

# Holiday Safety Tips

## In Public

- Any time that you are in a public facility, always supervise your children, and accompany them to the restroom. Make sure that your children know to stay with you at all times while shopping and always check first before they go anywhere.
- Have a predesignated spot for older children to meet you in case you are separated from them. Teach younger children to look for people who may be able to help them such as a law enforcement or security officer, store salesperson with a nametag, or a mother with children. They should never leave the store or go to the parking lot to find you.
- If your child is lost, insist that the store take appropriate action.
- Never leave your children at a public facility such as a video arcade, playground or movie theatre while you are shopping. Do not leave them in a toy store expecting store personnel to supervise and watch them.
- Never leave your child unattended in the car.
- If older children are allowed to go to the mall or participate in activities without you, make sure they take a friend and check in with you regularly. Have a clear plan to pick them up including where, when and what to do in case of emergency or change of plans.
- Make an outing to a mall or store a "teachable" experience in which children practice safety rules; checking with you first, using payphones, locating adults who may be able to help them if they need it, and, for older children, going to the restroom with a friend. Remember, allowing your child to wear clothes or carry items with their name on it may bring unwelcomed attention from inappropriate people looking for a way to start a conversation with a child.
- It's easy to get distracted by the sounds, sights and crowds involved with holiday shopping. If you feel that this will affect the supervision of your children, make other arrangements for their care while you are shopping.

## At Home

- Make sure that Christmas trees are well anchored and watered to avoid a fire.
- Have a screen for your fireplace and keep the tree and all presents away from the fire.
- When wrapping presents keep scissors out of children's hands and ribbon out of reach.
- If children are involved in holiday baking make sure adults handle all of the hot items and appliances.
- Follow all age and other guidelines on toys.
- Have well supervised activities for children during holiday break.



**Morgan Nick**  
FOUNDATION  
*Love always hopes*