



Safe Matters

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Christmas is coming

Welcome to this Christmas edition of Safety Matters. Christmas is a special time, so it would be a pity if it was spoilt by having an accident. So we've put together a few short topical, and slightly tongue in cheek, reminders to help keep you safe at work and home.

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Christmas tree lights and other kinds of decorative lights get used less often than your everyday lights, and they need more care. So...

- Check the fuses are the right type (see the box for the maximum size of fuse you should use).
- If bulbs blow, replace them.
- Don't leave fairy lights on when you go out or when you go to sleep.
- Don't let the bulbs touch anything that can burn easily, like paper.
- Don't overload sockets.
- Don't have extension leads and power cables trailing across the floor where they can be a trip hazard.

Remember that the University's policy on inspection and testing of portable electrical appliances (PAT testing) also applies to Christmas tree lights in the office. So get them checked. And make sure someone is responsible for switching the lights off at the end of the day.

One clear message comes through:

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is especially the case when the machinery could be lethal to the user or to others – such as when driving a car (or sleigh).

The legal limit for alcohol when driving is 80mg /100ml of blood. However, it is difficult to judge if you are near the limit because this depends on the body mass of the individual, their sex, and the rate at which the alcohol is metabolised