



Santa Is Coming!

The season of good cheer is upon us once more – time to break out the decorations and create the festive atmosphere - both at work and at home. Nothing chases away the mid winter blues like bright surroundings, but let's make sure we get those decorations up safely – which is a serious issue – with some tips for all Santa's little helpers.

- Keep all that shiny tinsel away from your PCs and any other electrical equipment as it can conduct electricity. Get this one wrong and your eyes might light up a little more than you expected.
- Keep all those decorations away from heaters, lights or anything else producing heat. Let's make sure that the nice warm Christmas glow isn't your home or office going up in flames.
- Two chairs and an empty wastepaper bin balanced on top of each other don't make the best working platform when you are putting up the decorations – get a good stepladder an additional Elf to help you steady it. Let's make sure no one ends up in a plaster cast.
- Check out all those fairy lights before switching them on. Make sure that all the insulation, connections, plugs and fuses are in good condition – a year buried in the back of a store cupboard won't have improved them since the last time they were used. At work get those nice electrical elves to give them a quick check over for you and ensure we comply with the Portable Appliance Testing and do not overload any power systems".
- At night it's much safer to switch off and unplug all those decorative lights. Lets make sure a good night's sleep only lasts a night.
- Big no-no. Real candles may look lovely and create a nice cosy atmosphere but they don't mix well with Christmas trees and decorations.
- Remember and pick up all the discarded wrappings when the pressies get opened – especially at home. Kids, plastic bags and flammable polystyrene packing shouldn't be left in close company.
- On a serious note – we need everyone to be especially vigilant to potential causes of fire during the festive season.

OK – so now we've got all that sorted out and the holiday season has arrived it's time to sit back, put our feet up and break open a bottle of Christmas spirit – or perhaps there's a party or six to go to. Whichever it is, remember the golden rule -drinking and driving don't mix. There are plenty of buses trains and taxis, and even the odd obliging tea-totaller. Keep yourself and others safe – throw away the car keys.

Everyone in the Health & Safety Department wishes you and your families all the very best.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!