

November 2023

Dear RETRO Members;

Wow, it is already November, and we will soon return to standard time! We encourage you to start preparing for shorter days by checking:

- Check outdoor lighting to ensure light bulbs and photo eyes are operational. If switched by timers, you will need to reset on 11/5.
- Be ready for potential slips and falls around the entrances to the store. Place extra floor mats on smooth surfaces to take up that additional water being tracked into the store.
- Prepare for potential ice/snow with de-icing and shovels, having them on hand now.



The weather has traditionally been kind of crummy in November, so think of what else you may need to provide a safe work environment for employees and a good shopping experience for your customers.

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**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. In any given year, 65,000 individuals receive emergency room treatment due to ladder accidents. **Most ladder incidents happen 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 and prone to ladder shift.



- Check the ladder over to make sure all ladder parts are in good condition before using it.
- **Your ladders must be Type I, I-A, or II.** There is a label on the side rails with the Type information. Type III is for home use and is not allowed for commercial use.

Resources:

- [RS Safety Library](#) - A PowerPoint and handouts are in the **Ladders** section.
- [RS SafetyTV](#) - Some good ladder videos that can help in your safety meeting.
- [SAFEME](#) - Has a [Ladder use module](#) which makes for a quick safety lesson.

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**Slip-Trip-Falls** are among the most common workplace accidents. Employees and customers are at risk for serious injury when slip, trip and fall hazards go unnoticed and are in disrepair in parking lots, walkways, stairwells, and other work locations.

Fortunately, with proper training, housekeeping techniques, and the encouragement of a workplace safety culture, you can spot, report, and minimize these hazards before someone gets hurt.



Avoid risky behavior at work and at home! Do you have sidewalk deicer on hand now?

Resources:

- [RS Safety Library](#) - There is a PowerPoint file and handouts in the **Slip Trip Falls** section
- [RS SafetyTV](#) - Some good videos on Slips, Trips, and Falls, which make for a great safety meeting starter!
- [SAFEME](#) - Has a Slip Trip Falls [module](#)

**Flammable or Combustible?** A material that is flammable ignites with 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 or turning valves off when a product is not in use. Be careful when working with solvent cleaners around hot engines, sparks, or flames.



A substance that is combustible is any material that will burn but requires a more dominant source. For example, wood is combustible but usually needs more than just a spark to catch fire. Heavy oil (motor oil) is another example of a combustible material.

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

Please review your SDS sheets, Section 2, for the types of chemicals you have on hand and treat those chemicals accordingly.

Resources:

- RS SafetyTV has a [quick video demonstration](#) on this subject and a [more detailed video](#) here.
- [RS SafetyTV](#) safety videos under the Auto Group section

*Always - Think safe. Act safe. Be safe.*

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