Fire Safety at Christmas

During the lead up to Christmas the risk of fire can be increased with the introduction into the workplace of Christmas trees, decorations, electrical equipment, parcels and packaging materials. In order to minimise the hazard the following precautions are recommended:

- Christmas tree lights, fibre optic trees and any other electrical decorations should conform to the appropriate British Standard and should be fitted with correctly rated fuses and Portable Appliance Tested (PAT).
- Avoid overloading electrical sockets.
- Avoid trailing flexes and cables across floors where they can be easily damaged or cause trip hazards.
- Avoid leaving Christmas lights on unattended for long periods.
- Lighted candles are generally unacceptable unless approved.
- Natural Christmas trees are flammable particularly as they dry out and should therefore be kept in a tree stand filled with water and adequately separated from any heat source. Where possible choose a flame retardant alternative.
- Decorations should preferably be non-flammable or flame-retardant treated, otherwise they should be kept clear of light bulbs and other sources of heat.
- Aerosol cans containing decorative paint, artificial snowflakes, foam or glitter are expelled by flammable gases and should not be used near naked flames.
- Extra or temporary portable heaters should be kept clear of furnishings and other flammable materials.
- Wrapping paper and packaging should not be allowed to accumulate and should be properly disposed of at regular intervals.

Chief Fire Officer

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