HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS
Adventist Risk Management, Inc. | Weekly Newsletter

Providing Risk Management Solutions for the Seventh-day Adventist® Church
Holiday Safety Tips

*Sleigh bells ring, are you listening?* It’s the holiday season, and like it or not, we are entering one of the busiest times of the year. Is your church prepared?

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Holiday programs often involve the building of backdrops and stage sets, creating special costumes, and decorating the church and school. An important addition to all of this activity is the use of best safety practices. You want your congregation and students to celebrate the season without injury or a tragic accident.

We find that reviewing the checklists below can be help us remember the some of the safety highlights as we are engaged in our holiday activities.

Ladder Safety

- Always use the right size ladder for the job
- Never stand on the top rung of the ladder
- Beware of electrical wires above and below the ladder at all times
- Have a safety spotter at all times to assist
- Use extra caution on roofs or scaffolding
- Use safety harnesses for high level work

Christmas Tree Safety

- Determine the right type of Christmas tree
- Make sure all Christmas trees are labeled to be in accordance with fire safety retardant laws
- Water fresh trees on a daily basis as needed
- Keep all trees a minimum of 3’ away from heating sources and not blocking an exit
- Do not leave lights on overnight
- Remove dried out trees immediately

Holiday Lighting Safety

- Replace all worn or broken light cords and bulbs
- Never mix indoor and outdoor lights together
- Do not overload electrical circuits by stringing too many lights together
- Do not overload individual outlets with multiple plug adaptors or power strips
- Use timers to turn lights on and off after specified time periods
Decorating Safety

- Use extra care when constructing holiday backdrops or staging platforms
- Use lumber or cardboard materials with a fire retardant type rating where possible
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the nearby area
- Use safety harnesses for staff using spotlights in high or hazardous areas of the sanctuary
- Keep storage from blocking exit ways

Candle Safety

- Prohibit the use of candles or any open flame devices in church or holiday events
- Open flames can easily cause injury to participants or major fire damage to facilities
- As an alternative use battery powered candles – there are many realistic models
- Apply the same rule to all other areas including: church offices and classrooms

As a church safety officer, you can learn about special holiday safety practices on the *Church Holiday Safety* webinar, which went on air on November 23rd. See the link below:

http://youtu.be/b4G5hhpo2Vs

Make your church safe this holiday season!