



The Cooper Firm December Newsletter

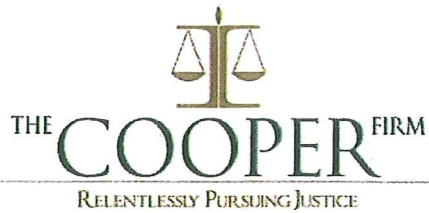


The Cooper Firm's expertise in wrongful death, product defects, personal injury and tractor-trailer collisions have gained the firm a reputation for obtaining justice for its clients.

Holiday Decorations



With the holiday season fast approaching it is time for many to start putting up decorations such as lights and trees. While decorations put people




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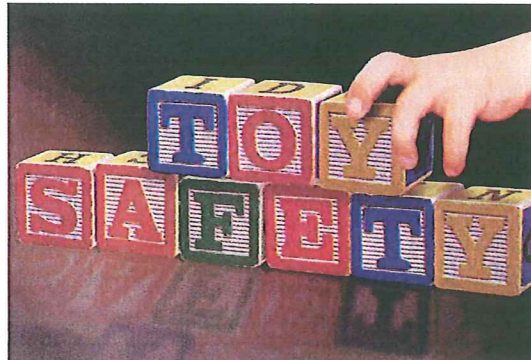
in the holiday spirit, it is important that they are not a danger to ourselves or others, especially young children.

The two main types of trees that are used for holiday decorations are live and artificial. Neither is more safe than the other, but there are some things that should be taken into consideration before putting one up. When purchasing an artificial tree, it is important that it is labeled "fire resistant." Live trees should be as fresh as possible to keep the needles from falling off. It is important to set up the tree away from heaters or fireplaces, and to keep it watered so that it will not dry out.

Before putting lights on the tree, make sure to check all of them even if they have just been purchased. Never use lights on a metallic tree because it could become charged with electricity from bad lights, and if anyone touches the tree they could be electrocuted. Before using outdoor lights it is important that they are meant for outdoor usage.

The most important thing to do when handling lights or any decoration dealing with electricity is to make sure that they are turned off before bed or before leaving the house to ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

Toy Safety



Picking out toys for children can sometimes be a difficult process. The toys should not only be

enjoyable, but they should also be safe. Here are a few safety tips to take into consideration before purchasing a toy for a child:

- * Make sure to select toys that are age appropriate. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- * Read the instructions for the toy before buying it and letting the child play with it.
- * For children under the age of 10, buy battery operated toys. This way they will stay away from electrical outlets, avoiding shocks and burns.
- * Children under the age of three should not be given anything with small parts that they could potentially choke on. Government regulations specify that toys for children under age three cannot have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long.
- * Keep button batteries and small magnets away from small children. If swallowed it could lead to serious stomach and intestinal problems, or even death.
- * Remove strings and ribbons from toys for children under the age of eight.
- * Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies.
- * Parents should keep toys in a specific place, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest, and keep older kids' toys away from young children.

Holiday Parties



Holiday parties are a fun way to celebrate the season with friends and family. A lot goes into preparing for safe and fun holiday party. Not only should the party be safe for your guests, it should also be safe for your family.

Planning a meal for your guests can be stressful and it is important to make sure that the food you are serving is safe and healthy. Before you start cooking or serving food, be sure to wash your hands. Always thaw raw meat in the refrigerator and not on the counter. Make sure that all meat prepared is cooked thoroughly and that vegetables have been washed of potential bacteria. Keep raw foods and cooked foods away from each other, and foods that need to be kept cold should not be left at room temperature for more than two hours.

After the party is over it is important to clean up immediately, especially if small children live in the house. A toddler could rise early and choke on leftover food or come in contact with alcohol or tobacco. Make sure to also use disinfectant spray on door knobs and counter tops to keep bacteria from spreading that could possibly cause an illness for someone in the household.