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Use Care When Buying Gifts for Children

When choosing gifts for children this holiday season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Select toys suitable for the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys that are too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children.
- Before allowing children to play with a toy they have received as a gift, read the instructions carefully.
- To prevent both burns and electrical shocks, don't give children under 10 a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated.



- Children under 3 can choke on small objects. Government regulations specify that toys for children under 3 cannot have parts less than 1¼ inches in diameter and 2¼ inches long.
- Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children. For instance, children under 8 can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons.
- Watch out for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could wrap around a baby's neck.

Avoiding Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless and odorless gas that is produced by fuel-burning vehicles, appliances and heating systems. CO poisoning can cause serious illness or death.

People exposed to CO may constantly feel tired, a bit nauseated, experience headaches or dizziness – symptoms often associated with the flu, but without the fever. Children too young to understand what's happening to them, may appear unruly or constantly irritable.

Though everyone is susceptible, small children, pregnant women, unborn babies, senior citizens, and people with heart or respiratory problems are especially at risk.

In addition to having a CO detector installed on every floor of your home, the National Safety Council recommends the following suggestions to

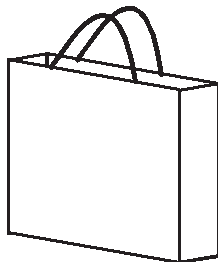
avoid carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Every time a fuel appliance is activated, CO is produced. Remember to keep fresh air circulating in your house by opening a vent or window to eliminate toxic fumes. All fuel-combustion appliances should be vented directly outdoors.
- Have your heating system checked each fall before cold weather arrives to make sure it's operating efficiently and that all vents, pipes, flues, and chimneys are unclogged and tight. Have your stoves, fireplace, and water heater checked as well.
- Don't close your fireplace damper until you're certain the fire is out. If smoke enters the room, your chimney may be causing a reverse flow. Open a window. Have all chimneys cleaned and inspected annually.
- Never run your car engine in an enclosed area – even with the garage door open.



Protect Yourself While Shopping

- Don't flaunt large sums of cash in public. Be cautious about the money or other valuables you are carrying.
- Be alert when going into public rest rooms. If anything seems amiss or if a group of people is loitering in the area, leave quickly.
- Stay alert in crowds to protect your valuables. Thieves can use the cover of the crowd to make a quick getaway after stealing your wallet or shopping bag.
- Don't keep your keys in your purse. If your purse is stolen, the thief will have your address and keys to your home. Keep your keys in your pocket.
- Try to park as close to the entrance of the mall or store as possible. In parking garages, try to park on a level that allows you to avoid elevators or stairwells. Stay alert for people standing behind parked cars or pillars. At night, park under a light whenever possible.
- Consider using the mall's valet parking service if it offers one.
- Remember where you parked so that you don't have to wander around the parking lot after shopping.
- Find your keys before leaving the mall and walk directly to your car. Make sure nobody is in the car before entering, and lock the doors immediately when you get inside.
- If you are leaving a mall alone at night, request a security escort to your car.
- Don't leave packages visible on the seats or floor of your car. Use the trunk, or hide purchases under a cover or blanket.



Donating to Charities

Giving to charities is a big part of the holiday season. Here are a few tips to make sure your money is going to a worthy cause:

- Give because you believe in the cause. Good telemarketers won't pressure or threaten you to give.
- If concerned, ask for identification.
- When in doubt, ask for it in writing.
- Always ask how your donation will be used.

Christmas Tree Safety

Consider an artificial tree (they are much safer and cleaner). However, if you do choose to have a real tree, take some additional precautions.

A real tree should not lose green needles when you tap it on the ground. Cut one inch off of the trunk to help absorb water. Leave the tree outside until you are ready to decorate.

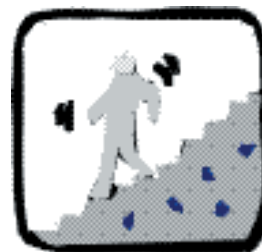


The stand should hold at least one gallon of water. A six-foot tree will use approximately one gallon of water every two days. Check the water level every day. Secure the tree with wire to prevent tipping. Keep the tree away from floor heaters, fireplaces, or other heat sources. Use only UL-approved lights, and no more than 3 strands linked together.

Turn off the Christmas lights when you sleep or if you leave your home for a long period of time. Never use candles, even on artificial trees.

Safe & Secure Stairways

- Have light switches at the top and bottom of all stairs and make sure the entire stairway is well lighted.
- Make sure railings are sturdy with no missing posts and extend all along the stairs.
- Securely anchor stair carpet and remove any toys or other clutter left on the stairs.
- Check wooden steps and railings on porches and decks regularly for rotten timbers and loose boards.



Tips for Lighting Candles

The National Candle Association recommends the following safety tips when burning candles:

- Always keep a burning candle within sight.
- Never burn a candle on or near anything flammable.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not place lit candles where they can be easily knocked over.
- Trim wicks to ¼ inch each time before burning.
- Always use a holder specifically designed for candles and be sure it is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.
- Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents and air currents.
- Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room.
- Never touch or move a votive or container candle when the wax is liquid.
- Extinguish pillar candles if the wax pool approaches the outer edge.
- Place candles at least three inches apart.
- Do not extinguish candles with water.
- Flashlights and other battery-powered lights are much safer light sources than candles during a power failure.
- Never use a candle as light when you go into a closet to look for things.
- Never use a candle for light when fueling equipment such as a lantern or kerosene heater.



Decorate Safely With Lights

Use only lights designed for outdoor use when decorating outside your home and fasten the bulbs securely. Connect no more than three strands together. Never use indoor extension cords outside. Keep outdoor electrical connectors above ground and out of puddles and snow.

Emergency Car Trouble

Emergency car trouble can result from sudden mechanical failure, even if your vehicle is well-maintained. If you need to make an emergency stop for any reason, drive off the roadway and onto the shoulder. Always get out of your car on the passenger side – away from the flow of traffic.



Sticking gas pedal

Tap your foot on the gas pedal two or three times or try to pull the pedal up with the toe of your shoe. If the pedal remains stuck, shift the transmission into neutral and apply the brakes.

Brake failure

Rapidly pump the brakes to restore pressure in the brake line. If this does not work, put the car in a lower gear and slowly apply the parking brake.

Overheated engine

Pull off the road and turn off the engine; let it cool for at least 15 minutes. Use a rag to remove the radiator cap (beware of escaping steam); add warm water while the engine is running.

Loss of steering

While you brake to bring the car to a stop, sound your horn and turn on your emergency flashers to warn pedestrians and other drivers.

Stalled engine

Do not turn off the ignition – this may cause the steering to lock. Shift the transmission into neutral and steer your car off the roadway and onto the shoulder.

Engine fire

Pull off the road and turn off the engine. Get everyone out of the car immediately and move away from the vehicle.

Don't Drink and Drive

Winter Fire and Safety Tips for Your Home

■ Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.

■ Never use a range or oven to provide your house with additional heat. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.

■ If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.

■ Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms or other areas where they may come in contact with water.

■ Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.



■ If you have frozen water pipes, never try to thaw them with a blow torch or open flame. The pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space.

■ If windows are used as emergency exits in your home, practice using them in the event of a fire. Be sure that all windows open easily. Home escape ladders are recommended.

■ If there is a fire hydrant near your home, you can help the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in case it is needed, it can be located.

■ Be sure every level of your home has a working smoke detector. If they are not monitored, be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis.

NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW...

- ☑ **Clients ... Don't forget to use the Gift Certificate** we (plan to or) recently gave you with our Holiday card. You'll get 10% off your next purchase of any product (i.e. excluding monitoring & service) that we carry...up to 6/30/06). If you misplaced (or didn't receive) your Gift Certificate, call us at 518-523-1600 (or stop by Mon. - Fri. **8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**).
- ☑ **Clients ... It's hard to believe it's Winter already!** Don't forget to let us know if and when you're leaving the area this Winter so we can schedule arrange to service your system for the upcoming season. You may also want to consider additional fire, intrusion and/or low temperature detection (in case you plan to keep the heat and/or electricity on while you're away). Give us a call us at 518-523-1600 (or stop by Mon. - Fri. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM) to make arrangements.
- ☑ **Thanks for over 23 Years of Business ... since 1982!** We couldn't have done it without you! To show our appreciation, you can still receive 23% (up to \$ 500.) off any new security system (or on any upgrades or additions to your existing system) anytime up to 3/31/06, just for mentioning you saw this promotion in our newsletter! Call or see us for details.
- ☑ **Thanks for voting us #1 again (for the 7th year in a row!)** As some of you may know, we were recently awarded the Adirondack Daily Enterprise/Lake Placid News 'Best of Mountains/Reader's Choice' award for Best Security Systems Service for 2005. This makes it our sixth year in a row that we have received this distinction & we want to thank each & every one of you who voted for us... it's an honor to serve you and we're proud of our accomplishment!
- ☑ **COMSEC is still part of the Security Associates (SAI) National Dealer Advisory Council!** COMSEC'S President, Bill Borland, has recently been re-appointed to our central station's National Dealer Advisory Council for another year, representing all of the security dealers that utilize their service in the Northeastern US. "It is a great honor for both myself and COMSEC to be re-appointed to this council and I'm looking forward to helping SAI continue to serve it's client's superior service now and in the future", Mr. Borland said. As you may know, SAI monitoring operations are now consolidated into two fully redundant, technically advanced host centers in Arlington Heights, Illinois and Pompano Beach, Florida. Today, over 3000 alarm companies call it home for their central monitoring!

Well, that's about it for this issue. We would like to hear from our readers. Give us comments, suggestions, criticisms, whatever. We want to reflect the feelings of not only our Company, but of our clients and friends as well. Send your comments, letters and suggestions to us at: 2264 (previously 43) Saranac Ave., Lake Placid, New York 12946 OR call us at 518-523-1600 (8:30 AM-4:30PM Weekdays). Thank you!