



GROUP 6

CALIFORNIA WING - CIVIL AIR PATROL

60-second Safety Briefing

"Light up holidays safely"

(Editor's note -- The holidays should be a magical time for children. Yet each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 8,700 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees. In addition, Christmas trees are involved in about 400 fires annually, resulting in 20 deaths, 70 injuries and an average of more than \$20 million in property loss and damage. Young children are particularly at risk for injury from sharp objects, such as glass ornaments, or from well-intentioned gifts of toys that are not appropriate to their age. Your comments on any aspect of these newsletters or suggestions for Group 6's safety program are encouraged.)

- Install a smoke detector or new batteries in the one(s) you have and *test* it.
- Use only outdoor lights outside your home.
- Examine light strings each year, discard worn ones.
- Fasten the bulbs securely and point the sockets down to avoid moisture build up.
- Connect no more than three strands together.
- Never use indoor extension cords outside.
- Avoid overloading wall outlets and extension cords.
- Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of puddles and snow.
- Unplug light string before replacing a bulb. Review the original package to verify proper wattage and voltage.

- When connecting light strands, wrap a plastic bag around connections and tie ends with Teflon tape.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree, use colored spot lights.
- Make sure trees hung with X-mas lights are not touching power lines.
- When using candles, place them a safe distance from combustibles.
- Place candles in sturdy containers. Remember, hot wax burns kids.
- Extinguish candles prior to going to bed.
- After parties, check around and under sofa and chair cushions for smoldering cigarettes.
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector in your home.
- Have an operable fire extinguisher readily available.

(Note to all Group 6 personnel: Neither the Aircrew Safety Briefing nor the 60-Second Safety Advisor are meant to be top-down only. Comments, criticisms, suggestions and contributions are welcome and may be incorporated into future issues. Send comments to cbagdikian@bak.rr.com.)



