.g., oven, water bath, hot plate) or unplug it when not in use.
- ❖ Inspect electrical outlets and wires.
- ❖ Never use electric equipment that may be damaged or has a damaged electric cord.
- ❖ Turn off all illuminated items when the office, lab or shop is closed.

Remember: In case of fire, call the emergency telephone number 9-1-1.



Hazards Caused by Decorating

A common holiday injury involves tripping hazards and electric shock. Follow these safety tips while decorating in the workplace and home:

- ❖ Decorations should not block emergency exit signs, emergency exits or emergency equipment.
- ❖ Always use a proper ladder or step stool when hanging decorations. Don't stand on a chair or desk to hang decorations.
- ❖ Inspect all lights, decoration and extension cords for damage before using.
- ❖ Never overload electrical sockets.
- ❖ Switch off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving.
- ❖ Hang electrical decorations in dry areas.

Food Safety

These simple tips to keep safe from food poisoning, or foodborne illness during the holidays:

- ❖ Wash your hands with soap and water before and after preparing food.
- ❖ Cook food thoroughly.
- ❖ Keep hot food hot and cold food cold. Hot items should remain above 140 °F and cold items should remain below 40 °F. Discard perishable foods left out for 2 hours or more.
- ❖ Be extra mindful of food-related allergies.



OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY