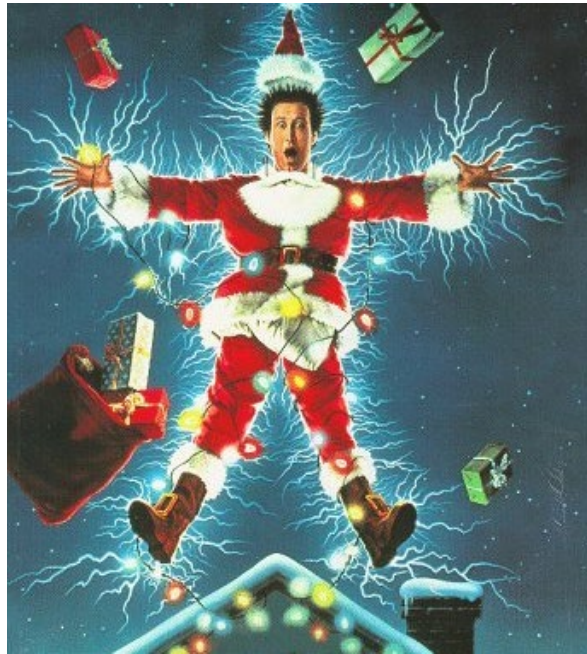


## Digital Wrench – “Swipe Right Safety!”

WARNING: *This is not your father’s safety message.*

DECEMBER 2018

### Volume 8: “Ho Ho Ho, Uh-Oh!”



With the holidays upon us, it’s a good time to stop and look at some related safety issues. Let’s think about this – it’s cold, wet, icy, snowy, slick – the perfect time to get on ladders, traipse across the roof, and hang random stuff off the house! Better yet – let’s throw in some shady electrical wiring to light it all up, or light it on fire... All in all, what should be “the most wonderful time of the year” can turn out to be a real buzz-kill when you’re hurt -or worse- over the holidays.

Some of the main holiday hazards around the house include Christmas Tree fires, Home Decoration fires, Candle fires, and Cooking fires.

#### STATS & EXAMPLES:

- The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) reports 15,000 injuries related to holiday decorations in 2012.
- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- More than a third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- The top three days for home candle fires are Christmas, New Year’s Day, and New Year’s Eve.
- 860 home fires are caused by holiday decorations each year according to the NFPA.
- U.S. Fire Departments respond to about 200 home fires started by *Christmas trees* each year.
  - These fires cause 4 deaths, 15 injuries, and \$12 million in property damage annually.
  - Also - the likelihood of a death related to these fires is much higher than a general fire.
- Electrical distribution or lighting equipment is involved in 43% of home Christmas tree fires.

## Digital Wrench – “Swipe Right Safety!”

WARNING: *This is not your father’s safety message.*

DECEMBER 2018

- In 27% of Christmas tree fires, and 80% of the deaths a heat source (such as a candle or equipment) was too close to the tree.

### PREVENTION:

Stop and think about the safest way to get things done, not just the easiest way.

*Make sure:*

- ✓ You’re not over-loading circuits.
- ✓ You’re not on a roof when you shouldn’t be.
- ✓ You’re following good ladder safety practice,
- ✓ To keep live Christmas trees well-watered and out of reach of flammables.
- ✓ Also - LED-style lighting *done right* can be a great way to not only save on energy costs but reduce chances for electrical fires due to lower temperatures and reduced loads on circuits.

For some more excellent safety tips, click the following link for the CPSC’s one-page “[Holiday Decoration Safety Tips](#)” flyer.

That’s it for this month – *stay smart & stay safe for a Happy Holiday season!*

Jeremy Train

Corp. HSE Director, PK Companies