

# THE JLF REPORT



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Newsletter Staff  
Ken Harrell, Editor

Louis Ramon, Layout  
Please send address corrections to:  
tech@joyelawfirm.com

*Happy Holidays  
From  
Joye Law Firm*

Serving Charleston, Columbia, Georgetown, Goose Creek, Moncks Corner, Myrtle Beach, Summerville, Walterboro and more!



## BRINGING JOYE TO OUR COMMUNITY

This summer and fall, members of the Joye Law Firm have continued to support worthy organizations as part of its Joye in the Community program. Staff members participated in two activities to support Charleston Habitat - the featured Joye in the Community organization for 2009.

hurricane ties, put up roof trusses, and help secure load bearing walls. Matthew Jackson, an attorney present at the build, stated "This has been a very rewarding day. I was able to speak to the future homeowner, and she's really excited about her new house that we're helping to build."



On August 8, over 10 Joye Law Firm employees assisted in a build with Charleston Habitat for the Lemon family in North Charleston. Throughout the day, staff members helped nail

On August 22, the Joye Law Firm held a huge garage sale at its office location. Staff members donated furniture, clothing, electronics, and other household goods to sell in order to raise money for Charleston Habitat. The garage sale was a huge success - raising over \$1,700 towards JLF's \$10,000.00 year goal.



The Joye Law Firm also sponsored and participated in the "Paws in the Park" on October 25 to benefit the Charleston Animal Society. The event consisted of a walk for the animals, games, and activities. Staff members manned a Joye Law Firm tent, and gave away treats and prizes. Tara Gerardi, a paralegal and board member for the Charleston Animal society, stated that the best part of the day was when her husband judged for the sloppiest dog kisser contest.



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24 Hrs.: 843.554.3100 Toll Free: 888.324.3100

# HOLIDAY DECORATION SAFETY TIPS

(From the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission)



## TREES

Many artificial trees are fire resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement specifying this protection. If you choose a real tree, a fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

### **To check for freshness, remember:**

A fresh tree is green. Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches. When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin. When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Place trees away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set the tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide-spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.

Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Use thin guy-wires to secure a large tree to walls or ceiling, especially if you have small children in the house. The wires are almost invisible.

## “SNOW”

Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels and follow directions carefully.

## LIGHTS

Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose con-

nections. Discard damaged sets or repair them before using. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls or other firm support to protect them from wind damage.

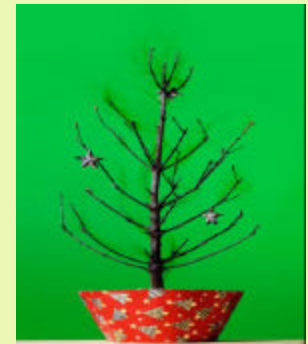
Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.

Never use lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and any person touching a branch could be electrocuted. To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a tree, never fastened to it.

Keep “bubbling” lights away from children. These lights with their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break the candle-shaped glass, which can cut, and attempt to drink the liquid, which sometimes contains hazardous chemicals.

## CANDLES

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders. Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper. Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.



## TRIMMINGS

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials, and wear gloves while decorating with spun glass “angel-hair” to avoid irritation to the skin. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles or plastic or non-lead materials. Lead materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

### **In homes with small children, take special care to:**

Avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children. Pieces could be swallowed or inhaled. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food. A child could eat them!

## BRINGING JOYE TO OUR COMMUNITY (CONTINUED FROM P.1)

On November 29, the Joye Law Firm participated in a monthly dinner to support the Ronald McDonald House in downtown Charleston. One of the firm's paralegals was benefitted by this organization while her son fought a valiant battle against cancer. She now helps organize a monthly dinner sponsored by the law firm in her son's memory. The dinner was a success and consisted of everyone's favorite Thanksgiving dishes.



The Joye Law Firm's commitment through Joye in the Community is to give back to the community and support local programs designed to improve the health and well-being of others. The Joye in the Community participants are hopeful that next year can be even more successful.



*If you would like to learn more about "Joye in the Community", please visit our web site at <http://www.joyeinthecommunity.com>.*

## HOLIDAY SAFETY (CONTINUED FROM P.2)



*It looks nice but DON'T DO IT!*

### FIRES

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from the fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open, and keep a screen before the fireplace all the time a fire is burning. Use care with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown onto wood fires. They contain heavy metals which can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation or vomiting if eaten. Keep away from children.

### PAPER

When making paper decorations, look for materials labeled non-combustible or flame-resistant. Never place trimmings

near open flames or electrical connections. Remove all wrapping papers from tree and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened. Do not burn papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

### GENERAL RULES FOR HOLIDAY SAFETY

- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.
- Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.
- Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. **PRACTICE THE PLAN!**
- Avoid wearing loose flowing clothes--particularly long, open sleeves--near open flames - such as those of a fireplace, stove, or candlelit table.
- Never burn candles near evergreens. Burning evergreens in the fireplace can also be hazardous. When dry, greens burn like tinder. Flames can flare out of control, and send sparks flying into a room, or up the chimney to ignite creosote deposits.
- Plan for safety. Remember, there is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, trees, and/or electrical connections. Have a safe and happy holiday season.



**Joye Law Firm, LLP**  
**5861 Rivers Avenue**  
**North Charleston, SC 29406**

**Phone:** 843.554.3100  
**Toll Free:** 888.324.3100  
**Fax:** 843.554.6539  
**Email:** [INFO@JOYELAWFIRM.COM](mailto:INFO@JOYELAWFIRM.COM)  
**Internet:** [WWW.JOYELAWFIRM.COM](http://WWW.JOYELAWFIRM.COM)

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## KEN HARRELL ELECTED INJURED WORKERS' ADVOCATES PRESIDENT

JLF Managing Partner Ken Harrell has been elected president of the Injured Workers' Advocates, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights of South Carolinians who are victims of occupational injury or disease.



Harrell, who has handled workers' compensation cases for 22 years, previously served as secretary and vice president for the group as well as the chairman of its legislative affairs and continuing education committees. Now, as president, he will oversee the state's leading voice for injured workers and the primary source for continuing education for lawyers who focus on protecting workers' rights.

One of his top objectives is to continue building strong bipartisan relationships with legislators to protect the rights of injured workers. Additional objectives for the year include educating South Carolina employers on how to ensure their workers' compensation premiums are properly calculated; publishing a manual to assist lawyers in learning how to handle these cases; and upgrading the group's website.

Since joining Joye Law Firm in 1994, he has represented more than 1,500 injured workers to protect their entitlement to disability and medical treatment benefits. As the managing partner of the firm, he also leads the workers' compensation and mass torts practices. He is a frequent author and speaker for the South Carolina Bar's continuing legal education program and the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Educational Association.

### About Injured Workers' Advocates:

Injured Workers' Advocates is a nonprofit association of more than 170 attorneys dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and legal remedies for South Carolina workers who are victims of occupational injury or disease. The organization advocates for the rights of injured workers through education, litigation, and communication. Visit [injuredworkersadvocates.com](http://injuredworkersadvocates.com) to learn more.



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