



Environmental Health & Safety - Dec.
2021



Happy Holiday Safety



<https://sway.office.com/ef51TtNGH5QBq3JX#content=ldhoTr7i027dHK>

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Bear's Head Stuck in Plastic Container



<https://sway.office.com/ef51TtNGH5QBq3JX#content=b9vBiaQ0xptaxe>

Why are we sharing this story?

It's that time of the year when an abundance of packaging in all shapes and sizes, from all the gift giving world-wide will need to be discarded. How we decide to dispose of this waste, (i.e., gift wrapping, boxes, plastic, Styrofoam, etc.) will have long lasting effects on our environment. However, the effects of our choices are not only restricted to what will happen to our planet over the long term, but also, the immediate harmful results our choices have on other animals, that we share this planet with.

This holiday season, as you vacation/staycation and share the joys of gift giving and receiving, remember to **recycle, recycle, recycle** - everything you can, and keep plastic and material waste out of our waters.

This story had a happy ending, but so many others do not!

Enjoy your Holidays, whatever you are celebrating, wherever you are, and remember to RECYCLE!

Owl Rescue at Piper High School



The Environmental Health and Safety Department (EH&S) received a phone call from Mr. Schwartz, who is part of the school district's Grounds Custodial Service for pests and weed control. The onsite technician treating the football field area at Piper High reported that a burrowing owl was trapped in the fencing for the shot put/discus throw area on the football field. Environmental Health and Safety immediately responded by going out to the site.



An adult owl was found trapped in the bottom portion of the netting. The owl was quickly and carefully removed from the netting by doing a few cuts of the netting.



The owl was placed for brief period in a 5-gallon bucket to determine if it was injured. A call was made to the school districts Florida Fish and Wildlife registered burrowing owl agent Miller Legg for advice.

Upon observing that the owl was able to stand on its own two feet in the bucket, the owl was gently released from the bucket and was observed flying away and landing with no issues.



A big thanks to the people at Ground Maintenance Department for the assistance in helping us keep our burrowing owls safe.

“A holiday gives one a chance to look backward and forward, to reset oneself by an inner compass,” *May Sarton*

Food Safety Tips for the Holidays

It's the holidays at Broward County Public Schools! As you feast with your family and friends for holiday celebrations, follow these tips from foodsafety.gov to help prevent food poisoning or foodborne illness.



- **Keep Foods Separated** Keep meat, chicken, turkey, seafood, and eggs separate from all other foods at the grocery store and in the refrigerator. Prevent juices from meat, chicken, turkey, and seafood from dripping or leaking onto other foods by keeping them in containers or sealed plastic bags. Store eggs in their original carton in the main compartment of the refrigerator.
- **Cook Food Thoroughly** Meat, chicken, turkey, seafood, and eggs can carry germs that cause food poisoning. Use a food thermometer to ensure these foods have been cooked to a safe internal temperature.



- **Keep Food Out of the “Danger Zone”** Bacteria can grow rapidly in the danger zone between 40°F and 140°F. After food is prepared, keep hot food hot and cold food cold. Refrigerate or freeze any perishable food within 2 hours. The temperature in your refrigerator should be set at or below 40°F and the freezer at or below 0°F.
- **Use Pasteurized Eggs for Dishes Containing Raw Eggs** Salmonella and other harmful germs can live on both the outside and inside of normal-looking eggs. Many holiday favorites contain raw eggs, including eggnog, tiramisu, hollandaise sauce, and Caesar dressing. Always use pasteurized eggs when making these and other foods made with raw eggs.
- **Do Not Eat Raw Dough or Batter** Dough and batter made with flour or eggs can contain harmful germs, such as E. coli and Salmonella. Do not taste or eat raw dough or batter that is meant to be baked or cooked. This includes dough or batter for cookies, cakes, pies, biscuits, pancakes, tortillas, pizza, or crafts. Do not let children taste raw dough or batter or play with dough at home or in restaurants. Read the label carefully to make sure the dough is meant to be eaten without baking or cooking.

- **Thaw your Turkey Safely** Thaw turkey in the refrigerator, in a sink of cold water (change the water every 30 minutes), or in the microwave. Avoid thawing foods on the counter. A turkey must thaw at a safe temperature to prevent harmful germs from growing rapidly.



- **Wash your Hands** Wash your hands with soap and water during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:
 - **Before, during, and after** preparing food
 - **Before** eating food
 - **After** handling pet food or pet treats or touching pets
 - **After** using the toilet
 - **After** changing diapers or cleaning up a child who has used the toilet¹
 - **After** touching garbage
 - **Before** and **after** caring for someone who is sick
 - **Before** and **after** treating a cut or wound
 - **After** blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/diapering/index.html>

High Hazard Inspections

Impact	5	Medium / High	Medium / High	High	High	High
	4	Low / Medium	Medium / High	Medium / High	High	High
	3	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Medium / High	Medium / High	High
	2	Low	Low	Low / Medium	Low / Medium	Medium / High
	1	Low	Low	Low	Low / Medium	Low / Medium
		1	2	3	4	5
		Likelihood				

Over the last few months, District staff and independent contractors on our sites have suffered a range of injuries from cuts, slips, trip, falls and even electrocution. All of which could have been avoided if those involved followed safety precautions and or used Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

In light of these events, schools and sites may notice an increase in the number of inspections occurring at their locations. And as “inconvenient” as some may find these to be, it’s important to understand that each is conducted from a different perspective. Fire Inspectors are inspecting for conditions that may result in fires, Dept. of Health is inspecting for conditions that may impact student learning, and Health and Safety is partnering in inspection of our high hazard areas (bus terminals, cafeterias, warehouses etc.) for equipment and operations that can be improved to mitigate risks associated with task involved in each respective area. Each, and every one of these inspections is conducted in order to maintain safe and healthy environments for all.

We ask that you welcome and cooperate with your inspectors. The results of the inspections will always be discussed with the Administrator/Manager or designee. When there are recommended corrective actions, please follow through with either your in-house staff or submit the necessary work orders to PPO.

We CAN reduce injuries and accidents. We can do this – Together!

Lights, Lights, Lights!!!



Lights and lighting are transformative!

Over the last couple of years, EH&S - Environmental Conservation & Utility Management has been sharing news about initiatives that save the District big bucks. Upgrades to lighting fixtures is one of

those areas that make a big impact in saving and in the lives of those occupying those spaces. Recently, additional gymnasiums at Hollywood Hills HS, Piper HS and Silver Lakes MS have received new LED lights over the Thanksgiving break, with Piper HS also having the main common area retrofitted with LED lights. Two more gyms are in the design phase and are expected to be completed early next year. The staff at each school is very pleased with the results and very appreciative of this upgrade. All these projects also qualify for FPL rebates. See photos below:



Hollywood Hills HS Gym



Piper HS common area



Silver Lakes MS Gym



Silver Lakes MS Gym

“Gratitude is one of the greatest gifts you can give to others and, of course, to yourself.”

OPRAH

Holiday Safety Tips You Need to Know



There is no doubt Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, filled with holiday cheers. But if you are not taking extra precautions during this Holiday Season, it can quickly turn into a holiday hazard. There may be plenty of safety practices you might not even realize you're ignoring in your own home. Putting your Christmas tree up wherever you think it looks best or keeping candles lit that fill your humble abode with the scents of pine trees and gingerbread cookies? Not so fast! To make sure you have a happy and safe holiday, here are some safety and health tips for the ultimate Christmas you need to follow:

1. Check and water your Christmas tree daily. Never allow your tree stand to be empty of water and have two inches cut from the trunk to allow for better water absorption to the fresh wood. It's important to add moisture regularly, "Water your tree daily."



2. Keep it away from fire hazards. Sure, your tree may look good in a particular corner of the house, but make sure you aren't sacrificing your safety by putting it there. Properly secure the tree.



3. Use candles with care and caution. Don't leave a lit candle unattended.
4. Don't overload your home's electrical circuits. Holiday lights and decorations can be a big electrical burden, don't overload the circuits powering your home.



5. Secure your home from possible break-ins. Make sure your doors are secure. And consider smart technology to protect your home. Also watch out for online shopping fraud.



6. Schedule packages to be delivered when you will be home to receive them. To avoid being a victim, consider when and where your packages are delivered. Choose times when someone will be home or have them delivered to your workplace or other spot that is more secure.



7. Don't share your holiday travel plans online. Avoid posting about them online. Post any vacation photos after you return from your trip and have someone check in on your house frequently while you are away.



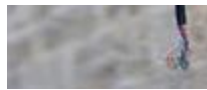
8. Be prepared for a kitchen fire, make sure you're prepared for the worst. It is recommended you clean the oven before using it, have working smoke detectors, keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, and never leave food unattended when it's cooking.

9. Invest in a carbon monoxide detector. Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning. you can't see or smell carbon monoxide. Symptoms of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, chest pain, and vomiting. If you recognize any of these symptoms, immediately exit your home and call 911.



10. Turn off lights and other electronics before going to bed. Remember to turn everything off, you could be creating fire hazards.

11. Safely maintain your outdoor decorations. Outside decorations should not be allowed to be up for longer than 90 days. Replace old lights and use them correctly. Hang breakable ornaments up high.



12. Check your cords. **You should check wires inside and outside your home for frays or damage.**

“In your hurry to keep Christmas, you have forgotten Christmas. The truest gift of Christmas is the gift of self”

The Christmas Box author Richard Paul wrote in his picture book *The Light of Christmas*².

²[https://www.amazon.com/Light-Christmas-Richard-Paul-Evans/dp/1481466127?linkCode=ogi&tag=oprah-auto-20&ascsbtg=\[artid|10072.g.34536312\[src|\[ch|\[lt|](https://www.amazon.com/Light-Christmas-Richard-Paul-Evans/dp/1481466127?linkCode=ogi&tag=oprah-auto-20&ascsbtg=[artid|10072.g.34536312[src|[ch|[lt|)

Shout Outs !!!

CPR new trainers

Earlier this year, eight (8) District Department staff responded to a call from EH&S' training component to become certified BLS trainers, through the American Heart Association (AHA) and partner with EH&S Training in providing CPR/AED/First Aid training to the District's staff from various departments.



The great news, during our first wave of training, we successfully certified/recertified over 85 people in the span of 4 weeks during October - November. This is an accomplishment that would not have been possible without this cadre of trainers during this time of Covid 19 protocols.

New instructors were partnered with experienced AHA certified trainers, to give them opportunities to facilitate training a class, knowing they had support readily available, giving them the confidence needed to deliver all they had been trained to do. These men and women, who are now part of the CPR/AED/First Aid training force for the District, can help keep us in compliance with District policy.

This shout-out is not only for the BLS trainers, but also to their Supervisors and Managers who granted them the opportunity to become part of this team.

“THANK YOU” Certified CPR/AED/First Aid Instructors:

Transportation:

Dr. Simone Clowers, Operations Manager

Philip Moore , Trainer

SSEP:

Victor Smith, Gang Prevention Coordinator

Adam Khovsky, Security Specialist

Kelvin j. Veal Jr., Security Specialist

SIU:

Detective, Edward Costello,

Detective, Michael English

Detective Eugene Lewis

And extra shout out to our veteran BLS trainers who are always ready to support the CPR training initiatives. (listed in no particular order)

Lieutenant Joseph Barbuto, SIU

Corey William, Transportation Trainer

Bruce Evans, Teacher – Ft. Lauderdale High School

Fern Brooker, Contractor



<https://sway.office.com/ef51TtNGH5QBq3JX#content=qbUSf2r5rwxmID>

Thank YOU

Stay Connected with Environmental Conservation/Utility Management



The Environmental Conservation/Utility Management Department has set up a **Twitter and Instagram account** to allow our District wide employees and students to follow us. **This will allow the students to share what their school is doing to make it clean and green** and provide us additional opportunities to share updates on what to recycle and how to reduce water usage.

FOLLOW EMS Green Squad ON TWITTER & INSTAGRAM



1 - *BCPS_EmsGreenSquad*



2 - *@msgreensquad*

RECYCLING, IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!



"I sometimes think we expect too much of Christmas Day. We try to crowd into it the long arrears of kindness and humanity of the whole year. As for me, I like to take my Christmas a little at a time, all through the year,"

American journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Ray Stannard Baker wrote in his book *Adventures in Friendship*³.

In May 2021,

Contact Us



³https://www.google.com/books/edition/ADVENTURES_IN_FRIENDSHIP/vwpXIUw8ULoC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover



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