

HOMESAFETYMATTERS

FALL 2019

FIND IT-FIX ITS FROM HOME

Helping families, friends and neighbors stay safe

Our coworkers shared these finds for staying safe outside work:

- I saw a friend on the top rung of a ladder and suggested he grab a taller ladder.
- I was doing yard work and forgot gloves. I stopped what I was doing and grabbed a pair of gloves.
- A box knife was left open on the floor. I picked it up, closed it and placed it on the counter/work station.
- While using a stand up core drill, the suction pump stopped working, which let the drill move around with the bit. I told a family member to turn it off and reconnect the suction.
- While I was core drilling a hole in a slab, the cord got caught in the bit which exposed a wire. I unplugged the drill and repaired the cord to resume working safely around the wet cutting area.
- While working on elevated storage, a family member was not tied off and was 10 feet in the air. I asked him to come down the ladder and put on the safety harness and retractable I brought for him.
- While a family member was unloading a toolbox with a forklift, it became stuck. He tried to get it unstuck while working under the forklift. I told him to move out from under the lift, and helped him fix the problem safely.
- After I watched a coworker almost wipe out on a wet floor in a restaurant, I set down a "wet floor" sign and notified the restaurant staff.
- My wife was spraying Roundup, and I got her eye protection from the garage.

- My son was using a stepladder with the legs not fully locked. I told him to check and lock the legs.
- A tree fell at home, and can't be removed for two weeks. I put up barricades to prevent kids and the public from going near the tree.
- I was using a palm sander on a table remodel without eye protection. I stopped work and retrieved the appropriate glasses for the job.
- A neighbor was using a gas-powered auger to install fence posts. There were no utility markings (he didn't call OUPS) and he started to drill next to my driveway where my electrical runs underground. I stopped him, informed him of the electrical requirements to call OUPS and the importance of continuing carefully by hand.

DOING YARD WORK?

Take the proper precautions when using leaf blowers

Using a leaf blower? Take these safety precautions:

- Protect your eyes and ears with glasses/goggles and ear plugs.
- Consider a dust mask.
- Wear gloves.
- Keep extension cords out of your path.
- Use an outdoor-rated cord.
- 3-pronged (grounded) tools must be plugged into the proper outlet. (Never remove the grounding prong.)
- Walk through your yard first so you can clear away rocks and other debris that can become projectiles.
- Stay at least 50 feet away from people and pets when you're using the leaf blower.
- Never use a leaf blower on a roof or ladder.
- After you're finished using equipment, let it cool down before storing it.

Source: Safety.com

Seeking story ideas

What do you do to stay safe outside work? Submit ideas to:

June Remley, 419/725-3119
june.remley@rlgbuilds.com

Football season is upon us! Take these

TAILGATING TIPS

into consideration this season.



Know the rules for your tailgate site and what might be prohibited.

Always use caution when entering or exiting parking lots.

Designate a driver early in the day—before any drinking begins.

Be prepared with water and sunscreen to avoid dehydration and sunburn.



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HOLIDAY DECORATING

Make your home as safe as it is festive

Plan for safety as you decorate for the holidays. Anticipate what could go wrong and eliminate the hazards - just like we do on our jobsites.

Here are some reminders from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, cpsc.gov:

Trees

- Keep trees away from traffic, doorways, fireplaces, vents and radiators.
- Don't burn evergreens or wrapping paper in the fireplace.

Lights

- Make sure indoor and outdoor

lights have labels showing that they have been tested for safety.

- Replace lights with broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Never use electric lights on metallic trees, which can become charged with electricity.
- Keep lighted candles within sight, away from all greenery, decorations, curtains and furniture - and extinguish them if you leave the room.

HOLIDAY POTLUCKS

Keep everything clean and at the right temperature

Tips for keeping casseroles safe during a potluck:

- If you're driving more than a few miles, keep hot foods in an insulated bag and cold foods in a cooler.
- Wash your hands before handling or serving food.
- Refrigerate cold food until it's time to eat, and reheat hot foods to 165F.
- If you use a microwave, let the food stand for a minute so it can finish cooking.

- If microwaved food has cold spots, reheat it in the microwave until it's hot throughout.

During the party:

- Keep hot foods at 140F or warmer in crockpots or chafing dishes.
- Reheat sauces, soups and gravies to a boil.
- Keep cold foods cold by nesting dishes in bowls of ice.
- Use fresh dishes and serving utensils

when you want to replenish the food. (Not only has the food been sitting at room temperature, but many hands have been touching the utensils and dishes.)

- Discard perishable food that sits at room temperature longer than two hours.
- Refrigerate leftovers in small portions and eat them within four days.

Source: safebee.com

Falling leaves means it's time for a HOME HEATING INSPECTION.

Check these items off your list:

- ✓ Schedule a time to have your HVAC units inspected.
- ✓ Evaluate the condition of your heat exchanger.
- ✓ Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.



READY FOR WINTER DRIVING?

Prepare for snow, ice and below-freezing temperatures

Snow, ice and freezing temps could be just a couple months away. Be prepared:

- Get your car winterized. Make sure all fluids are topped off.
- Check your tire treads now and replace your tires if necessary. Check the spare, too.
- Replace your wipers if they leave streaks or miss spots.
- Keep your gas tank full - never let it fall below half a tank.
- Check your snowblower, too - make sure it's in good working order.

Keep these items in your car at all times:

- Shovel, snow brush and ice scraper
- Bag of sand or cat litter to give your tires traction
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Spare cell phone charger
- Blanket, boots, hat, gloves and socks
- Snacks and water

Don't forget your kids! Make sure their cars are winterized and equipped with these items.

GET A FLU SHOT

as soon as available.

It takes up to 2 weeks for antibodies to develop.

Once inoculated, you are 60% less likely to need protection from the flu.

#GetAFluShot



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