Staff Spotlight: Meet Douglas Miller

**Fire Safety Coordinator**

Doug is the Fire Safety Coordinator for Ohio University. The general job responsibilities include, but are not limited to the prevention or control of injuries and fire losses and ensuring compliance with applicable codes and practices associated with fire and life safety systems at Ohio University. This position requires thorough understanding and application of fire and life safety including codes, standards, fire protection engineering and equipment principles, electrical systems, equipment testing, fire prevention inspections and educational practices related to fire safety.

The Fire Safety Coordinator position is a critical Health and Safety position. This position works with the Fire Protection Engineer to ensure fire and life safety code compliance and the University’s fire protection programs for all employees and facilities. Also responsible for the fire loss prevention program on campus. Doug worked full time at Jackson Township Fire Department starting in 1978 as a Firefighter/EMT, Hazardous Materials Specialist, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, and Fire Inspector. He is a 36 year career Firefighter and a Certified Fire Safety Inspector.

**Office Decorating Safety**

While an office space can seem impersonable at times, this does not mean you are unable to decorate for the holiday season. Here are a few tips from Doug to have a safely decorated office space.

Things to remember while decorating your office space are:

- Always plug your lights into power strips, never extension cords.
- Although we do not allow anyone to have live Christmas trees in the office, you can always have a small, artificial one.
- If you string lights, make sure you always unplug them before you leave the room.
- NO candles are permitted at any time. A great alternative could be battery operated, LED candles that are found at any local store.
- Make sure you limit the amount of combustibles that are on the walls.
Holiday Decoration Safety Tips

The holidays are a joyous time that bring family and friends together. Don’t let a fire get in the way of sharing this special time with them. Following a few easy holiday fire prevention tips will ensure that you get to make this holiday season a safe and happy one.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

• Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
• Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
• Replace any string of light with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
• Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacture’s instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
• Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
• Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

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GIFT PRESENTING

• Tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
• Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
• Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stove top.
• Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
• Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

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LIGHTING THE TREE

• Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
• Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

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AFTER CHRISTMAS

• Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

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KNOW THE FACTS

• 1 in 3 home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
• A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly 1 in every 6 of the fires.
• 2 of every 5 home decoration fires are started by candles.
• Nearly 1/2 of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

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To check out the full article about winter holiday click here, and here for the full read on Christmas tree safety!