

## SAFETY TALK

**Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter** 

**November 2022** 

## **Fall Safety**

Fall is a time to admire the colorful leaves, enjoy the cool air, & visit with family over big food spreads. However, fall also is the season to watch out for common dangers. Keeping in mind some frequent hazards will keep you safe during this time of year:

Fire Safety - When the weather turns cold, most people spend more time inside their homes using fireplaces, furnaces, & heaters to keep warm. Fires can start in several places during the fall. Be careful while burning leaves outside & preparing meals around the holidays:

- Make sure your home heating system, fireplace, or wood-burning stoves are in good working order before the cold weather sets in.
- Have chimneys cleaned & furnaces inspected.
- Use a fireplace screen to keep sparks from flying out of the fireplace.
- Never leave a burning fire unattended.
- Make sure a fire in a fireplace is completely out before going to bed.
- Never use your stove or oven to heat your home.

Food Safety - While preparing holiday meals, keep yourself safe by following proper cooking techniques, especially when preparing meats & baked goods in the oven or when using a turkey fryer. When young children are in the kitchen, keep them away from sharp objects & hot surfaces.

Back to School Safety - As children return to school in the fall, they are excited & may not be paying as much attention to their surroundings as they should. Keep them safe with these fall safety tips:

- If your child's school bus is equipped with seat belts, make sure your child uses them.
- If your child walks to school or waits at a bus stop, wearing clothes that are brightly colored makes them more visible to drivers..
- Children that ride bicycles to school should always wear a helmet.
- A loaded backpack should not weigh more than 10-20% of the weight of the child.

Fall Driving Safety - With the fall season comes shorter days making it more difficult to see children playing or people walking & riding bicycles outside as it gets dark. It is also harder to see motorcycles & other cars. Deer also might be a driving hazard in the colder months.

- Children love to play in piles of leaves. Use extra caution where leaves are piled at curbside.
- Always drive carefully making sure to be aware of poor visibility during certain weather conditions & times of the day.
- Keep a safe distance from the car in front of you. Wet roads make it more difficult to stop.
- Use your dimmed headlights in bad weather with decreased visibility.

Date.	
Department:	
Supervisor (please print): Supervisor Signature:	

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Supervisor must perform safety talk for the noted month and ensure all employees sign off on this form. Completed form is to be kept on file by department.