

Autumn Safety Tips



By Jimmy Hill,
Fire Marshal, LAFD

The U.S. Fire Administration's formal release of an official report highlights the fact that nationwide, on an annual basis, candles are responsible for an estimated 23,600 residential structure fires and cause 1,525 civilian injuries, 165 fatalities and \$390 million in direct property loss.

Fall Safety Hazard Hunt

Here are some tips for identifying safety hazards:

- Clean your rain gutter and make sure it is properly attached to the eaves.
- Check and clean your chimney and install a spark arrestor.
- Rake dead leaves and trees branches. Put them in an approved recyclable container.
- Check your security bar release latches to make sure they work.
- Check window screens to make sure they work properly.
- Keep candles away from combustible materials.
- Place candles on a stable, heat-resistant surface.

In case of power outages:

- Never use candles as a night light.
- Flashlights are safer sources of light than candles.
- Have a portable radio with extra batteries.
- Make sure your furnace/wall heater is working properly.
- Check the pilot light and change the filter regularly. Repairs should be done by a qualified/licensed technician. If you smell gas, call 9-1-1.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from combustibles. (In many cities, kerosene heaters are illegal to use.)
- Check and replace electrical cords if they are frayed or worn out.
- Check dryer vents and clean out the lint trap.

Halloween Safety

Keep these safety tips in mind:

- Make sure that children always trick or treat with an adult.
- Only flame-retardant materials should be used for costumes.
- A mask can obstruct your view. Use facial make-up instead.
- Never stand next to a lighted pumpkin.
- Know "stop, drop, and roll."
- Make sure you only go to homes that are well lit.
- Make sure you do not put candles in an unstable location.
- Do not put any decorations near flammable materials.
- Keep candles out of reach of children and pets.
- Never allow children to light candles.

— Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery. Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, October 29. We fall back one hour to Standard Time.

— When you change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery. Test your smoke alarm monthly to make sure it works.

— Make sure everyone knows what the smoke alarm sounds like. Have a family fire exit drill and a meeting place outside the home. Do not forget to include your pets.

For more information, contact your local fire station or go to:
www.lafd.org

Sanitation Career Development Grads

Sanitation graduates its third class from its Career Development Training Program.

Photo by Lauren Skinner, Public Works

PUBLIC WORKS — The Board of Public Works recently presented certificates of recognition to

the third class of employees to complete the Bureau of Sanitation Solid Resources Collection Division's Career Development Training Program.

Intended to encourage career advancement among drivers and other personnel, this program trained 12 employees in preparation for potential opportunities.

Members of the Board praised the class for taking it upon themselves to become more quali-

fied candidates for promotion.

The graduates included Emanuel Madison, Raul Reynoso, Eric Burl, Danny Arevalo, David Owens, Vincent Rosborough, Michael Antwine, Vance Roque, Javier Salgado, Art Sanchez, Timothy Spears and Bobby Usery.

Congratulations to the graduates!



From left: Bureau of Sanitation Assistant Director Enrique Zaldivar; Board of Public Works President Cynthia M. Ruiz; Refuse Collection Truck Operators Emanuel Madison, Raul Reynoso, Eric Burl, Danny Arevalo and David Owens; Refuse Collection Supervisor Ray Cruz; Refuse Collection Truck Operator Vincent Rosborough; and Solid Resources Manager I Salvador Miranda. Other graduates from the third class who were not pictured include Michael Antwine, Vance Roque, Javier Salgado, Art Sanchez, Timothy Spears and Bobby Usery

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LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRACION

LA PLACITA OLVERA

Council Member JOSE HUIZAR
Joins with the
Los Angeles City Employees Chicano Association (LACECA)
Latin American Law Enforcement Association (LALEY) and the
Los Angeles Fire Department (LOS BOMBEROS)

invite you to celebrate
Latino Heritage Month
Friday, October 13, 2006
14th Annual Fiesta Hall *Chanclaso*
5:30-12:00 midnight

in recognition of
Latinos in City Government Installation of LACECA Executive Board 2006-2008
Culture, Food, Entertainment and Dancing
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Newsbrief


TOASTMASTERS

How would you spend \$1 million if you win it from the Lotto? Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club hosted a Table Topics contest to find out.


Seven Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club members gave a 1.5-minute response to this question without prior preparation. Bureau of Engineering's Environmental Specialist II Maria Martin hosted the annual impromptu speech contest, held at the Public Works Building Sept. 6.

Two winning Pioneer Toastmasters contestants were to face the Toastmasters International Table Topics Area Contest contestants at the end of September.

Club President **Ivan Gerson,**



Management Analyst II of the Bureau of Engineering, entertained a dozen audiences telling how he would humorously spend it all on himself, cutting out his son for whom he has paid all his life's education, and divorcing his wife, who will soon be promoted to a higher salary than himself.



Mechanical Engineering Associate I **Sharat Batra** of Bureau of Engineering's Architectural Division said he would trust half of that million with Lady Luck and trust his financial adviser to invest the other \$500,000. Being young, living at home, and having few financial obligations, Sharat plans to use the winnings from Vegas to buy his parents modest gifts: a Toyota Camry for his father and a Honda Accord for his mom.

Ivan won First Place, while Sharat was runner up.

Guests are always welcome. For further information regarding Public Works Pioneers Toastmasters Club, contact Ivan Gerson at (213) 485-1169 or Yvonne Liu at (213) 978-1766.