

Holiday safety tips

"T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse."

Unfortunately, something else was—a tiny spark, then a flame which leaped from the gaily decorated yule tree to quickly become an inferno. Santa had one less chimney to struggle down and two fewer children to enchant.

The holiday season is a time of beauty, anticipation, excitement, love. Even the neighborhood Scrooge can manage a feeble smile, for who can fail to be caught up in the spirit? But instead of joy, tragedy is the lot of too many of us—fire, traffic crashes, falls, kitchen accidents and such pose a special holiday threat.

Faulty Christmas lights, dried-out trees, the trimmings and wrappings are good fire starters and feeders. High holiday spirits may be converted into high consumption of bottled spirits with the result that public roads are loaded with drivers who are likewise. In much of the nation, a Bung Crosby-style White Christmas brings not only beauty and fun for the kids but also slips, slides and bone crunching falls for many. (Instead of carols, their song is Spike Jones' "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth . . .") Snow and ice also mean winter driving woes.

The kitchen is a busy place from Thanksgiving through New Year's. Burns, scalds, cuts, shocks, collisions and falls are the frequent kitchen holiday dampeners.

Fortunately, most home and holiday accidents can be avoided with hardly a ripple of inconvenience. In fact, adding a bit of safety to the holiday mix will help assure a great time for all, unmarred by injury or maybe tragedy. Here are home and holiday safety reminders we hope you'll pass along to others, courtesy of the National Safety Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of their ongoing safety information program.

On the Road

Drive defensively and with special caution; that is, drive in a way to avoid mishap regardless of the mistakes of others and bad road conditions.

Those who drink should stay off the road. If a driver has drunk too much, an unimpaired person should do the driving, arrange other transportation, or put the driver up for the night. Overconsumption of alcohol can result in other mishaps. An intoxicated person is more apt to slip and fall on ice surfaces, stumble over household obstacles or fall down stairs. He is more likely to set the place on fire by dozing off while smoking, dropping a lighted smoke or match, or laying a smoke down and forgetting where it is.

Make sure your car is in top condition. Keep windows de-iced and de-fogged. Leaking exhaust systems are a special winter hazard if the windows are rolled up tight. How about your car's exhaust system? OK?

At Home

If little people are to visit, check your place for hazards that threaten kids. With tots, make sure household cleaning agents, pesticides, medicants, sharp objects and things they might put into their mouths are safely picked up or put away. Dangling appliance cords and protruding pot handles are more "no-no's." Youngsters at the climbing stage can easily get into an unlocked medicine cabinet or clamber up on something, then fall off. Restrict toys and games to areas out of household traffic ways.

Check out electrical appliances. If anything is amiss, have it fixed.

Wipe up spills and tracked-in mud or snow to prevent slips and falls.

Keep stairways and traffic ways free of ice, snow and clutter.

Outdoor lighting is important. Can night visitors safely see their way from their cars to your front door?

Use only a sturdy step ladder or step stool for household climbing jobs.

Go carefully when carrying heavy or bulky items, especially up or down stairs.

Use only a fresh Christmas tree or a flame-resistant artificial one. Place the tree away from a fireplace or other heat source, and away from curtains and other flammables. Check out light strings. Always turn off the

Pesticide instruction slated at Garden Spot High School

By Fall of 1976 a law will go into effect regulating the application of restricted use pesticides. Two types of permits will be issued, either a private or commercial applicators license. Although the specific chemicals that will be classified "restricted" have not been named, a general applicators course entitled "Pest Management and Environmental Quality" will be offered to meet the requirements to receive a private applicators license.

The course, sponsored by the Garden Spot Ag Department, will be held on three consecutive Tuesday nights beginning January 6 and ending January 20 when the licensing exam will be given to all course participants. Each meeting will be held from 7:30-9:30 in the Garden Spot High School Agriculture classroom. This course will be open to all interested persons in the area.

It will be necessary, however, to pre-register for the course in order to receive the licensing exam. An excellent resource book goes along with the course for \$6.00, which is recommended but optional. The outline of the course is based on the content of the book and will

lights before retiring or going out.

Wear shoes that give good support and good traction. On ice or snow, wear shoes or boots that give the best possible footing.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

include such topics as management of common insects, weed control and herbicides, plant disease control, pesticide formulation and toxicity, pesticide application equipment and calibration, safety, and federal and state pesticide laws. In order to sign up for this important and valuable course, contact Don Robinson at the Vocational Agriculture Department Office at 354-5267. It is important to pre-register for the course by December 31 so you may be enrolled in the course and



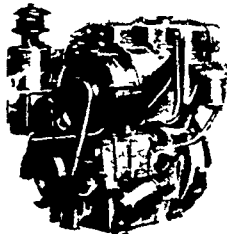
How Little Things Can Really Mean A Lot

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At the Poison Control Center of the National Institutes of Health in Washington D.C., a complete file of all antidotes and treatments for poisons is kept on microfilm. Doctors call from all over the world and in seconds a piece of microfilm can be retrieved that describes the treatment and antidote of any poison.

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have a nice weekend...



get a copy of the exam.

If you plan to be able to purchase restricted use chemicals and spray or apply them yourself, sign up for the course today to become a licensed private pesticide applicator.

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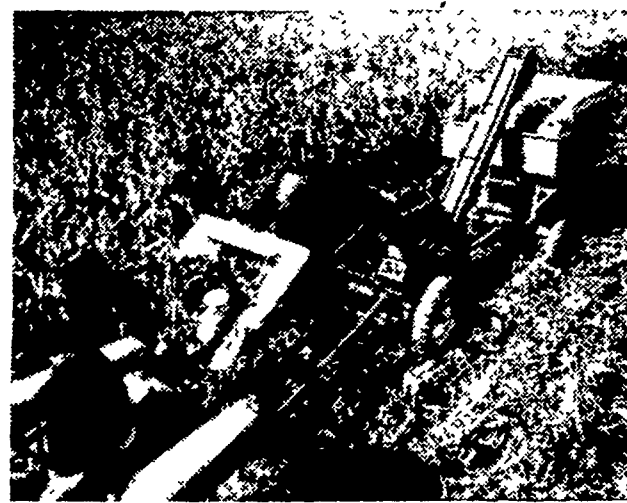
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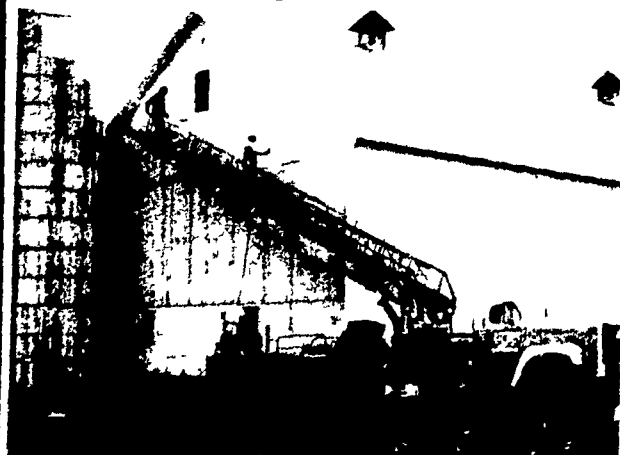


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