



Safety First



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

UNC Environment, Health and Safety—962-5507—Holiday Edition

The Naughty List

With the holiday season approaching, we all happily anticipate that rush of gift shopping (well, maybe not all of us). Before you set out for the office holiday party, know what is not allowed in UNC buildings:



For information concerning proper disposal for Shops and Maintenance, Housekeeping, Laboratories, Offices, and Stormwater Best Management Practices go to http://ehs.unc.edu/environmental/fact_sheets.shtml.

For more information, contact EHS at 962-5507.



Fun Fact: "Since the 1970's, the Kennedy Space Center has made their shuttle landing facility available for emergency landing by Santa Claus should problems develop during his annual visit to children around the world!"



O'Safe Christmas Tree

Let's talk trees.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) reports that there is an estimated annual average of 250 home structure fires that begin with Christmas trees. Based on data from 2003 through 2007, these fires caused an average of 14 civilian deaths, 26 civilian injuries, and \$13.8 million in direct property damage per year.

When choosing an artificial tree, look for the "fire resistant" label. If buying a live tree, check for freshness: it must be green with a root ball wrapped in burlap and the needles should be hard to pull from branches. The butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin. Keep the tree stand filled with water above the cut of the tree, and if the tree becomes dry or brittle, remove it immediately. **If using on the UNC campus, live trees must be sprayed with a fire retardant material.**

Set the tree up away from exits, fireplaces, approved heaters, radiators, heat sources and lamps. **Trees are not to be left in buildings during the holiday season when the building is unoccupied.**

Contact Jill Crowder in Grounds for tree pick-up at your dumpster: Jcrowder@fac.unc.edu, or 962-0785. See video of a tree fire at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPyrJbKjPIY>

Be sure your holiday lights have been tested by a recognized testing laboratory (Underwriters Laboratory), and check old light strings for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or loose connections. Because you don't want to overload your electrical outlets, never connect more than three sets of lights, and NEVER use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted. **Be sure your outdoor lights have been certified for such use. Turn off all holiday lights when you leave.** Outdoor lights should be plugged into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.

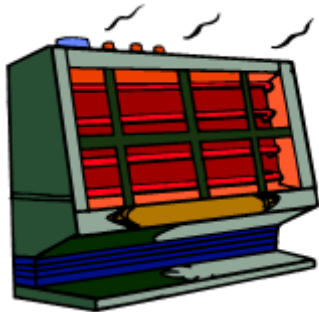
Fun Fact: It takes an average of seven years for Christmas trees to grow about six or seven feet.





The Heat Miser for Home!

With the holiday season comes the seemingly impenetrable cold that creeps under the doors and into our homes. While space heaters do add to the coziness of the space, a fire will add a bit too much heat. To avoid one, follow these space heater safety tips:



- The heater must be kept on the floor (not on a chair or desk)
- Avoid wet or moist places such as bathrooms
- Do not hide the cords under a rug; they can overheat and ignite
- Do not use extension cords; they overheat
- Make sure the plug fits snugly and remove it if it feels hot
- Protect the outlet with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

For more information about space heaters, visit;

<http://www.heater-store.com/heater-product-safety-regulati.html> .



Fun Fact: "It takes 44 candles all together to observe all the eight nights of the Chanukah festival."

Candle Safety for Home!

Statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) state that candles start approximately 15,000 fires annually with 170 deaths, 1,200 injuries, and \$327 million in property loss and damage. Be safe this holiday season by following these safety tips at home:

- Trim the wick to ¼ inch.
- Always use a candle holder.
- Don't allow children to keep or use candles.
- Never use candles near combustibles.
- Never use candles on or near a Christmas tree.
- Always put out your lit candles before leaving a room or going to bed.
- Do not touch or move the candle until it is completely cool.



A safe alternative to traditional candles are the new, very realistic battery-operated candles.

Kitty Lynn



To Fry or Not to Fry: That is the Question

T

urkey: the edible icon of the holiday season. Many of us will sink our teeth into this delicious symbol of American spirit throughout the coming weeks, but first we must decide how to prepare it. What better way of showing our patriotism by combining this delightful bird with the deep fat fryer? Tempting as this may be, consider the following before divulging in this tradition.



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EEP fat fryers work by boiling highly flammable oil in a fryer that is easily tipped over. Spilled oil can easily spread, engulfing an entire unit in flames. Fryers without thermostat controls can easily overheat, and the dangerously hot pot, lid, and handles can burn you. (Nothing says "Happy Holidays" like a trip to the ER.)

For those of you still willing to tackle the dangers of the fryer, follow these **SAFETY TIPS**:

- **NEVER** use a frozen or partially frozen turkey. (Your oil will boil over and your turkey will explode should you ignore this tip.)
- Remove the giblets (the organs left inside the turkey upon purchase).
- **DO NOT** stuff your turkey!!
- Pat the turkey dry *INSIDE AND OUT*.
- **DO NOT** use a propane cooker inside, near combustibles, or on a wooden deck. Use it on a level spot in the yard, keeping in mind that oil stains concrete.
- Keep your *CHILDREN* and *PETS* **away** from the fryer.
- Monitor the temperature using a deep fat thermometer. The temperature should be around 350°F.

- If the oil begins to smoke, **IMMEDIATELY** turn down the heat!
- Wear *thick gloves* and a *long-sleeved shirt*.
- Use oil with a high smoke point. Peanut oil has the highest smoke point at 425°F.
- **DO NOT** fry if you are tired!
- Use a catch or drip pan underneath the fryer in case of overflow.
- **WAIT** until the turkey is fried and drained and the oil pot is cool.
- READ THE OWNER'S MANUAL.
- ***MAKE SURE YOU HAVE AN ABC EXTINGUISHER WITHIN REACH AND BE UP-TO-DATE ON PROPER FIRE EXTINGUISHER TECHNIQUES.***

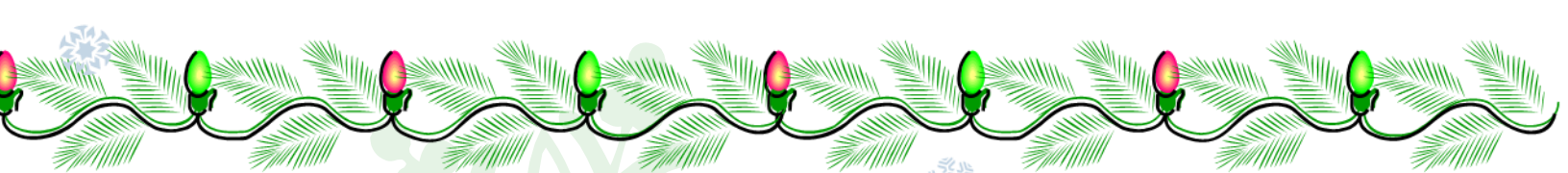
Still not convinced? Watch this: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7eXzuPXYms>

Sammy Bauer

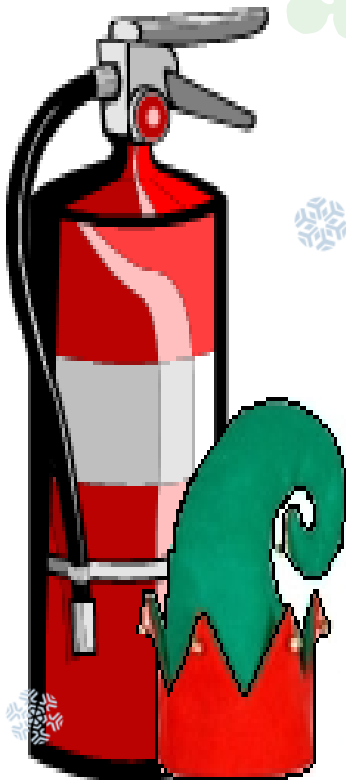
Information retrieved from [Fun Advice](#)

Fun Fact: "Kwanzaa was created by Maulana Karenga, a professor of black studies at California State University at Long Beach, in 1966. It is a nonreligious celebration of family and social values for African Americans."





Fire Extinguisher Safety Tips!



- Do not try to fight a fire that is spreading out of control. Leave the room, closing as many doors as possible.
- Only use a fire extinguisher if the fire is small enough for it to be effective and if there is a clear path to the exit.
- Make sure you are trained to use an extinguisher before trying to fight a small fire.
- Make sure ahead of time that the extinguisher is properly located, in proper working order, and is fully charged.
- Make sure the extinguisher is of the proper type for the fire.
- Class **A**: Ordinary Combustibles
- Class **B**: Flammable Liquids
- Class **C**: Electrical equipment
- Remember the **PASS**-word:
 - P**ull the pin
 - A**im low at the base of the fire
 - S**queeze the lever
 - S**weep from side to side

Call EHS to set up a class;
-Fire Safety 962-5728.

About Environment, Health and Safety

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) Department of Environment, Health & Safety supports the University's core mission of teaching, research, and service by providing comprehensive environmental, health, and safety services to the university community. This includes education through training and consultation, maintaining a safe environment through recognizing and controlling health and safety hazards, ensuring a process of regulatory compliance, and minimizing future potential liabilities.

This holiday issue of Safety First-UNC was created with love by our Work-Study Student-Sammy Bauer-

Happy Holidays!



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