

Safety News from the Northport Fire Department

By Jim Mahoney

Happy and Safe Holidays

December is a festive month with people enjoying the family gatherings at Hannukah, Christmas and the New Year observances. It is a time when people should appreciate their loved ones and the time they are able to be with each other. Unfortunately we know that these joyous occasions are marred by fires and accidents that some basic precautions might have precluded.

Safety News offers the following suggestions to help you have a safe December;

- 1) Homeowners should review their fire exit procedures with all overnight guests.
- 2) Piles of presents should be placed away from doorways, stairs and fireplaces.
- 3) Wrapping paper should be placed in garbage bags and put outside the home. These wrappings should not be left on floors where they can cause people to slip.
- 4) Medications should be secured so that children have no access to them. Adult doses can be extremely harmful to small young children.
- 5) Lit candles are an open flame and have the potential if out of control to cause great damage and injury. All candles should be extinguished when all adults exit a room. They should not be carried lit from room to room. Instead of candles, flashlights should be used in power emergencies. With the high possibility of winter storms, batteries should be secured for flashlights and lanterns.
- 6) Night lights should be installed outside bedrooms and bathrooms to facilitate safe movement for guests during the hours of darkness.
- 7) Smoke detectors should be in working condition. Detectors with dead or missing batteries offer a truly false sense of security.

Blood Drive

Each year on the day following Christmas (this year is Wednesday, December 26th) the Northport Fire Department hosts a community wide blood drive. This is a time when the need for donated blood is high and the donation level is low. The process is really painless and relatively quick moving. For all donors, Northport Fire Department's cooking crew will prepare a delicious and free hot meal following their blood donation. Lt Bill Engellis is once again the Chairman of this event. For scheduling and for any questions please contact Lt Engellis at 516-528-2262. Safety News urges our readers to end the year 2012 with the gift of life – a pint of your blood.

125th Anniversary Commemorative History Book

The compilation of the history of Northport Volunteer Fire Department since our centennial observance in 1989 is proceeding at a good pace. The author for this work is veteran firefighter Bob Lahey. Bob has incorporated significant local, state, national and world events into the firematic history of your local volunteers over the last 25 years. The format for this book remains the same as for the 100th Anniversary Book. There will be no advertising. Rather page sponsorships in a tasteful scroll at the bottom of each page will be available for \$250. This is an opportunity to list your business and/or professional name and service and/or to recognize an outstanding family member or friend who may be living or deceased. A limited number of gold pages are available for sponsorship at \$500 per page and silver pages for \$400. Page sponsors will receive a complimentary copy of the anniversary book. Any questions should be directed to this writer at 631-261-6242.

Shopping Bags

The use of cloth shopping bags has helped to reduce the amount of paper and plastic bags at our local super markets. Safety News passes along the following suggestion that appeared in the October 2012 issue of The Wellness Letter from the University of California Berkley. Keep all grocery tote bags clean so as to prevent bacterial contamination. They cite the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' warning which states that juices from raw meat can drip in the tote bag allowing bacteria to linger, multiply and then contaminate other foods. Keep these carrying bags clean with regular washing with soap and water.

Coming in January 2013

- The annual list of top firematic and ambulance responders during 2012.
- Safety News' annual list of Safety Resolutions for the New Year.

Your particular resolutions for increased safety and accident prevention are always welcome. Send them along to this writer c/o Northport Fire Department, 204 Main Street, Northport NY 11768.

A joyous and safe holiday season to all!!