**December Safety Awareness**

Over the next few weeks, you may be decorating your home for the holidays and we want to ensure you are equipped with knowledge to keep your home safe.

**Holiday Trees**

* If you will be buying a real tree, ensure it is fresh – you can tell that it is fresh if the needles are hard to pull off. Ensure you water the tree daily and dispose of the tree as soon as the needles start to fall off.
* Ensure the tree is well-secured in a sturdy stand, away from high traffic areas and doorways.

**Holiday Lights and Decorations**

* Keep sharp, metal, or breakable tree ornaments with removable parts away from young children.
* Use lights that have the mark of an accredited certification agency
* Check the Healthy Canadians Recalls and Safety Alerts Database before buying or using lights to find out about the latest recalls.
* Ensure indoor lights and decorations are only used inside.
* Ensue you do not exceed the recommended wattage.
* Check all light bulbs before usage, ensure you replace broken or burned out bulbs according to the manufacture’s specifications and recommendations.
* Discard any frayed extension cords that have exposed wires, loose connections or broken light sockets.
* Do not run electrical cords under carpets or through doorways. Ensure you keep cords off to the side of the room to avoid tripping hazards.
* Do not overload your electrical sockets by plugging in too many lights or decorations into one outlet.
* Ensure you turn off all holiday lights before going to bed or leaving your home.

**Toys and Gifts**

* Ensure you buy sturdy, well-made toys appropriate for your child’s age.
* Ensure you check the Healthy Canadians Recalls and Safety Alerts Database for information on recalled toys.
* Ensure you read and follow all warnings, safety messages, and instructions that come with a toy. You may contact the manufacturer if you have any concerns.
* Immediately dispose of all toy packaging, such as; plastic wrap, foam, staples, etc.
* Ensure all batteries are installed by an adult and are not accessible to children.
* Teach your children how to play with their new toys safely and supervise them at all times.

