

DIRECTOR'S LOG

By Mike Durham

The holiday season is so special to all of us. A time to be thankful, a cheerful time to celebrate special meanings in our lives, a culmination of the year's work. Thanksgiving is past, and we look to Hanukkah, Christmas and New Year's Day to continue this celebration.

My son is graduating with his Master's in Music Theory from LSU this semester, so he and I have something to be thankful and happy for. He is the music director for the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired. Congrats son!

Safety is important in this season to keep it happy and enjoyable. I read of home fires and tragic auto accidents and feel sorry for the families and think of what that would do to my family if it happened to me or another family member.

Our homes are more crowded and cluttered as holiday preparations begin and families gather.

Travel will be greater this season as gas prices have made it more affordable, so be especially careful on the road.

And partying is often a part of this time, so be careful when consuming alcoholic drinks. Choose someone to drive who is not under the influence.

This issue of Life Line is dedicated to safety during the holiday season. Please take time to read the articles and keep safety first. Let's keep this holiday season a happy time for all by keeping safety in every activity.

The Environmental Health and Safety group, commonly called EHS, would like to wish all of you a healthy and happy Holiday Season!



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How to Use a Fire Extinguisher

It's easy to remember how to use a fire extinguisher if you can remember the acronym **PASS**, which stands for **P**ull, **A**im, **S**queeze, and **S**weep.



Pull the Pin: This will allow you to discharge the extinguisher



Aim at the base of the fire
If you aim at the flames, the extinguishing agent will fly through and do no good. You want to hit the fuel that is burning.



Squeeze the top handle or lever. This depresses the button that releases the pressurized extinguishing agent from the extinguisher.

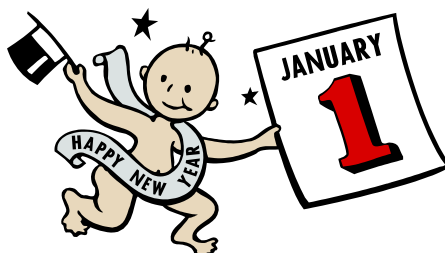


Sweep from side to side until the fire is completely out. Start using the extinguisher from a safe distance away, then move forward. Once the fire is out, back away, just in case it re-ignites.



Home Fire Safety Checklist:

- ◆ Working smoke detector
- ◆ Home evacuation plan with assembly point outside at a safe location
- ◆ Proper storage of flammable liquids
- ◆ Proper use of electrical appliances
- ◆ ALL EXITS useable (not locked or blocked)



Holiday Travel Safety Tips

- Allow plenty of time to get to your destination.
- When feeling tired or fatigued, pull over, let someone else drive-don't take a chance.
- Make sure your vehicle is in good repair—check the air pressure in your tires, (including your spare), fluid levels, and lights.
- ****ALWAYS** use seat belts and child safety seats.
- Maintain a minimum of two seconds following distance between you and the car in front. **Increase** that distance when road and weather conditions are not ideal.
- Take time to clean the inside of your windows, especially the windshield. This will minimize the effect of “fogging” on cold days.
- Avoid distractions. They **increase** your chance of having an accident. Avoid using cell phones, adjusting GPS devices, or handling food while driving.

**** All occupants in the vehicle should properly use the seat belts!!**

***Accidents take no holidays.
Be sure to keep safety in mind
during your holiday!!***

Stairs– Risk Free Perception?

Although stairs never present themselves as **DANGEROUS** when compared to rotating machinery or hazardous chemicals, falling down a stairway can result in severe disabling injuries or death. We don't perceive going up and down stairs as being “Risky.”

This is where the danger begins... **perception**..

When ascending or descending stairs, are you:

- Distracted ? (cell phone, talking, reading)
- In a hurry? (running, taking multiple steps)
- Carrying a load? (any hands free to hold handrail?)
- Looking elsewhere? (not observing for water, objects or other hazards on stairs?)
- Wearing loose clothing, or untied shoes?

Stairs are around us daily. They provide a good source of exercise. Approach stairs as a potential hazard that can cause harm!

- Hold the handrail at all times,
- Use the entire stair step,
- Consciously “Pick up your feet,” and
- Keep your sight on making the “Next Step” injury free.



Golf Cart Accident– with injuries



This golf cart rolled on its side, injuring the three occupants.

- It rolled while being driven on a straight roadway;
- It rolled while going under the speed limit;
- It was driven by an experienced driver;
- There were no distractions;
- There were no adverse weather conditions;
- It was in good mechanical condition.

While driving by the Lab School, the driver lost control of steering, (*“felt like it wobbled”*) struck two parked vehicles and overturned.

When operating golf carts on campus, drivers MUST:

- Be aware of passenger loading creating a “high-center-of gravity,” increasing the cart’s likelihood to ROLL-OVER.
- Follow all traffic laws while on Campus roadways
- Travel at “walking speed” around pedestrians, and yield to pedestrians.



What do you call someone who does not believe in Santa?

Rebel without a Claus!

What goes "oh, oh, oh?"

Santa walking backwards

What do you call a reindeer wearing ear muffs?

Anything you want to 'cause he can't hear you

Why do reindeer have antlers??

Because "unclers" doesn't sound right

++++ Safety Meetings +++++

As a minimum, Department Safety meetings should be conducted Quarterly. This newsletter can be used as safety meeting material. Please route through your department via e-mail and request a "return receipt," or circulate with "sign-in" sheet containing printed name/date/ and initial.

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Emergency Telephone Numbers

LSU Police

578-3231 or 911 from campus phone

Facility Services

578-3186 (Non-emergency)

578-2327 (24 hr. emergency)

Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS)

578-5640

Radiation Safety

578-2747

