Continuity IQ from DSPN

December 2005 ## Fast Facts for Our Valued Friends and Clients

Here are some bullets and brain teasers about current events from your friends at DSPN.

Fast Facts

Did you know....

1. The holidays bring joy and laughter, but also the risk of serious injuries from falls, fires and poisons. It's important to recognize the potential dangers associated with holiday decorating, such as the use of candles, ladders and holiday lights, and take extra care.
2. According to California Builder and Engineer magazine, the indirect cost of a workplace accident can be 10 times that of the direct costs. Indirect costs include training and compensating replacement workers; repairing damaged property; accident investigation and implementation of corrective action; scheduling delays and lost productivity; administrative expenses; low employee morale and increased absenteeism; and poor customer and community relations.
3. While most categories of accidental fire are declining, one category is on the upswing: candle fires. Candles have become such popular decorative accessories that during the last decade in the U.S., fires caused by candles have tripled in number to 18,000 per year.
4. Safety tips about decorative lighting: Only decorate with lights that have a NOEL or U/L testing agency label. Check wires, plugs and sockets for defects. Do not overload outlets and extension cords. Don't run electric cords under carpet, seat cushions or anywhere they may be crushed or broken. Turn off all decorative lights during hours when the building is not occupied.
5. Safety tips about Christmas trees: Make sure natural grown trees are fresh. Cut the trunk on a 45-degree angle, about one inch above the original cut, and place it in a sturdy stand. A large tree should be anchored to prevent it from toppling over and possibly catching fire. Be sure to place trees away from fireplaces, radiators, television sets, and other sources of heat that may prematurely dry out the tree and make it more susceptible to fire. Make sure the tree has a sufficient amount of water at all times. When using an artificial tree, make sure it is made of a fire resistant material. Lights should be hung on plastic trees only, never place electric lights on a metallic tree.
6. Building owners should not believe that just because the proper fire equipment is installed and in place, that it will be in operable condition to fight fire. The reality is that maintenance is a critical component of effective fire protection.

7. Each year in the United States, nearly 300 people die from ladder-related incidents, and more than 175,000 people are injured.
8. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in a recent year there were more than 5,000 hospital emergency room-related injuries associated with snow throwers. CPSC has received reports of 19 deaths since 1992 involving this piece of equipment.
9. Falls on ice plague all industries where ice occurs. These incidents often involve high-cost, lost-time claims. Minimizing slipping-on-ice hazards is complicated by the fact that many plants have too large an area to keep sanded or salted.
10. In a recent survey sponsored by Risk Control Strategies, 82% of senior executives responsible for human resources and security reported that the number of workplace violence incidents has increased in the last two years.

Brain Teasers

True or False:

1. December has almost twice the number of candle fires as any other month.
2. For every $1 invested in an effective workplace safety program, $4 to $6 may be saved as illnesses, injuries and fatalities decline.
3. Fall-related accidents account for about 2% of all workplace fatalities.
4. According to the Insurance Information Institute (III) the average cost for workers' compensation insurance has risen 50 percent in the last three years.
5. According to the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, 137 workers in the U.S. die from work-related diseases each day.

Check your answers here...

Answers to the above questions:

1. True.
2. True.
3. False. Each year, about 12,000 people die from falls in the United States. That is 10% of all workplace fatalities.
4. True.
5. True.

Readiness Check

Hard-to-remember details:

1. Are your fire extinguishers pressurized?
2. Have you posted local and national poison control hotline telephone numbers in appropriate places? The National Poison Control Hotline is 1- 800-222-1222.
3. Have you recently reviewed your response plans for medical emergencies?
4. Does your employee handbook include a policy about drug and alcohol abuse? The benefits of having such a policy are many: Every employee receives the same information about the rules of the workplace; your employees will know what you expect from them (and what they can expect from you); and you'll buy yourself valuable legal protection if an employee

later challenges you in court.
5. Looking for the perfect gift? Visiting a store that sells emergency supplies will help you check many a difficult friend off your holiday list. Among other things, these stores feature emergency preparedness kits for car and office and quick reference guides that detail basic first steps for emergency situations.

New From DSPN

Check these out on our website:

1. The 2006 DSPN Workshop schedule will be posted here next week.
2. Our Free Resouces Page includes a white paper entitled "Citizens Preparedness Guide."

Contributors to This Issue

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Comments and Contributions

Tell us what you think...

Thanks to all of you who contributed comments about this mailing.

In responding to recent incidents, did you discover an interesting detail that you would like to share? If so, send it along and we'll consider it for a future issue. If you want us to print a comment or submission about your company, be sure to give us permission when you write.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Paul

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