

# THE HAZARD REMIEDIATOR



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## Office of Safety and Risk Management

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# Portable Ladder Safety



Falls are the main hazard when using any ladder. A poorly designed, maintained, or improperly used ladder may collapse and cause an employee to fall.

Various types of portable ladders include:

- **Step Ladder:** a self-supporting portable ladder, non-adjustable in length, having flat steps and a hinged back.
- **Single Ladder:** A non self-supporting portable ladder, non-adjustable in length, consisting of only one section. It's size is designed by the overall length of the side rail.
- **Extension Ladder:** A non self-supporting portable ladder, adjustable in length.

OSHA's requirements for portable ladders include:

- Portable step ladders longer than 20 feet shall not be used.
- Step ladders shall be equipped with a metal spreader or locking device of sufficient size and strength to securely hold the front and back sections in open position.
- Single ladders longer than 30 feet shall not be used.
- Extension ladders longer than 60 feet shall not be used.
- Ladders shall be maintained in good condition at all times.

- Ladders shall be inspected frequently and those that have developed defects shall be withdrawn from service for repair or destruction and tagged or marked as "Dangerous, Do Not Use."

Proper use of ladders is essential in preventing accidents. Even a good ladder can be a serious safety hazard when used by workers in a dangerous way.

OSHA standards require the following safety precautions for ladder use:

- Ladders shall be placed with a secure footing, or they shall be lashed, or held in position.
- Ladders used to gain access to a roof or other area shall extend at least three feet above the point of support.
- The foot of a ladder shall, where possible, be used at such a pitch that the horizontal distance from the top support to the foot of the ladder is one-quarter of the working length of the ladder (the length along the ladder between the foot and the support).
- The worker shall always face the ladder when climbing up or down.
- Short ladders shall not be spliced together to make long ladders.
- Ladders shall never be used in the horizontal position as scaffolds or work platforms.
- The top of a regular stepladder shall not be used as a step.
- Use both hands when climbing or descending ladders.
- Metal ladders shall never be used near-electrical equipment.



# WINTER WEATHER TERMS TO KNOW

As the winter weather season approaches, do you know what the various weather warnings and advisories mean?

## Watches

### **Winter Storm Watch**

Issued for the possibility of severe life-threatening winter weather conditions including: heavy snow, heavy ice and/or near blizzard conditions. Forecasters are typically 50 percent confident that severe winter weather will materialize when a watch is issued.

### **Blizzard Watch**

Issued for the possibility of blizzard conditions. Forecasters are typically 50 percent confident that blizzard conditions will materialize when a blizzard watch is issued.

### **Lake Effect Snow Watch**

Issued for the potential for heavy lake effect snow.

### **Wind Chill Watch**

Issued for the potential of wind chills of -25 degrees Fahrenheit or less, which can cause rapid frostbite and increase the risk of hypothermia.

## Warnings

### **Winter Storm Warning**

Issued for a combination of heavy snow and/or ice, of which, at least one exceeds or meets warning criteria. Winter weather is expected to cause life-threatening public impact for a combination of winter hazards including heavy snow, ice, near blizzard conditions, blowing and drifting snow and/or dangerous wind chills.

### **Heavy Snow Warning**

Issued when 7 inches or more of snow is expected in 12 hours or less, or 9 inches or more is expected in 24 hours or less. Heavy Snow Warnings are issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event will be snow.

### **Ice Storm Warning**

Issued for a ½ inch or more of ice accumulation which causes damage to power lines and trees. Ice Storm Warnings are issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event is expected to be ice.

### **Blizzard Warning**

Issued when blizzard conditions are imminent or expected in the next 12 to 24 hours. Blizzard conditions include sustained or frequent gusts of or above 35 mph AND considerable falling, blowing and drifting of snow reducing visibilities, frequently 1/4 mile.

### **Lake Effect Snow Warning**

Issued for 7 inches or more of lake effect snow.

### **Wind Chill Warning**

Issued when the wind chill is expected to be -25 degrees Fahrenheit or less. Frostbite can occur in less than 10 minutes.

## Advisories

### **Winter Weather Advisory**

Issued for a hazardous combination of snow, and ice of which neither meets or exceeds warning criteria. Issued for winter weather that will cause significant inconveniences or could be life-threatening if the proper precautions are not taken.

### **Snow Advisory**

Issued when an average of 4 to 6 inches of snow is expected in 12 hours or less. Snow advisories are issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event will be snow.

### **Freezing Rain Advisory**

Any accumulation of freezing rain that can make roads slippery. Freezing rain advisories

will only be issued when there is a high degree of confidence that the entire event will be freezing rain only.

### **Snow and Blowing Snow Advisory**

Sustained wind or frequent gusts of 25 to 34 mph accompanied by falling and blowing snow, occasionally reducing visibility to a 1/4 mile or less for three hours or more.

### **Blowing Snow Advisory**

Widespread or localized blowing snow reducing visibilities to a 1/4 mile or less with winds less than 35 mph.

### **Lake Effect Snow Advisory**

Issued for an average of 4 to 6 inches of lake effect snow.

### **Wind Chill Advisory**

Issued for wind chills of -15 to -24 degrees Fahrenheit. Frostbite can occur in less than 30 minutes.

tree stands are of sturdy construction and are large enough to safely and adequately support the tree.

In decorating Christmas trees, as in all other decorative lighting applications, use only light leads made for the newer cool-burning miniature bulbs. Light leads must contain an integral fuse in or near the male plug, and must also be UL labeled. Do not exceed manufacturer's recommendations regarding the maximum number of lights that may be used in a combination of leads or that may be plugged into one outlet.

Place the tree so that only a short extension cord need be used to connect the light lead, without creating a tripping hazard. Be sure that the extension cord is heavy enough to accept the applied electric load.

Use break-resistant Christmas tree ornaments only. Being extremely fragile, traditional glass ornaments shatter upon impact, and can cause injury.



# Safely Decorating Schools for the Holiday

Once again the holiday season is upon us, and students and school personnel will be decorating for the season. Following these guidelines will help avoid creating fire and life-safety hazards in school facilities caused by indiscriminate use of inappropriate decorations.

## Christmas Trees

Use only artificial Christmas trees that bear the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. There is no aesthetic advantage of a natural tree over one of the better types of synthetic trees available today. Be sure that Christmas

## Placement of Christmas Trees

Do not place Christmas trees in corridors. Corridors and areas of travel through lobbies and other open spaces must be kept clear at all times, with no obstruction to the free flow of traffic.

In auditoriums, cafeterias and other similar areas of assembly, and in lobbies, place the Christmas tree in a location well away from the path of travel to any of the exits.

## Decorations

Used as combustible decorations, untreated paper and plastics and natural tree boughs present fire hazards far beyond any artistic values achieved. Use only decorations that bear the UL label or are certified by the manufacturer to be flame resistant.

*\* Information Courtesy of SED Facilities Planning*



# Lithonia Lighting Recalls Commercial Luminaires Due to Risk of Injury

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named, has announced a voluntary recall of the following product. Consumers should stop using this product unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product.

Name of product: BLT series commercial luminaires

Units: About 398,000

Hazard: The plastic lens on the luminaire can detach and fall unexpectedly, posing a risk of injury from impact.

Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received 107 reports of plastic lenses falling from the luminaire. No injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves Lithonia Lighting BLT series luminaires intended for use in indoor, commercial applications, such as office buildings, schools and stores. The low-profile, recessed LED luminaire is a metal light fixture in a white finish with a rounded or square plastic lens. The fixtures measure about 1, 2 or 4 feet long and 1, 1.5 or 2 feet wide. Only non-sensor luminaires with a manufacture date from October 2015 through August 2016 are included in this recall. Lithonia

Lighting, the model and date of manufacture can be found on a label attached to the fixture's housing and on the product packaging.

The date code on the fixture's housing label is in a MM/DD/YY format.



The date code on the packaging is in a YYYY/MM/DD format.



Sold at: Lighting and electrical supply distributors nationwide and online at 1000Bulbs.com, Amazon.com, ATGStores.com, Build.com, HD.com, ShineRetrofits.com, and Wayfair.com from October 2015 through August 2016 for between \$150 and \$250.

Manufactured in: United States and Mexico

Manufacturer(s): Lithonia Lighting, a division of Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc., of Conyers, GA/Acuity Brands Lighting, Inc. of Conyers, GA

Distributor(s): Office Depot, Inc., of Boca Raton, FL.

Remedy: Consumers should remove the lens and contact Lithonia Lighting to receive a free repair kit to secure the original lens. Consumers should prevent people from going into the immediate area under the fixtures until the lenses are removed or the luminaires are repaired. A video showing proper lens removal and installation of the repair kit is available at the firm's website at [www.lithonia.com/blt-video](http://www.lithonia.com/blt-video)

Consumer Contact: Lithonia Lighting toll-free at 844-675-2339 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or online at [www.lithonia.com](http://www.lithonia.com) and click on BLT Recall on the left side of the page for more information.

## NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship status, age, marital status, partnership status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, sexual orientation, gender (sex), military status, veteran status, domestic violence victim status or political affiliation, and additionally does not discriminate against students on the basis of weight, gender identity, gender expression, and religious practices or any other basis prohibited by New York state and/or federal non-discrimination laws in employment or its programs and activities. The BOCES provides equal access to community and youth organizations.

Inquiries regarding the District's non-discrimination policies should be directed to:

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## December Health Observances

*December 4 - 12*

*National Influenza Vaccination Week*

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases

1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30333

[fluinbox@cdc.gov](mailto:fluinbox@cdc.gov)

[www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/)

*December 1 - 31*

*Safe Toys and Gifts Month*

Prevent Blindness America

211 West Wacker Drive, Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60606

[info@preventblindness.org](mailto:info@preventblindness.org)

[www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org)

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