



# SAFETY INSIGHTS

News and Awareness Information from Environmental Health & Safety

## Happy Holidays



The "hustle and bustle" of the holiday season is upon us. Please take a moment to consider these important holiday safety messages and tips to ensure your safety throughout the holidays.

*Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!*

Gary Kaczmarczyk  
Assistant Vice President, EH&S

## Safety For the Seasons

Increased use of candles and fireplaces, combined with an increase in the amount of combustible, seasonal decorations present in many homes and offices means more risk for fire.

- If using a natural tree, make sure it is fresh and well watered\*
- Never use lighted candles near trees or boughs
- Keep trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources
- Does not obstruct pathways to exit doors
- Make sure your tree has a stable platform
- Choose an artificial tree that is labeled fire resistant
- Only use holiday lights that have the Underwriters Lab (UL) label
- Prior to installation, lights should be inspected for worn, frayed or damaged parts.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed



\*Note: natural trees are prohibited inside University buildings and residence halls.

More >> [National Safety Council Holiday Safety Website](#)

## Hot Topic



Electricity helps make our lives easier but there are times when we can take its power and its potential for fire-related hazards for granted. Taking precautions and raising awareness when utilizing electricity and electrical equipment can prevent fires. While on our campus, practicing safe electrical habits will ensure safety compliance.

- Extension cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- Use a UL listed surge protectors in lieu of extension cords
- Multi-plug adaptors are prohibited on campus
- Do not overload electrical outlets by exceeding the maximum amps.
- Space heaters must have a tip-over safety switch and be plugged directly into an electrical outlet.
- Maintain a minimum of 3' clearance around portable space heaters.
- Remember to shut off portable space heaters when leaving the area.

More >> [Electrical Safety Tips](#)

## Safety Spotlight

The Hospital Linen Department has gone over 916 days without a lost time injury! After a review of occupational injuries back in May 2015, a new training program on the proper handling of linen and linen carts was introduced in the Hospital Linen Department. This new program focused on implementing good ergonomic principles to reduce overexertion and strain injuries. Linen staff was trained on proper lifting techniques and other safe practices, such as to transport only one linen bin



at a time and to push the linen bins rather than pulling them. Congratulations to Paul Ryan, Manager of Linen & Recycling, and the entire Hospital Linen Department Staff on this great Occupational Injury Prevention accomplishment!!

More >> [Healthcare Safety](#)

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## Safety in Your Home



### Kidde Plastic Handle Fire Extinguisher Recall

Kidde has recalled fire extinguishers with plastic handles due to failure to discharge and nozzle detachment, in which one death was reported. This product recall involves two styles of Kidde disposable fire extinguishers: A plastic handle fire extinguishers (shown here) and plastic push-button fire extinguishers. The fire extinguishers can become clogged or require excessive force to discharge and can fail to activate during a fire emergency. In addition, the nozzle can detach with enough force to pose an impact hazard. Please review details about the recall using the link below.

More >> [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)

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## Meet Our EH&S Staff

EH&S Fire Marshal Scott Gershowitz is responsible for developing and implementing fire prevention programs and activities on campus, including fire safety lectures, fire extinguisher training, and live burn demonstrations to increase awareness of fire safety on campus.

Scott works closely with Campus Residences, Residential Risk Management, Commuter Student Services and Off Campus Living, and has educated thousands of students, faculty and staff about the dangers of fires, how to prevent them, and what to do in an emergency.



Scott also coordinates the annual Fire Safety Day and special presentations with survivors from the deadly Seton Hall fire. In 2015, Stony Brook received a check for \$10,000 from the [Kerry Rose Foundation](#) to increase awareness of fire safety for students living in the community, largely because of Scott's efforts. Scott was recognized for his outstanding service and contributions to the quality of student life and received the Frederick R. Preston Partnership Award by the Office of Commuter Student Services in 2016.

In addition to responding to emergencies, conducting fire drills, and carrying out other duties, Scott coordinates the Annual Fire Inspection conducted by the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control (OFPC) to ensure that all deficiencies have been corrected in a timely manner.

Thank you Fire Marshal Scott for keeping us safe!

More >> [Fire Prevention](#)

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