



SUBJECT: Don't be 'Myth' taken at Christmas!

RECIPIENTS: All Council Services (including schools)

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Deck the Halls

Christmas is a special time of year. Even so, it doesn't stop health and safety being - wrongly - cited as a reason for preventing pretty harmless activities from going ahead. Not only does this needlessly ruin the festive spirit but it also trivialises the true purpose of health and safety: protecting people from real risks at, or connected with, work.

In the run up to Christmas the HSE publish the top twelve festive myths, gifted to them correspondence received.

1. [Myth: Workers are banned from putting up Christmas decorations in the office](#)
2. [Myth: Indoor Christmas lights need a portable appliance test \(PAT\) every year](#)
3. [Myth: You can't throw out sweets at pantomimes](#)
4. [Myth: Traditional shopping centre Christmas trees scaled back or replaced by artificial alternatives](#)
5. [Myth: Seats removed from shops - despite weary Christmas shoppers wanting to rest their feet](#)
6. [Myth: Carol singers are a health and safety risk](#)
7. [Myth: Children are banned from throwing snowballs](#)
8. [Myth: You cannot clear snow and ice from pavements yourself](#)
9. [Myth: Health and safety prevents people putting coins in Christmas puddings](#)
10. [Myth: Elf n Safety ruins Christmas!](#)



As you can see health & safety should prevent anyone from enjoying the Christmas spirit whilst at work as long as some basic precautions are followed:

1. Avoid placing tinsel around the vents of PC's/Laptops or electrical sockets or heaters
2. Don't cover fire alarm call points, evacuation signage or fire defectors with decorations.
3. Don't cover the Fire Door 'sight glass' window with decorations
4. Use suitable step ladders, when erecting decorations, don't try balancing on a wheelie chair!
5. Ensure that all decorations are checked and repaired or replaced as necessary before using them.
6. See [Winter Safety](#) H&S bulletin (HSB74)

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2019

If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:

Corporate Health & Safety Advisers (see George section: Corporate > Information for Working > Risk Management > H&S Advisers)