



## Don't let this holiday season shock you

With the holidays approaching, there are many dangers for children from holiday lights and decorations. According to data from the CPSC, nearly 5,000 children under the age of 15 were treated in emergency departments for injuries from holiday and party supplies. Below are tips on how to keep your family safe from fire and injury during the holidays.

### TREES

- For artificial trees, buy only those labeled "fire resistant."
- For live trees, purchase only fresh trees. Fresh trees are green, don't lose many needles when tapped on the ground, and have a trunk butt sticky with resin.
- When setting up the tree, keep away from radiators and fireplaces. Water live trees regularly so they don't dry out. Place the tree out of the way of traffic.

### LIGHTS

- Use no more than three standard-sized sets of lights per extension cord.
- Only use those lights outdoors that have labels certifying their outdoor use.
- Fasten outdoors lights securely to firm supports (house, trees, etc...). Use only insulated staples or hooks to hold light strands in place. Do not use nails or tacks.

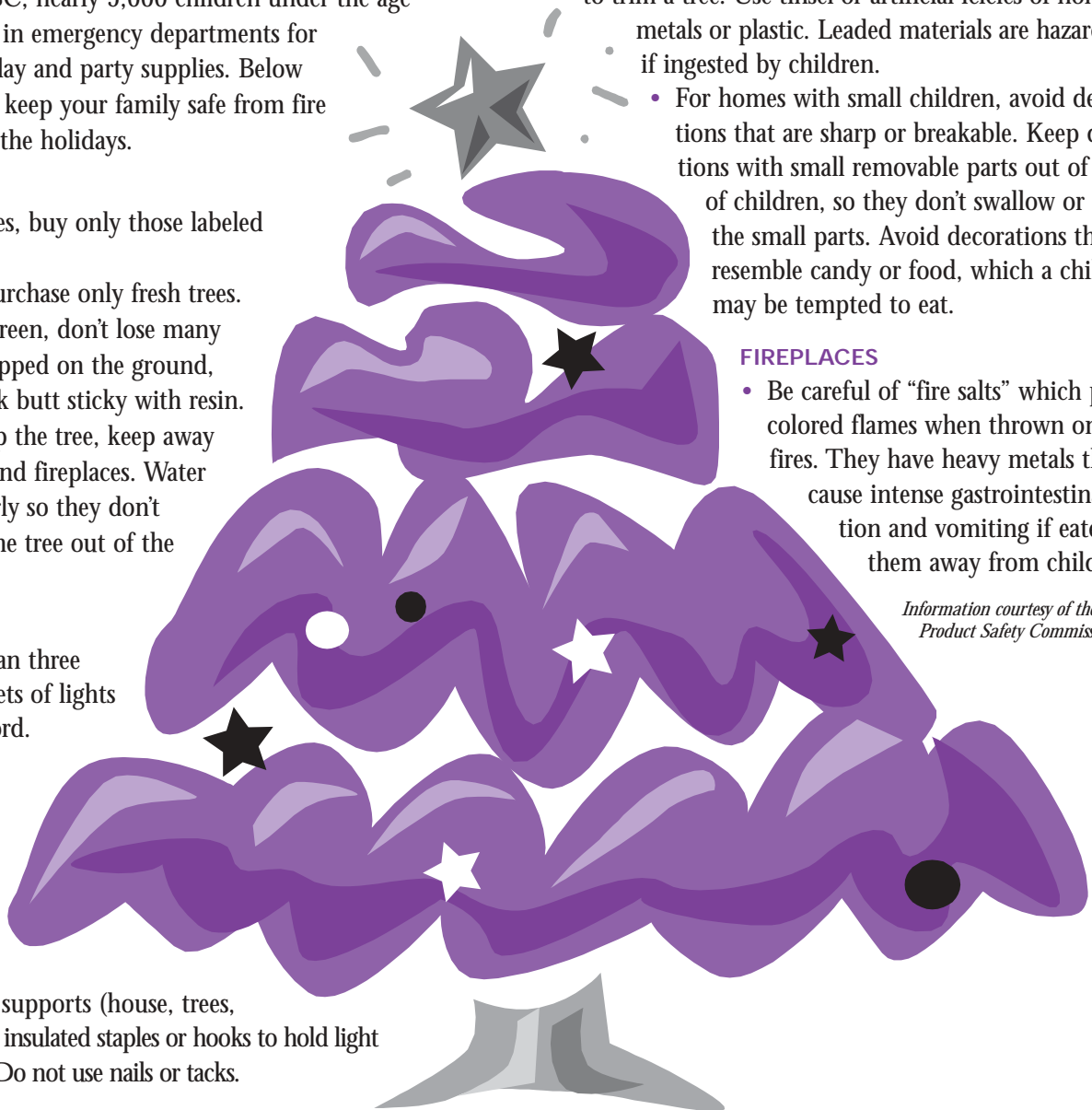
### DECORATIONS

- Choose only flame-resistant or non-combustible materials to trim a tree. Use tinsel or artificial icicles of nonleaded metals or plastic. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- For homes with small children, avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep decorations with small removable parts out of reach of children, so they don't swallow or inhale the small parts. Avoid decorations that resemble candy or food, which a child may be tempted to eat.

### FIREPLACES

- Be careful of "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They have heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.

*Information courtesy of the Consumer Product Safety Commission*



## Kudos!

Congratulations to Windham County Chapter's Jean Callaghan. She was named Police Officer of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Women Police Officers. She was chosen for her leadership, community service, and mentoring, and she was commended for always going above and beyond what she is required to do. Congratulations! •

## We're Honored!

Connecticut SAFE KIDS won the Bell Sportsmanship Award at the National SAFE KIDS Leadership Conference in October. Thank you to everyone who worked and works on bike helmet safety. Great job everyone! •

## Keep Kids Safe License Plate Grantees

Congratulations to the Fall 2004 Keep Kids Safe License Plate grantees! In November, these groups received funds for their programs to keep kids safe from unintentional injuries:

### **Columbus Elementary School, Health Center:**

Multi-lingual Bike Helmet Awareness

### **Plymouth Fire Marshal's Office: Riskwatch**

### **New London County SAFE KIDS:**

Reverse Citations for Bike Helmet Use

### **St. Mary's Hospital: Safety Street**

### **Glastonbury Police Department:**

Bike Helmets from Home Assessment Visits

### **New Milford Police Department:**

Child Passenger Safety

### **City of Norwalk Department of Health:**

Buckle Bear Passenger Safety Kit

### **Northend Elementary School:**

Fire Safety Education and Smoke Detectors



For more information, please contact:

**Connecticut SAFE KIDS** 860-545-9988

or your local SAFE KIDS Coalition

**Fairfield County SAFE KIDS** 203-853-7115

supported by Danbury Hospital and Greenwich Hospital

**New London County SAFE KIDS** 860-442-0733

supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

**Valley Amity SAFE KIDS** 203-888-8843

supported by Seymour Ambulance

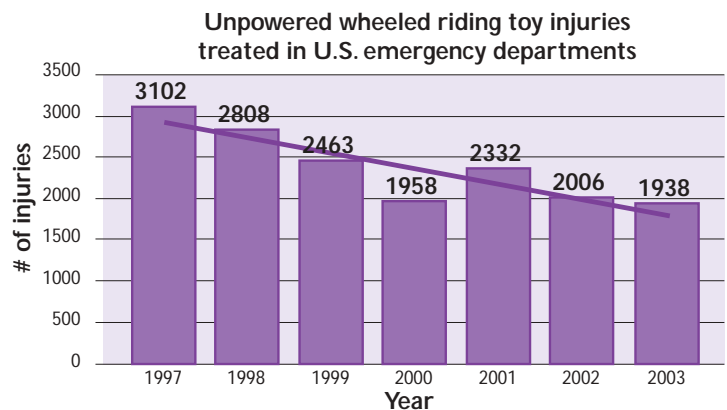
## REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

### Toy injuries

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The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that 152,191 children under the age of 15 in 2003 were treated for toy-related injuries. The majority of injuries were lacerations, contusions, and abrasions, which occurred when the children were hit by toys, or fell off, over, or into them. More injuries were associated with riding toys (including tricycles, low-slung three-wheeled toys, hocking horses, and wagons) than any other type of toy. Fortunately, the frequency of injuries due to unpowered wheeled riding toys resulting in an emergency department visit has decreased by 37% from 1997 to 2003. Severe injuries or deaths involved children who rode into pools or were "run over" by motor vehicles backing out of driveways. •



Source: U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission -NEISS database, 1997-2003

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