



## Letter from DMC President

DMC Family - Happy Holiday Season!

I hope you are all happy and healthy as we embark on the final month of 2020. Honestly, I can't wait to turn the page on the new year... it comes with the anticipation and hope of returning to normal. However, as we all wait for the day we can all get back together regularly, I wish you all health and happiness. I hope the holidays, however, you celebrate them bring joy and peace.

Regardless of the craziness, there is much to be thankful for great friends, great family, great cars! I look forward to seeing you all in February. In the meantime, I wish you all a very happy holiday season and a Happy and healthy New Year!

-Mike

PS. There will be no meeting in Dec. or Jan. **We'll see you in February!!**



## Safety Tip for December



## Holiday Fire Safety Tips

For this month, I want to take a step away from the automotive focus of the safety column, and instead present ideas on Christmas tree safety, preventing candle fires, and fireplace safety.

So with that in mind, *what are some holiday fire prevention tips?!* Every year there are thousands of reports of falls from ladders while stringing lights and hanging decorations, incidents of lacerations from broken glass ornaments and other holiday-related injuries.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reminds consumers of the dangers that can happen during the holidays. Emergency rooms treated an estimated 14,700 holiday decorating related injuries in 2016 - an average of about 240 injuries per day in November and December! Between 2012 and 2014, there was an average

of 10 deaths and \$15.7 million in property loss that were related to Christmas tree fires. During that same time period, an average of 10 deaths and \$42.2 million in property loss occurred as a result of fires related to candles. "Make sure your live Christmas tree has plenty of water, keep lit candles away from flammable items, and use caution when standing on a ladder or a chair to hang decorations" said CPSC Acting Chairman Ann Mari Buerkle.

**Make sure that you and yours all have a fantastic holiday season by following some simple holiday fire safety tips. Happy Holidays!!**

#### **How to prevent Christmas tree fire hazards**

- Ensure that your live tree is fresh - nobody likes a burning Christmas tree! The needles should be hard to pull from the branches, and don't break when bent between your fingers. The bottom of the trunk should be sticky with resin. If you tap the tree on the ground, few needles should fall off.
- Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, vents and radiators.
- Be sure to check the water level daily and make sure that the stand is filled with water. Heated rooms will quickly dry out the tree.
- Practice Christmas tree safety by placing the tree out of traffic and make sure it's not blocking doorways.
- If you buy an artificial tree, be sure to look for the "Fire Resistant" label. The label doesn't guarantee the tree won't catch on fire, but it does indicate the tree is more resistant to catching on fire.

#### **How to avoid candle fires**

- Only burn candles where you can keep an eye on them.
- When you go to bed, leave the room or leave the house, extinguish all candles.
- Ensure candles are placed on heat resistant, stable surfaces and where kids and pets can't reach them or easily knock them over.
- Candles should always be placed far away from items that could catch fire and burn easily, such as trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.

#### **How do you avoid electrical fires?**

- Practice Christmas light safety by buying your lights from reputable retailers. Check that your lights are approved by a nationally recognized testing lab such as UL, Intertek or CSA. UL identifies products meeting safety requirement for indoor and outdoor use with a red holographic label. For indoor only usage, the product will have a green holographic label.
- Be sure to check all lights and throw out any that have broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or any loose connections.
- Never use electric lights on metallic trees.
- Make sure to use extension cords for their intended use - indoors, outdoors or both.
- Be sure to plug outdoor Christmas lights into circuits that are protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs).

- Fasten outdoor lights securely to the house, trees or other supports to keep them from pulling away with the wind. But don't damage the cord with fasteners. Also, take care not to puncture roofing shingles when fastening lights to the home.
- Watch for water and snow and keep both extension cords and lights clear of them.
- Make sure cords and light strands are not pinched in doors, windows or under furniture. This can damage the cord and its insulation.
- When you leave home or go to bed, be sure to turn off all indoor and outdoor Christmas lights and electrical decorations.
- Be very careful around power lines - keep yourself and your equipment at least 10 feet away from them.
- Don't overload electrical outlets with too many decorations or other electrical devices - they could overheat and cause a fire.

#### **Is your fireplace ready for the holidays?**

- Have your fireplace inspected to see if it needs cleaning before using it through the holidays.
- Be sure to keep a screen on the fireplace to prevent embers from popping out and landing on the floor or carpet.
- Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace. The paper ignites quickly and burns intensely and could result in a flash fire. Only use seasoned wood.
- Be careful with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. If swallowed, they can cause vomiting. They also contain heavy metals that can cause gastrointestinal irritation.

Fires are just one area of safety to think about during the holiday season. Decorating can also be something that can cause injuries.

#### **Additional Safety Tips for Decorating This Holiday Season**

- If there are small children in the home, take special care to avoid heavy, sharp or breakable decorations. And be sure children can't reach decorations with small removable parts that can be swallowed or inhaled. Don't tempt children with decorations that resemble candy or food that they might try to eat.
- Check ladders for loose or missing screws, hinges, bolts and nuts before you use them.
- When decorating outside, use wooden or fiberglass ladders. Metal ladders can conduct electricity.
- Ladders should extend at least three feet past the edge of the roof.

**Wishing you a safe holiday season!**

*Special thanks to Safety Contributor:*

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## DMC Outreach

### Hands of the Carpenter

from Daniel Mondragon

**Colorado Gives Day is on Tuesday, December 8th.**

Please consider the following:



- **Schedule** a Colorado Gives Day gift now by clicking [here](#). It won't be processed until Dec 8th. Every donation helps Hands obtain a larger share of the incentive fund. This is also the best way to be involved with Giving Tuesday.
- **Invite/challenge** 5 friends to help achieve a goal. Together, you could cover a \$500 car repair, or with \$3,500 enable Hands to prepare a donated vehicle for another woman like the 40 who've received cars so far this year. You might forward this email to others.
- **Connect** Hands to businesses, churches, civic groups, or donor advised funds that could join the Hands community in serving and uplifting single women as they strive for self-sufficiency.

At the recent Champions Event, I announced a year-end goal to raise **\$169,147**. These funds will enable Hands to serve as many new and current clients as possible. In light of the current COVID-19 wave and the approaching winter, single women need their cars to be reliable to keep their jobs and loved ones safe. They need the hope Hands provides.

Thank you DMC for all you do as Hands Champions! For information or assistance, contact me at 720-710-8852 or by email. All 2020 gifts must be received, processed, or postmarked by December 31st for tax purposes.

## DENVER MUSTANG CLUB & FRIENDS

**Mark Gomez** – Crew Chief  
**Patrick Baldwin**  
**Jerry Brewer**  
**Bill Gouger**  
**Doug Jones**  
**David Jorgensen\***

**Steven Katz**  
**Sven Lee**  
**Tom Past**  
**Scott Rosenthal**  
**Mike Rhynard**  
**Tim Schneider**

**Ken Smith**  
**Tim Steenson**  
**Mark McCauley**  
(he is on both teams)  
**Sam Mazzucca**  
**Terry Lillibridge**

*“We lost a valued friend this year – David Jorgensen.  
Join us in honor David and asking for God’s blessing on his family, friends and all who knew him.  
David, Thank you for all of the time and heart offered with such a warm smile and fun attitude.  
We are grateful to have gotten to know you and serve along with you.”*

## Member News from Tammy Cospers

### December Birthdays

12/6 Pat Emore  
12/7 Tim Gabriella  
12/9 Sam Mazzucca  
12/10 Traci Trumble  
12/22 Marci Reece  
12/24 Dan Morris  
12/26 Loma Rhynard  
12/28 Roger Freels



### January Birthdays

1/1 Jerry Brewer  
1/18 Dick Layman  
1/19 Gail Herin  
1/19 Mike Gleason  
1/24 Bill Anderson  
1/26 John Olson  
1/27 Patty Layman  
1/27 Jenna Cappleman  
1/28 Jill Hawthorne

## Current 2020 Membership

74 paid Member Families

## DMC Member Connection

The Mustang may bring us together, but friendship keeps us connected. DMC would like to send caring thoughts to those who are going through a difficult time, including:

Sharon Jorgensen and Family, Lance Marbut, Ron Fox, Pete Peterson and all those impacted, in any way, by COVID-19

Take extra care of yourselves and each other. We will get through this crisis together! If you have a friend on this list that you haven't spoken to in a while, now is a great time to reach out and share some sunshine.

If you are feeling under the weather or going through a difficult time, we'd love to add you to our Caring Connection list. And, sincere apologies if we've missed anyone. Please send details to [denvermustangclub@gmail.com](mailto:denvermustangclub@gmail.com) for inclusion next month.

## 2021 Calendar and Events

Just a reminder that the 2020 Holiday Party has been cancelled and there will be NO January meeting. **We look forward to seeing you in February!**



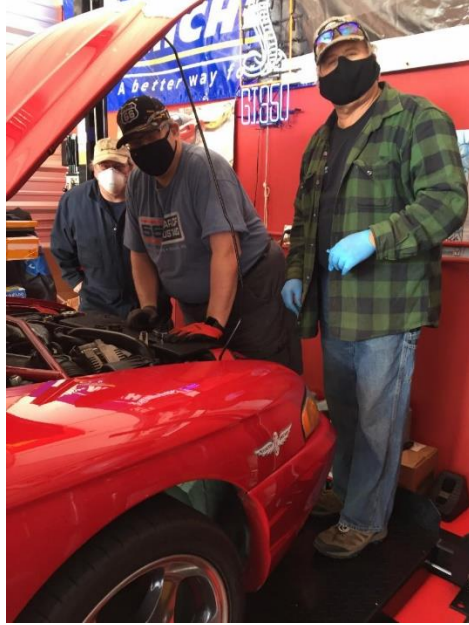
### **We need help in 2021!!**

In 2020, your DMC board and volunteers have pivoted and twisted our way to a great year -- in spite of COVID! With that said, it's time to plan out 2021. We'd love to hear what ideas you may have for the coming year. It may be another year of creative community and we look forward to figuring it out WITH YOU!

**Please send any ideas you have by December 31, 2020 so that the board may review at our January board meeting.**

In addition to ideas, we also need additional members to step up in leading our way to another great year. Can you coordinate a meetup? Want to host a Zoom theme party? Have a great route you've been dying to share with your DMC peeps?

Whatever ideas you may have - we'd love to hear them!!!



**Thanks for reading!**



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