The Holidays Can Be Dangerous!!

Holidays mean family, friendship, and good times. But to thousands of Americans each holiday season, this time can also mean tragedy and loss. As you celebrate this year, keep safety in mind. Here are some disturbing facts about safety during the winter holiday season:

13,000 people are seen each year for accidents related to holiday decorations

About 2,000 people every winter are treated for lacerations, sprains, and more due to tripping over extension cords

Candle-started fires make up 13% of home fires each December

5,800 accidents occur when people fall putting up decorations during the holiday season

People are 50% more likely to die in a house fire over Christmas than at any other time of year

Alcohol-impaired drivers cause an average of 54 fatal drunk driving accidents per day over the New Year's holiday period alone. That's 66% higher than the daily total for the rest of the year. Over the Christmas holiday, they cause 45 fatalities per day.

Lance Cole Recognized With Safety Award

The Safety Committee recently awarded the LSUS Safety Recognition Award to Officer Lance Cole of the Campus Police. Lance, who recently moved from a day to evening/night shift, has made it a point to inspect all campus lights during darkness and promptly report inoperative lights to Facilities Services. This has made our campus a safer and more secure campus - well done Lance!

The coveted LSUS Safety Recognition award is given to any member of the LSUS family who helps make our campus a safer place. Nominations may be made to any member of the Safety Committee or directly to the Safety Guy in HR.
What is “LO/TO?”

LO/TO is an acronym for Lock Out/Tag Out which is a process to ensure employee safety by identification of devices that have been turned off or shut down while they are being repaired or when a hazard exists. The Department of Facilities Services manages the LSUS LO/TO Program and will coordinate placement of all LO/TO devices on campus.

Examples of LO/TO devices are pictured at right. **NEVER** remove or touch one of these safety devices or attempt to operate anything that has been locked or tagged. Never reset a circuit breaker, even if it is not locked out – it tripped for a reason and should be reset only after Facilities Services has identified and corrected the cause of the problem. If you observe equipment that is not operating properly, immediately discontinue use and report the problem to Facilities Services.

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From the Safety Guy……..

It seems hard to believe that we are nearing the end of yet another semester. While our weather has been relatively mild so far this fall, this is north Louisiana and it will change. Wet and icy conditions escalate the chance of slips and falls which we all know is the biggest cause of accidents on our campus. Slow down and be extra careful when these conditions exist.

We recently received our annual audit from the Office of Risk Management and I am pleased to report that we scored a 97.5% on it which was well above the state average. Many thanks to everyone who works so hard every day to make our campus a safe place to work. Your efforts obviously paid off and the Safety Guy truly appreciates your efforts.

Best wishes for a joyful and SAFE holiday season!  

SG

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Selected Quotes from Safety Committee Meetings

“Safety is a cheap and effective insurance policy”

“Safety never takes a holiday”

“Be alert. Accidents hurt”

“If you think it might be unsafe, it probably is”

“Out of this nettle, danger, we pluck this flower, safety” (actually this is Shakespeare)

“Working safely may get old, but so do those who practice it”
REMINDER: Employees enrolled in one of the following Office of Group Benefits (OGB) health plans must enroll in a new OGB health plan by Friday, December 5, 2014 or they will be defaulted to a new Pelican HRA 1000 health plan that will begin March 1, 2015.

PPO – Administered by Blue Cross / Blue Shield of LA  
HMO – Administered by Blue Cross / Blue Shield of LA  
CDHP – Administered by Blue Cross / Blue Shield of LA  
Medical Home HMO - Administered by Vantage

Please visit www.groupbenefits.org for information on the new OGB Health Plans or call Kristin Fiser at 318-797-5279.

Note: employees who are enrolled in the LSU First health plan did not need to re-enroll.

LSUS Food Drive a Huge Success

LSUS faculty, staff, and students donate 1388 pounds of food to the NW Louisiana Food Bank

This is a large increase over the 636 pounds of food that were donated in 2013. Your generosity will help feed so many people in our community through the various NWLA Food Banks programs such as: Food and Emergency Distribution, Disaster relief, Senior Box Program, Mobile Pantry, Kids Café, Backpack Program, Summer Food Service Program and the K.I.D.S. program.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, but a special “hats off” to a few large contributors: TC building and the Nursing students (largest haul – 3 large boxes), Bronson Hall, the Science Building, Business & Education Building and the Admin Building. We realize that many faculty members asked their students to participate in the food drive and this really helped boost the contributions this year. So thank you faculty! We would also like to thank the building reps: Laura Upshaw, Stacey Martino, Jackie Langford, Kelly Wynn, Angel Martin, Dr. Tim Winter, Pam Corbit, Sharon Treadwell, Rene Pallay MacDonald and Kate Archer Kent. The building reps help to increase participation and safeguard the donated items! Also, thank you to some “heavy lifters.” Jerome Lewis, Brandon Gladney, and Ian Ham loaded more than 1,000 pounds of food!

This is great team work!

(editors note: special thanks to Kristin Fiser for coordinating this very successful drive)