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The City of West Jordan would like everyone to have a happy holiday season. Here are some simple but easily forgotten tips to share with your audience to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Stay Safe While Shopping

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in well-lit spaces.
- Lock your car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages, carry purses close to your body and put wallets in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Teach kids to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

Decorating Safety

- When you bring a live Christmas tree home, make a fresh cut on the bottom of the tree and place immediately into a reservoir-type tree stand with plenty of water.
- Keep Christmas trees well hydrated and check the level daily.
- Keep all flames away from the tree.
- Keep candles away from all flammables and always extinguish flames before leaving the room. Don't overload extension cords or lights.
- Never use lights with frayed cords or empty sockets.
- Mini-lights are the safest since they produce less heat.
- Turn off all Christmas lights prior to leaving your home or going to bed – even on Christmas Eve! Santa will find you even with the lights off.

Home Security

- Get an automatic timer for your lights and ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel snow and park in the driveway from time to time when you're away.
- Have your mail and newspaper delivery stopped.
- If you are leaving for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or TV.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from the outside.
- The holidays are a good time to update or create your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.

Snow Removal

- Help your fire department by clearing snow away from hydrants. Remember fire doubles in size about every 30 seconds.
- Keep roads clear of parked vehicles so large fire trucks can safely travel them.
- Don't park on the streets during winter months – especially during snowstorms – so plow crews can clear the snow.

Home Safety

- Install several quality CO detectors in your home along with your smoke detectors to prevent this “silent killer.”
- Have your furnace and heating system regularly cleaned and inspected.
- Make sure the burner flames on your furnace and stove burn blue, not yellow-orange.
- Flues and chimneys should be cleaned professionally.
- If you are using a gas-burning heater or appliance, create some sort of ventilation in the room. Only use a grill or hibachi OUTDOORS and NEVER use a gas stove or range for heating.
- Check the battery in your thermostat. Modern home furnaces have electronic thermostats that operate with a battery. If the battery runs out in the middle of the night, you could wake to a very cold house or even to frozen pipes.
- Keep sleeping bags handy for use in a power outage.

Safe Driving on Snowy Roads

- When driving, slow down and be courteous to others, increase your following distance behind other vehicles and minimize lane changes.
- Minimize gear shifting to prevent skidding, accelerate gradually and brake gently by pumping your brakes.
- If you have ABS brakes, DON'T pump your brakes, but maintain a constant pressure on the brake pedal. If your car does skid, steer in the same direction the rear is sliding, being careful not to over correct.
- Remove snow and ice from all your windows before getting on the road.
- Get plenty of rest before driving long distances and remember to take stretching breaks.
- Don't let drinking and driving turn a holiday celebration into a tragedy. Even moderate consumption of alcohol impairs the driver's ability to make the proper decisions.
- Buckle up! Even in the most horrifying crashes, a seat belt can save lives.

For more information or to schedule an interview with a member of our Public Safety team, please contact Kim Wells at 801-569-5163 or kimw@wjordan.com.



May Your Holidays Be Merry!

