



Monthly Safety Topic – November 2024

Holiday Decorating Safety



The holiday season is here again, and it's a great time to be festive, creative and have fun! Decorations can really brighten up a space, but are also unfortunately the cause of many accidents, injuries, and property losses each year. From electrical and fire mishaps to slips, trips and falls, keeping safety in mind should be a top priority to make sure everyone has a safe and healthy holiday season. Below are safety tips to follow as you celebrate this year:

Fire and Electrical Safety:

- California fire safety regulations limit the amount of combustible decorative materials in classrooms to **no more than 20%** of space on walls and doors. Combustible materials can cause fire to spread quickly and can make escape routes difficult to navigate.
- Decorative lights and extension cords should be UL approved. Consider using LED lights as they are cool and more efficient. Check for frayed or damaged wires and discard any damaged equipment.
- Unplug any electrical decorations/cords at the end of the day so they are not left unsupervised.
- Do not hang decorations from light fixtures, sprinkler heads, or vents.
- Do not use candles or other decorations with exposed heating elements. Consider using flameless candles.
- Choose decorations with flame-resistant or flame-retardant coatings.
- Fresh cut trees are only allowed when clearly tagged as treated with a California State Fire Marshall (CSFM) approved flame-retardant. Also check with your individual district policies.
- Artificial trees and foliage should be marked on packaging by manufacturer that they meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.



Slips, Trips, and Falls:



- Use a good, sturdy ladder or step stool when placing decorations – do not stand on tables, desks, or chairs to hang lights or decorations.
- Keep walkways clear and cords secured to avoid tripping hazards. Avoid placing decorations in high traffic areas where they can be run into or tripped over.

General Safety:

- Keep fire alarms, fire extinguishers, exit doors and all safety equipment clear, visible, and accessible; Do not cover or block with decorations.
- Avoid sharp or breakable decorations and make sure all decorative material is properly secured to prevent falling or causing injury.

Follow the tips above and have a safe and festive holiday season!

