

RiskWatch Bulletin



December 2017

Seasons Greeting!

With winter upon us, it is time to enjoy the snow and festivities. As you all know, the fun comes with risks and there are a few ways we all can help prevent accidents from happening:

- Get the shovels out. Keep walkways clear and free of snow and ice. Use snow blowers and shovels carefully and as directed to avoid injury. Use ice-melt products that reduce the ice but also won't damage your surfaces.
- Don't light the candles. Candles are used in many festivities at this time of year. While they are beautiful, be mindful that open flames are not permissible at any of our schools or state offices.
- Christmas Trees. Remember that live trees are strongly discouraged in state offices and schools. Artificial trees may be placed in our buildings, however keep them out of walkways and exit ways. Lights need to be turned off when the tree is unattended.
- Drip, drip. Pipes may be in danger of freezing and bursting when it gets very cold. Consider the location of your faucets and do what makes the most sense to protect them; whether that is to shut the water off, let them drip, or simply leaving them alone when not in use. Did you know the majority of our broken pipe issues arise from turning off the heat during holidays? While you might want to turn the heat down, don't turn it off.
- Slow down. Driving in inclement weather is nothing new to Utahns. Be careful out there by slowing down and giving more room between yourself and the car ahead of you. Don't assume snow tires or 4X4 ability will take care of everything. Rain, snow, and ice are bad enough; don't be caught by distracted driving. Don't text, eat, or do any other activity while driving. Be extra cautious.
- Dress wisely. Be mindful of your duties and dress appropriately. And keep in mind where you might be going that day. Perhaps the suit and tie will be needed for your meetings, but your dress shoes don't provide much traction. Plan ahead.

I hope you enjoy your winter and holidays. Be mindful about and plan for our "Greatest Snow on Earth!"

Mark Petersen, Loss Control Manager



Trending Risks & Pending Concerns