

Holiday Tips

How many days until Christmas and Hanukkah or Kwanzaa? Here are some good tips while decorating your home!

-Use only UL approved lights. The UL stamp is usually on the box or at the end of the cord. If the item is not UL approved it has not been tested for safety and may pose a risk of fire or injury. Throw away cords that are frayed or cracked.

-If you put up a real tree, make sure it gets plenty of water. Do not use lights that will get hot. The older style "large bulbs" were known to cause many tree fires.

-Make sure you have a working smoke detector near your tree. This will alert you immediately if a fire occurs.

-Candles are nice but are one of the leading causes of residential fires, especially around the holidays. Make sure your candles are on a non-combustible surface. Glass jar candles are probably the best option. Make sure you blow them out AND replace the lid when you go to bed or leave the house, especially if you are only leaving for a brief time. Keep candles away from christmas trees or other natural pine creations that you may have!

-Make sure all outdoor lighting is rated for outdoor use. Your lights should be plugged into an approved outlet with a GFCI circuit (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter). Do not overload your string lights. Read the package your lights came in. It will usually tell you how many strings you can put together on one circuit.

-If you are using a ladder to hang lights, make sure you have someone helping and guiding the ladder.

-Have a safe holiday!

Fire Marshal Mike Corner

Have any suggestions, concerns, great ideas? Please forward them to me at Hiltonm@union.edu or call me at 388-8009. REMEMBER, if you have an emergency, please call Campus Safety at

911

Union Fire Safety

Union College

Campus Safety November 2003

Welcome Union Fire Safety!

This is the first edition of the Union Fire Safety Newsletter issued to our Faculty/Staff. Union Fire Safety is issued to Union College students. It covers everyday fire safety topics as well as general news and bulletins. We hope you enjoy this issue. We hope to publish the Faculty/Staff issue on a monthly basis. If you have any suggestions, stories or great ideas! Please let us know.

Williams College Gets A Tour

On Friday October 24th, three representatives of the Williams College Fire Safety Team were on campus for a visit. A few months ago myself and two other Union representatives were invited to Williams to check out their campus and facilities. We were quite impressed with the hospitality and surroundings at Williams. Joe Moran, Matt Boyer and Heather Main are part of the Williams College Fire Safety Department. They were quite impressed with our operation and new fire protection systems we have been installing. Thanks again, Joe, Matt and Heather. Hope to see you all again soon!

Fox Fire A Lesson In Safety

An early evening fire in Fox Hall last Month could have been alot worse. String lighting, along with a table lamp were the cause of the fire, which consumed 90 percent of the rooms contents. Two of the occupants were present during the fire and were alerted immediately by the room smoke detector. Both occupants thought quickly by closing the room door when they left. By doing so, they confined the fire to the bedroom/suite areas. Based on my calculations the room was entirely engulfed in flames or "flashed over" in 2.26 minutes. This is reality, a fire doubles every second. The building was immediately evacuated and fire crews were on the scene within 3 minutes. The fire was contained in about 20 minutes; however, all the contents were either damaged by the heavy fire or sustained smoke/water damage. Fox Hall was inspected earlier in the year by Union Fire Safety along with a representative of the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. The building at that time was found to be in compliance.