

November 2019

Dear RETRO Members;

Wow, it is November already and we are back on standard time! We encourage you to start preparing for shorter days by checking your outdoor lighting, making sure that light bulbs and photo eyes are operational. With the wetter and cooler season ahead, you should also be ready for potential slips and falls around the entrances to the store. Place extra mats on smooth surfaces to take up that additional water being tracked into the store. Even prepare for potential ice/snow with de-icer and shovels, by having them on hand now. The weather has been traditionally been kind of nasty this month, so think of what else you may need to be ready for winter.

First topic is: **Ladder Safety** – Just how important is ladder safety? Well ladders are one of the major causes of fall related fatalities according to the National Safety Council's statistics. It is estimated that in any given year 65,000 individuals receive emergency room treatment due to ladder accidents. Most ladder incidents happen at ten feet or less from the ground. Other tips are:

- Remember to pick the right ladder for the project. Don't use an extension ladder for a step ladder project or vice versa.
- Make sure it is tall enough so that you do not go past the top two steps.
- Don't let your belt buckle go past the ladder rails. Leaning past the rails will put you in an off-balance position.
- Check the ladder over to make sure all ladder parts are in good condition before using it.
- **Your shop ladders must be Type I, I-A or II.** Type III is for home use.

There are variety videos, a PowerPoint, and handouts in the [RS Safety Library Ladders](#) section for you to use at your safety meetings. Also some good videos in [RS SafetyTV](#). [SAFEME](#) also has a [Ladder module](#)

The second item is: **Slip-Trip-Falls** – Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common workplace accidents. Employees, employers, and customers are put at risk for serious injury when slip, trip and fall hazards aren't noticed and fixed; in parking lots, walkways, stairwells, and other work locations. Fortunately, with proper training, housekeeping techniques, and encouraging a safety culture in the workplace, you can spot, report, and correct these hazards before someone gets hurt. Avoid risky behavior at work and at home! Do you have sidewalk de-icer on hand now?

Check that items in the [RS Safety Library](#) or [RS SafetyTV](#) in the *Slip Trip Falls* section for more on this subject.

Finally, what is difference between **Flammable and Combustible**? A material that is flammable catches on fire from a minimal heat source. For example, propane can catch fire from just a tiny spark. Also, the fumes emitted from solvents will ignite from a negligible heat source. Make sure you are putting lids back on when product is not in use and be careful when working with solvent cleaners around hot engines, sparks or flames.

A material that is combustible is any material that will burn but requires a more dominant source. For example, wood is combustible, it burns but it needs more than just a spark to do so. Heavy oil (motor oil) is another example of combustible.

All flammable material is combustible, but not all combustible material is flammable.

RS SafetyTV has a [quick video demonstration](#) on this subject and a [more detailed video](#) here.

Encourage your employees to; *Think safe. Act safe. Be safe.*

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