

**Networking
Collaboration
Community
Empowerment**



**ASIAN HEALTH &
SOCIAL SERVICE
COUNCIL, INC.**

News from Council

December, 2014

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On December 9th, 2014, Ling Sing Association, at 49 Mott Street, hosted AHSSC's presentation "Holiday Preparation: Things You Can Do to Make it Safer and Cleaner". Mr. Jason Chen from NYC Department of Sanitation, and Chief James Hodges from NYC Fire Department presented relevant safety and sanitation needs during the holiday season. Both presenters reviewed regular as well as seasonal actions all residents should be aware of and to ensure the safety and ease of the respective service responders and community residents.

For cleaning and sanitation needs, remember to:

- When placing all proper household refuse and recycling for removal, make sure items are packed and separated into proper bins/bags. Do not mix recyclable items into one container.
- Before disposal of refrigerator/air conditioner/cooler/freezer, call 311 to arrange DSNY to remove the CFC gas in the appliance. Appliances with unremoved CFC will not be picked up.
- Clear sidewalks adjacent to your property of snow. Do not dump the loosened snow onto the street. Deposit loosened snow onto the yard, behind the stoop or a curb not used by others.
- Snow removal should guarantee at least a 4 feet wide pathway to ensure access for those in wheelchairs, people with strollers, students and those with special mobility or assistive devices.
- When regular street cleaning is indicated, follow posted ASP signage and move vehicles to another appropriate parking space. Tickets will be given and vehicles will be towed during all regularly scheduled street cleaning days.
- For scheduled holidays, there will be no refuse or recycling service. Check the schedule before you haul out items; do not allow items to sit on the curb when there are no scheduled pick up service. This is an access hazard for pedestrians as well as emergency responders and a safety hazard if trash becomes loose or torn into.
- For information on cancelled service days due to inclement weather, check 311, local media reports or DSNY website. On these days, do not bring your refuse and recycling to the curb.
- Salt spreaders and snow plows are on standby when snow alerts are in effect; snow plows are active when there is least 2 inches. Due to the need for street access for first responders, plowing priority is given to: highways, expressways, bus routes, hospital and school routes.
- Building owners, commercial tenants and property managers are all responsible for snow removal from sidewalks. Owners of corner properties are responsible for corners at cross walks. Also consider the needs of elders/disabled residents who need assistance clearing walkways.
- Lastly, as of January 1st, 2015, DSNY will not be collecting electronic items for refuse or recycling removal. For a full list, visit DSNY website; appliances, housewares, light bulbs and loose small batteries will still be picked up. Consider others options, such as: e-cycleNYC program (nyc.gov/ecycle), participating retail sites (nyc.gov/electronics), free mail-back programs,

electronic recycling events (nyc.gov/safedisposal), or donating /selling working electronic items.

For basic fire safety needs:

- Do not smoke in bed or when you may fall asleep while relaxing. Smoking is the #1 cause of fire fatalities.
- Be mindful when you are cooking, especially at night or when you are distracted by other activities. Do not leave a stove burner on and walk away to engage in other activities. Always turn it off when your attention is not focused on cooking.
- When frying, make sure an air tight lid, that completely fits the pan, is next to you. If there is a grease fire, quickly cover the pan with the lid and turn off the burner.
- Keep baking soda close to the stove area; for a grease fire, dump it directly onto the fire source and close the lid of the pan. Do not mix the baking soda with other ingredients. Do not use a fire extinguisher unless trained and you know the extinguisher is up to date.
- Use the back burner as often as possible and check for loose clothing, such as hanging sleeves, on yourself or others nearby (elders, kids, etc.) who may brush up or knock the pan/pot over.
- For oven fires, keep the oven door closed. Do not open it. Do turn off the burner, if possible.
- Do not situate flammables (e.g., roll of paper towel) near an active fire source.
- Extension cords should be bought at reputable places and have a url listing to ensure quality. Extension cords are not permanent solutions for wiring; it is only for temporary use. Electricians should be called to fix electrical outlets to ensure permanent and safe wiring. Extension cords are not to be used for appliances requiring a cycle of continuous warming, such as refrigerators.
- Power strips are not to be used with extension cords and should not be overloaded.
- Candles that require lighting with a fire are the #3 source of fires in NYC. If an electrical candle cannot be used and a candle with an active fire is lit, place the candle on a metal surface, have a lid immediately available near it and never leave it unattended. Do not light or keep a lit candle near drafts, around or under flammables, such as lamps or drapes. Do use candles in storms or during electrical outages; many fires during super storm Sandy were due to candle use.
- Make sure your smoke detector actually works and is active. Smoke detectors should be no more than 15 feet from your sleeping area. Testing should be done to make sure you can hear and recognize it when triggered during a real emergency. Change the battery every 6 months.
- 33% of households do not have working smoke detectors; smoke detectors are your earliest warning and gives resident that extra time to evacuate safely

before the emergency escalates.

- If your carbon monoxide detector is triggered, trust the alarm and leave the area immediately. It is an odorless and colorless gas that can cause fatal harm. If the detector goes off, do not turn it off and walk away. Evacuate and call for help immediately.
- Be aware of evacuation/emergency procedures where you live or work. Check if your residence is a fire proof building; a notice should be posted near the doorway of the building. If your building is not a fire proof building (which means each unit is individually protected and insulated against fire outside that unit) practice the recommended evacuation procedures.
- Make sure family and unit members know where to meet at a pre-identified spot in case of emergencies. Firefighters will respond to search and rescue for missing loved ones; but, make sure you know they are not waiting for you at another location. Firefighters have died looking for loved ones who were safely found elsewhere outside the building.
- If you are in a fire proof building, close the door to your unit, place a covering under the door to prevent any smoke from escaping in and wait for the clear-all before exiting your unit.
- A clear path should be maintained for all entrance and exit ways. Clutter makes it more difficult and dangerous for firefighters in an emergency to locate you or to extricate themselves safely.