

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE WNC FIREMENS ASSN.

In these times of wrangling, rancor and discord all over the world, Christmas should provide a happy interlude for all of us. It can only be that way if we take time out from the festivities to safeguard against serious and tragic mishaps—and FIRE is one of the most serious of all.

There are certain hazards which are presented with the holiday season that we do not have at any other time of the year. Let us stop and think about our safety from destructive fire:

CHRISTMAS TREES

Pretty as it is, your Christmas tree dries out, it becomes more of a prime target for fire every hour it's in the house. Therefore, bring in a fresh tree as short a time before Christmas as possible and get it outside as soon afterwards as you can. While the tree is in the house you can reduce its flammability by setting it in water. Your tree should be well supported and away from heat (fireplaces, radiators, electrical wiring, etc.)

CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Candle flames invite serious fires—electric lights are just as attractive and a lot safer, although they are by no means foolproof. Check lighting sets for frayed wires, loose connections, etc. Be sure that you do not overload your circuits by connecting additional lights at Christmas. **MAKE CERTAIN THAT ALL LIGHTING IS TURNED OFF BEFORE RETIRING OR LEAVING THE HOUSE.**

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

When you decorate you have a hazard, regardless. Flame-proof materials can be purchased in most stores—flame-proofing treatments are available for home use. Insist on these! However, flame-proofing of plastics is not possible, but metal and glass decorations are available; why not use them instead of cotton, paper, plastics, and other flammable materials.

CHRISTMAS TOYS

Don't buy celluloid dolls or toys. Toys requiring gasoline to operate are dangerous for children. Electrical toys should be carefully checked and inspected, the same as your Christmas lighting equipment. Pay particular attention to the toys you give your children this Christmas.

YOUR HOME AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Don't allow smoking near your tree, decorations or piles of wrappings. Don't let wrappings accumulate, burn them out right away. Have a fire extinguisher handy, a bucket of water, or even your garden hose. **AND UNLESS YOU CAN PUT THE FIRE OUT IMMEDIATELY, CALL YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT AT ONCE.**

PUBLIC PLACES AT CHRISTMAS TIME

Smoking and flammable decorations in public places are both very bad, and cause many tragic fires. Neither should be allowed. Aisles, exits, and firedoors must be unobstructed. Exits should be clearly marked. Fire in any crowded public building may lead to panic and loss of life.

Faithful attention to these matters is a small price to pay for a safe and happy Christmas. Let every individual and community give itself a "Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year" by taking to heart this brief message on the protection of lives and homes.

The Season's Best Wishes,

C. C. ROBINSON, President
Western North Carolina
Firemen's Association

THERE'S A RIGHT WAY AND A WRONG WAY.

During World War II there was a familiar saying—"There are two ways to do everything, the right way and the army way". Here at Ecusta we're interested in only one way—the safe way.

We can do no job safely unless we keep "safety" on our minds at all times. Old man accident is always on the alert and he's likely to deliver a knockout blow any time we let our guard down.

Good judgment comes with experience and experience has come from poor judgment. We can profit by the experience of others who have suffered from poor judgment. We do that by doing our job the **SAFE WAY.**

It has been said, "people get the most kick out of life who do the least kicking."

The only people to get even with are those who have helped you.

The man who goes through life looking for something soft can usually find it under his hat.