



Training Solutions, Delivered!

INJURIES DON'T TAKE HOLIDAYS

(Concise)

**Leader's Guide, Fact Sheet
& Quiz**

Item Number: 3829
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This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation.

PREPARING FOR THE MEETING

Here are a few suggestions for using this program:

- a) Review the contents of the Fact Sheet that immediately follows this page to familiarize yourself with the program topic and the training points discussed in the program. The Fact Sheet also includes a list of Program Objectives that details the information that participants should learn from watching the program.
- b) If required by your organization, make an attendance record to be signed by each participant to document the training to be conducted.
- c) Prepare the area and equipment to be used for the training. Make sure the watching environment is comfortable and free from outside distractions. Also, ensure that participants can see and hear the TV screen or computer monitor without obstructions.
- d) Make copies of the Review Quiz included at the end of this Leader's Guide to be completed by participants at the conclusion of the presentation. Be aware that the page containing the answers to the quiz comes before the quiz itself, which is on the final page.

CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION

- a) Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person an opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.
- b) Introduce the program by its title and explain to participants what they are expected to learn as stated in the Program Objectives of the Fact Sheet.
- c) Play the program without interruption. Upon completion, lead discussions about your organization's specific policies regarding the subject matter. Make sure to note any unique hazards associated with the program's topic that participants may encounter while performing their job duties at your facility.
- d) Hand out copies of the review quiz to all of the participants and make sure each one completes it before concluding the training session.

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FACT SHEET

LENGTH: 10 MINUTES

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

While the holiday season should be a joyous time enjoyed with your family, all too often needless tragedies occur because holiday hazards are ignored. Fire hazards posed by cooking, candles, Christmas trees and careless smoking are frequently neglected. People often forget about the dangers of driving in wintry conditions or under the influence of alcohol during this time of year.

In this video, EMT/Firefighter/Best-Selling Author Martin Lesperance discusses the safety precautions people must take to prevent injuries and deaths during the winter holidays. Martin also recalls real stories of emergencies he has attended to make the point that "injuries don't take holidays."

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

After watching the program, the participant will be able to explain the following:

- Fire hazards posed by holiday cooking, candles, Christmas trees and careless smoking;
- Why smoke detectors and seatbelts are so important;
- The dangers of alcohol during the holiday season.

INSTRUCTIONAL CONTENT:

DECEMBER HEADLINES

- This December you will be reading newspaper headlines that go like this: "Two Children Die In House Fire," "Four Dead After Head-On Collision," "Ten-Year-Old Boy Drowns After Breaking Through Ice While Walking On River," etc.
- While we may not know exactly when they are going to happen, these tragedies do happen every December.
- These tragedies are especially disturbing because the holidays should be a joyful occasion spent with family and friends.

RESIDENTIAL FIRES

- Martin recalls a fire he responded to as an EMT to illustrate a holiday tragedy. Two adults in a mobile home died from carbon monoxide poisoning and smoke inhalation in their bedroom, but their children weren't so lucky. They were found at the padlocked back door of the home, burned to death because they couldn't get out. "And that shouldn't have happened," says Martin.
- Fires happen all year round, but during the winter holidays we are more prone to doing certain activities that increase the chance of fire in our homes.

COOKING FIRES

- Firefighters respond to probably more kitchen fires than any other kind of fire. They can easily happen any time of year, but they are especially common during Christmas.
- While you are doing extra cooking during Christmastime, you are also busy wrapping gifts and doing other holiday activities. During these activities, you forget that you had something on the stove and a fire breaks out.
- Before you know it, you have a major emergency happening and you don't even know about it unless your smoke detectors go off and warn you.
- Cooking can definitely increase the chance of a fire in your home, so be aware of it during the holiday season.

DANGERS POSED BY CANDLES

- The holiday season brings the increased use of candles. While they may be romantic and smell good, they also have an open flame and must be treated with respect.
- Use extreme caution with candles.

CHRISTMAS TREE HAZARDS

- Christmas trees, especially live trees, are potential fire hazards. They need a tremendous amount of water because they dry out really fast.
- A dry Christmas tree, when it burns, virtually explodes and anything within the room will be fully engulfed in flames within a matter of seconds.
- A Christmas tree needs a tremendous amount of water. Check the water level every day.
- Replace any broken bulbs on Christmas tree lights immediately. If you notice any bare wires or problems with cords, don't use them; replace them immediately.
- Keep Christmas trees away from any open flame or any source of heat, including fireplaces, candles, electric heaters, kerosene heaters and anything else that can dry it out or set it on fire.
- Artificial trees can also cause fires, usually due to shorts in the wiring system. Use only the appropriate wires and make sure they are in good condition.
- Make sure you place your Christmas tree away from exits in the home so you will have a clear path in case you have to get out fast.

CARELESS SMOKING

- Possibly the biggest cause of fire-related deaths is careless smoking.
- If there are going to be people smoking in your home use extreme caution. Don't go to bed until you're absolutely sure all the ashtrays are cold; the best way to do that may be to put them in the sink and fill them with water.

SMOKE DETECTORS

- If a fire does occur at your home, you want an early warning system. Smoke detectors save lives by giving you time to get out of the building.
- Make sure you have smoke detectors in every main area of the house, including the basement and outside the sleeping areas.
- Make sure they are functioning properly. Follow the manufacturer's guidelines for testing them to make sure they do work.

DRIVING SAFETY

- Martin recalls an automobile accident he attended one December night:
"It was a December night, 8 o'clock. And we had a call to a motor vehicle collision just outside the city limits on a secondary highway. And as we pulled up to the vehicle, we saw half of it had been kinda ripped apart and hanging out of the vehicle were 2 people. One was a little boy about 10 years old, the other one was his dad. And as we went up to them I looked at the little boy and just at the angle of his body I knew he couldn't have survived the crash. So I checked for signs of life and there wasn't any. So we took him outside. And I remember laying him in the ditch and the ditch was full of snow and I kinda thought to myself: "I shouldn't have to be doing this to a little boy." And then we checked the father for signs of life and there weren't any. So we took him out and covered him up with blankets."
 - Don't drink and drive, it just isn't worth it.

OTHER PROBLEMS CAUSED BY ALCOHOL

- Quite often domestic disputes occur during the holiday season. A lot of these disputes, which sometimes leave children "scared to death," are fueled by alcohol.
- The holiday season should be good memories for children. Don't abuse the alcohol.

CONCLUSION

- "Safety has to be a 24-hour concern, 365 days a year. You are going to take winter holidays; injuries won't. Please have a very safe holiday season and the best to you in the New Year. Thank you very much," concludes Martin.

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ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ

1. a

2. b

3. e

4. a

5. d

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REVIEW QUIZ

The following questions are provided to determine how well you understand the information presented in this program.

Name _____ Date _____

1. During the winter holidays, we are more prone to doing certain activities that increase the chance of fire in our homes.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. Which of the following is a reason cooking fires occur more often during the holiday season?
 - a. The dry air makes household items more flammable
 - b. We cook more and get distracted by other activities
 - c. We move the fire extinguisher to make room for decorations

3. Which of the following is a safety precaution you should use when burning candles?
 - a. Never leave a burning candle unattended
 - b. Never place a burning candle near anything that can catch fire
 - c. Keep candles out of reach of children and pets
 - d. Always place candles on a stable, heat-resistant surface
 - e. All of the above

4. How often should you check the water level in your Christmas tree stand?
 - a. Daily
 - b. Weekly
 - c. When the tree looks dry

5. In the automobile accident described in the video, what factor contributed to the deaths of the victims?
 - a. Speeding/Traveling too fast for conditions
 - b. The victims were not wearing seatbelts
 - c. Drunk driving
 - d. All of the above