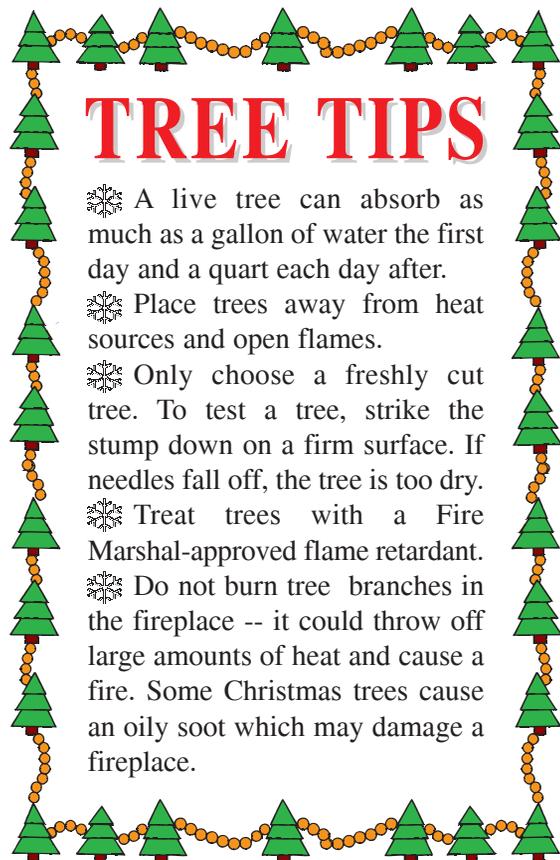


Holiday Hazards



TREE TIPS

- ❄️ A live tree can absorb as much as a gallon of water the first day and a quart each day after.
- ❄️ Place trees away from heat sources and open flames.
- ❄️ Only choose a freshly cut tree. To test a tree, strike the stump down on a firm surface. If needles fall off, the tree is too dry.
- ❄️ Treat trees with a Fire Marshal-approved flame retardant.
- ❄️ Do not burn tree branches in the fireplace -- it could throw off large amounts of heat and cause a fire. Some Christmas trees cause an oily soot which may damage a fireplace.

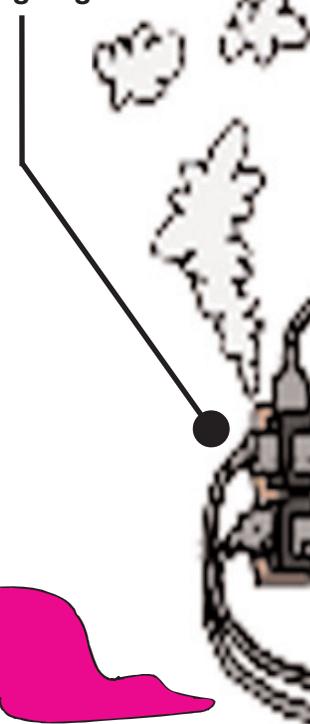
Many people use glass and other delicate and breakable decorations during the holidays. Be cautious in the placement of such decorations where children or pets may reach them.



Check and replace any worn or damaged light sets. Only use light strings approved by Underwriters Laboratories Incorporated. Spot or floodlights should only be used on an artificial tree. Miniature lights produce less heat.

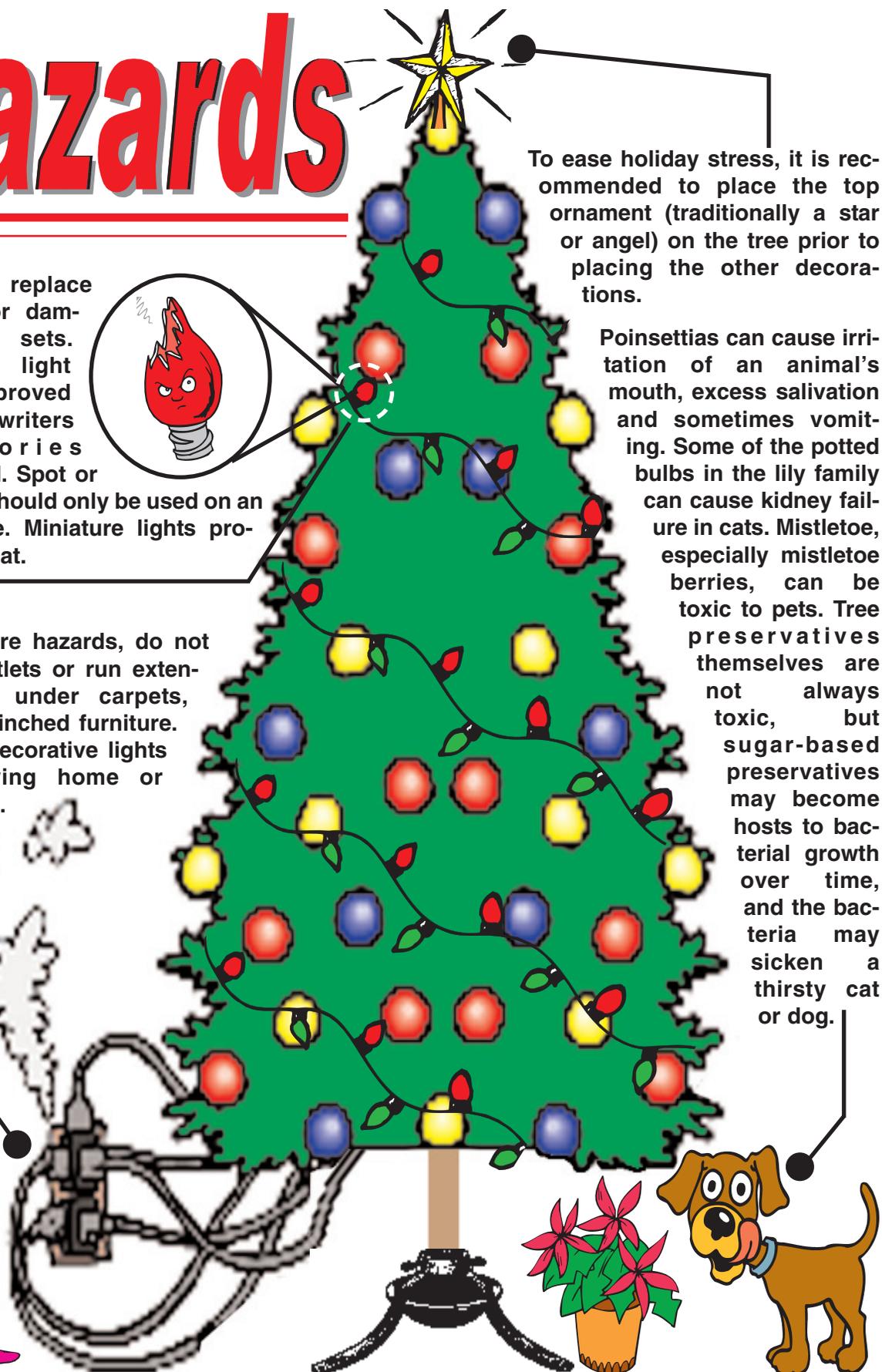


To reduce fire hazards, do not overload outlets or run extension cords under carpets, heaters or pinched furniture. Unplug all decorative lights before leaving home or going to bed.



To ease holiday stress, it is recommended to place the top ornament (traditionally a star or angel) on the tree prior to placing the other decorations.

Poinsettias can cause irritation of an animal's mouth, excess salivation and sometimes vomiting. Some of the potted bulbs in the lily family can cause kidney failure in cats. Mistletoe, especially mistletoe berries, can be toxic to pets. Tree preservatives themselves are not always toxic, but sugar-based preservatives may become hosts to bacterial growth over time, and the bacteria may sicken a thirsty cat or dog.



Drop 'n Shop

“Drop ‘n Shop” gives parents the opportunity to go shopping Dec. 13 from noon to 5 p.m. while their children ages 6 - 12 are watching movies, eating popcorn, making gifts and baking cookies at the Youth Center. The cost for this event is \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers. Reservations are required to staff accordingly. Volunteers are also needed for this event. For more information or to volunteer, call **895-2252**.



Season of giving brightened by Project Santa

By Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

The holiday season is considered by many to be the season of giving. There are programs on base by which Team Shaw gives during this season each year, but only one program is designed to give to the base's littlest members.

Project Santa is a base-wide toy drive to collect toys and money to buy toys for children of Team Shaw members. In its 11th year, it is under the direction of Shaw's Diamond Council of first sergeants. Master Sgt. James Dixon, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron first sergeant, and Master Sgt. Shawn Yoder, 20th EMS assistant first sergeant, are the coordinators of this year's Project Santa.

According to Dixon, Project Santa made a major change this year because volunteers no longer solicit monetary or toy donations. Instead, it and the Thanksgiving baskets program now fall under a program called the Holiday Spirit.

The Holiday Spirit has stations set up at the Base Exchange and Commissary for patrons to donate money or toys and receive a key chain in return for their generosity. Volunteers are on hand to explain the program to those who have questions and thank

donators for their contributions. There are also boxes at the BX for toy donations, and some squadrons have boxes in their offices for group donations.

"Because of the donations Team Shaw members made to the Holiday Spirit, Thanksgiving baskets were paid for without any money added to complete them. The commissary also donated all the turkeys," said Dixon. "Things are going really well for Project Santa, and we are looking forward to making Christmas a little merrier for lots of kids at Shaw."

Unlike the past year's Project Santa, individuals can voluntarily give monetary donations through any first sergeant in addition to toys. Donations will be taken through Dec. 12. No items should be wrapped so it is clear which items are for girls or boys. Families who have been signed up by first sergeants will shop for their children Dec. 15 – 18. Instead of a toy room as in previous years, the first sergeants will decorate a vacant house on base and fill the rooms with toys for this year's Project Santa. The house is located at 150 Palmetto Dr. According to Dixon, the first sergeants want to make coming to the house a positive experience for each family.

"We don't want anyone to feel like this is charity because we are all a part of the Shaw family. We are doing this for our family," said Dixon.

To ensure each family has the chance to choose top-quality toys for their children, appointment times are set up by putting in a hat the name of each organization that has families signed up to participate and organization names are

chosen randomly. Each organization is given a block of time for its families to shop the toy shelves. Shelves will be restocked after each block of time.

"Project Santa is a wonderful experience for children," said Pat Babirad, last year's coordinator. "I

have two children of my own and Project Santa allows me and Team Shaw to make Christmas happy for other children, and Christmas is for children."

For more information on Project Santa or to make donations, see any first sergeant or call Dixon at **895-5219** or Yoder at **895-9278**.

"There is nothing more precious than seeing your child smile on Christmas morning," said Dixon. "This program is all about helping families make that happen for their children."





Spirit Spotlight



Staff Sgt. Tamara Tate

Organization: 79th Fighter Squadron

Duty title: Assistant NCO in charge of Commander's Support Staff

Hometown: Sumter

Time in service: Seven years

Family: Husband, David Tate; 4-year-old daughter, Nalique

Off-duty interests: Spending time with family and pursuing a degree in computer technology

Words I live by: "Education is the power to think clearly, to act well in a day's work and to appreciate life."

The Shaw Spirit runs announcements for sporting event winners, adult and youth sporting leagues, retirements, award winners and graduates. For more information, call 895-2018 or send an e-mail to spirit.editor@shaw.af.mil.



Wing Holiday Party

Dec. 13 from 7-11 p.m. in the Conference Center.

photographer

live band



Tickets are available from first sergeants.

\$2: E-1 - E-4

\$5: E-5 - E-6, O-1 - O-3 and GS-6 - GS-9

\$8: All others

door prizes

appetizers

