

Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security

OPEX Awareness



December 2020

Happy Holidays!

Sparkling lights, holiday decorations, and festive meals are a welcome distraction to what's been a very difficult year. With work and home routines out of order, it's easy to become distracted and overlook some of the hazards that can come with making the holidays merry and bright. Here are some important safety tips to help ensure your holidays are safe, happy and healthy.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- Keep potentially poisonous plants, e.g., mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis away from children and pets.
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled "fire resistant."
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Water it daily and remove it from your home when it is dry.
- Keep your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources.
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or those with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where kids and pets can reach them.
- Only use indoor lights indoors, and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights.

Indoor-use only light strings are marked with the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) green holographic label. Indoor or outdoor-use light strings are marked with UL's red holographic label.



- Replace light sets that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- * Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket.
- Never nail, tack or stress wiring when hanging lights, and keep plugs off the ground away from puddles and snow.

TURN OFF ALL LIGHTS AND DECORATIONS WHEN YOU GO TO BED OR LEAVE THE HOUSE.



HOLIDAY FOOD SAFETY

READY-TO-COOK FOODS: FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO KEEP YOUR HOLIDAYS HAPPY

- Cookies are a holiday favorite, but remember that ready-to-cook foods, including raw cookie dough, do need to be cooked. Eating these kinds of foods right out of the package or mixing bowl, without cooking them, could make you sick from bacteria.
- Some companies offer edible cookie dough that uses heattreated flour and pasteurized eggs or no eggs. Read the label carefully to make sure the dough

is meant to be eaten without baking or cooking.



-U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/raw-doughs-raw-deal-and-could-make-you-sick

PRODUCT RECALLS

CROCK-POT 6-QUART EXPRESS CROCK MULTI-COOKERS RECALLED BY SUNBEAM PRODUCTS DUE TO BURN HAZARD (NOVEMBER 24, 2020)

https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2020/crock-pot-6-quart-express-crock-multi-cookers-recalled-by-sunbeam-products-due-to-burn

HUFFY RECALLS TOREX RIDE-ON TOY UTVS DUE TO INJURY HAZARD; SOLD EXCLUSIVELY AT WALMART (DECEMBER 2, 2020)

https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2021/Huffy-Recalls-Torex-Ride-on-Toy-UTVs-Due-to-Injury-Hazard-Sold-Exclusively-at-Walmart

For more information or a list of recalls, please see the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Website: https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<u>Colette Broussard</u>, Director, Office of Environment, Safety and Health Reporting and Analysis, colette.broussard@hq.doe.gov