



Sprucing up

Deb Kelly, an art student from the Dallas High School, spruces up a window at First Eastern Bank, Dallas, for the holiday season.

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell



Decorating

Sharon Chupas of the Dallas Senior High School joined other art students as they decorated the windows of the First Eastern Bank, Dallas, for the Christmas season.

Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Safety officer offers gift ideas

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is from Gary E. Beisel, Kingston Township Fire Safety and Prevention Officer.)

For the past few weeks, I've been working on ideas for this article which would generate interest for everyone and not sound like the same old fire safety tips heard year after year. When suddenly, on Thanksgiving, while relaxing and discussing the upcoming holidays, I realized everyone's interests were focused on what to get loved ones for Christmas. So, I telephoned Santa and, after a lengthy discussion, we came up with the following gift ideas.

First: One of the more popular items for the safety conscious person is a smoke detector. Relatively low priced, the battery operated models are easy to assemble and install. However, for those who like to do electrical work as a hobby an AC current model is available. There is no better way to tell someone you love them at Christmas.

Second: How about a fire extinguisher? They are available in various styles and sizes which can be used in the home, vehicle, or boat.

Very practical and easy to operate since instructions are written on the side.

Third: A fire escape ladder is available for those who may have to exit from the second or third floor of a residence, should all normal exits become blocked.

Fourth: For the person on your list who enjoys the warmth of his wood burner, but hates the messy clean up, consider chimney cleaning devices. Again available in various styles but very practical.

Last: Designed specifically for the person who has everything, a home sprinkler system. They will probably thank you time and again for making them the first on their block to enjoy the ultimate in home fire safety. A bit more expensive, but great taste to select the most modern and updated fire safety equipment available today.

Santa also suggests for those seeking ideas for the stocking to consider the following: replacement batteries, for smoke detectors; T.O.T. finders for your child's window; telephone stickers indicating fire and other emergency service numbers; and various types of fire safety and prevention materials.

Poison Center offers safety tips

The holiday season is always such a festive time of year. The Susquehanna Poison Center wants to help keep the time jolly by giving you a few tips on how to have a "poison-free" holiday.

Dr. Thomas Royer, director of the Susquehanna Poison Center at Geisinger Medical Center and author of the book "Poison Do's and Don'ts," advises parents to pay close attention to these holiday tips. It could mean avoiding a tragedy.

Some of the hazards during holiday festivities include holiday plants, toys and decorations. The following hints may help to keep your holiday season happy and safe.

— Don't let the pressure of activities make you neglect your child's safety. A happy Christmas depends on health children.

— Make sure you have Ipecac in the house. There couldn't be a better Christmas present. This non-prescription drug which induces vomiting is available at all drug stores.

In an emergency, call the Susquehanna Poison Center. The telephone is answered 24 hours a day including Christmas and New Year.

— Holly and mistletoe are toxic and should be kept out of the reach of children. The bright red holly berries, tempting to children, are toxic and can be fatal if ingested and not treated immediately.

— Although thought to be safe, the poinsettia plant should be kept beyond the reach of the children. It can cause some intestinal upset.

— "Angel hair" produces irritation of the eyes and skin. Dry snow is not dangerous except when it is sprayed from an aerosol can, and then it, too, irritates the eyes, skin and lungs.

— Parents should remember that glass decorations can break and small children may get the pieces lodged in the back of the throat. The paint on the decorations is not considered harmful.

— Frequently, Christmas toys have sharp edges which may prove harmful. Paint sets and chemistry outfits contain toxic products, and the use of these gifts should be

controlled by adults.

— Children can die from drinking leftover party alcohol. Parents are urged to empty all glasses of alcoholic beverages immediately following a party.

— Children should be carefully supervised in the use of aerosol cans in this season and year-round, since several severe ingestions of aerosol substances occur each year. Parents are urged to purchase only safety aerosol cans, those with a marked cap which must be lined up exactly for the spray to function.

— Christmas tree preservatives are usually harmless sugar water solutions. Even if ingested in large quantities, these will cause no

harm. However, if a child ingests some and the ingredients on the label are not glucose or dextrose, contact the Poison Center immediately.

— Christmas candles, both wax and synthetic types, usually only will cause diarrhea. However, many fuel-burning lamps contain alcohol or kerosene which can cause serious problems if swallowed. Small lanterns containing flavored kerosene are being sold in some department stores, and the staff of the Poison Center urges all parents not to purchase such for their children. These lamps attract small children, who quickly drink the tasty kerosene.

— There are some decorations which, fortunately, are not dangerous. Among these are icicles, tinsel and artificial trees.

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<p>Dr. Thomas F. O'Donnell, Jr. Executive Director Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18</p>	<p>Miss Loretta Farris Affirmative Action Officer Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator</p>
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