



# In Touch

## **EHS Newsletter** December 2018

WE PROVIDE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SERVICES

- **EHS Risk Assessments**
- Occupational **Hygiene Surveys**

THAT INCLUDE:

- **Ergonomics Surveys**
- EHS Management
- System development and implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS **Legal Requirements** and Compliance **Audits**
- **Construction EHS** Services
- Construction H&S Files
- **Internal Auditor Training**
- **General EHS Training**





OH0049



**DoL Approved Inspection** Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

Newsletter compiled by Lee Rands

### 5 DANGERS OF CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AND CHRISTMAS TREES

- Christmas candles can cause fires if they are left unattended in areas where fire might spread. If you are going to light candles make sure that you don't leave them unattended for long periods.
- Malfunctioning Christmas tree lights can be dangerous as they can cause fires due to over heating. Before turning them on, ensure that you do a quick check to for overheating or flawed



- Dry trees are a fire hazard when mixed with Christmas lights, as the there is a greater chance of the tree catching fire. The longer your tree is out of the ground, the drier it will become. Keep the tree fresh, which will hinder it drying out, by giving it water through the base of the tree.
- The dangers of overloading your sockets include fires and additional heating damage to the socket. Overloaded sockets draw too much power to one area and thus start to overheat. This can eventually lead to an increased chance of fire. Avoid overloading your sockets as much as possible by using sockets in other areas of the home.
- Ensure Christmas lights you use are fit for purpose and only use lights that are labelled for use in that area. Check the labels on the lights to make sure that you aren't using outdoor lights indoors or vice versa.

### **Avoid Toluene Exposure**

Toluene is often used in paint, metal cleaners and adhesives - is a clear, colourless liquid with a sharp, sweet smell that vapourises when exposed to air at room temperature. Symptoms worsen as exposure increases and long-term exposure may lead to tiredness, slow reaction, difficulty sleeping, numbness in the hands/feet, female reproductive system damage and pregnancy loss. It can also affect the nervous system and exposure to high concentrations can result in a loss of consciousness and death.

### **Keeping Workers Safe**

- For cleaning and degreasing purposes, substitute (whenever possible) with a water-based product that does not contain toluene.
- Do not purchase paints or adhesives that contain toluene.
- Refrain from using spray applications when working with a products that contain Toluene. Substitute with a brush, roller or flow application.
- Use the smallest amount necessary to get the job done, when working with a product that contains Toluene.
- Ensure the work area is properly vented. Ventilation can be a combination of:
  - 1. Local exhaust
  - Room ventilation



Safetech will be closed for business from Friday, 14th December 2018 until Tuesday, 8th January 2019

Thank you to all our Customers for their support in 2018. We wish you an abundantly blessed Christmasl

Brom the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another John Lib

Safetrain cc t/a Safetech is a SANAS Accredited Inspection Body, No. OH 0049. Refer to www.sanas.co.za for Directory Accredited Facilities, Inspection Bodies for schedule of accreditation.





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## **EHS Newsletter December 2018**

### **5 COMMON PALLET SAFETY RACK ISSUES**

If your warehouse utilizes pallet racks to store bigger items and you want to know what to look out for, below are the five most common safety issues encountered by pallet racks:

### Misaligned Racking

An easily preventable cause of damage to pallet racks and potential injury to workers, is misaligned or improperly installed racks. During installation, follow manufacturer's

instructions to the letter, to ensure that that all racks are aligned and level and that everything is connected properly.

### **Loose floor fittings**

The constant weight and movement of product on pallet racks may cause the anchor plates on the bottom of the racks to come loose very quickly. Secure the plates down with heavy anchor bolts and make frequent checks to ensure that they don't need re-tightening or replacement.

### **Product overhang**

Depending on the size and depth of the racks, there is always a risk of pallets overhanging the edge of the racks. While this doesn't pose an inherent risk if workers are aware and work to minimize the effects, this awareness is crucial. Make sure any pallet overhang is up to the manufacturer's standards (including weight limits) and in situations where the pallets don't perfectly interlock, use shrink wrap to prevent product movement or damage.

### Improper use of racks

Not understanding weight limits can constitute an "improper use". Follow all manufacturer's guidelines to the letter to ensure that weight limits are adhered to, the proper materials and tools were used for installation and that recommended guidelines for storage (material type, pallet dimensions, etc) are being used.

### Properly trained forklift usage

Making sure forklift operators understand the weight limits of their individual forklifts as well as the pallets they are moving items to, is an important step in protecting items from damage and workers from injury. Many pallet racks are designed to withstand an occasional bump, but repeated damage will wear the racks down with time and may cause them to become unusable.







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Refer to www.sanas.co.za for Schedule of Accreditation



https://news.nationalgeographic .com/2015/08/150817-seaturtles-olive-ridlev-marinedebris-ocean-animals-science/

Small and lightweight, straws often never make it into recycling bins; the evidence of this failure is clearly visible on any beach. And although straws amount to a tiny fraction of ocean plastic, their size makes them one of the most insidious polluters because they entangle marine animals and are consumed by fish.





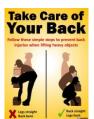
### SAFETY POSTERS

All posters are laminated A3 size













For a full brochure Call 041 3656846 or email lee.rands@safetech.co.za





