

CLIENT UPDATE – CHRISTMAS 2003

Dear All,

May we, firstly, take this opportunity to wish all of our friends a very happy and healthy Christmas along with all best wishes for the New Year – Happy Christmas!

Secondly, we would like to express our thanks for all of your interest in our products and services and we look forward to continuing and developing our associations in New Year.

Thirdly, as Christmas often affords us the time to reflect upon matters, and questions, that are sometimes very serious (war, world hunger, homelessness, etc.), serious (poverty, disease, religious intolerance, etc.) and extremely serious (Christmas credit card bills, what to buy for one's partner?, how not to strangle the assorted ingrates and parasites who create a debt that can last a thousand years?, etc.), it seemed only sensible to provide a reference point that, from which, we may navigate our way through the festive season without injury, illness (including mental derangement) or harm (to ourselves or others). To this end, and with the notion of 'counting ones blessings' in mind, we note the following:

Christmas for so many of you will be a time of celebration, relaxation, feasting and the like. At Gas Safety UK, Christmas is a special time that is anticipated with great eagerness from August when everybody gets at least one day off (usually in Cleethorpes). By November, as we grow weary of our labours and the days grow colder, shorter and damper we can only wish for the inevitable respite that comes on Christmas Day...

The factory closes early on Christmas Eve (as instructed by Management) at around 19:30 hrs. precisely. The warehouse floor is cleared for dancing, revels and music! Smoking and drinking are strictly forbidden due to fire and insurance reasons and for up to 1 hour we can [quietly and respectfully] enjoy a tape of Christmas classics (Bing, Perry, Wizzard, Slade & Sir Cliff). By the end of this, quite a frenzy of shuffling and muttering has built into a clamour (attempts to escape at this point are met with swift and, sadly, unforgiving measures as we found three Christmases ago when the company ravens were released in order to bring down one of the younger members of the team: she thought that the party had finished – the fool – if only a risk assessment had been done)...

So, at around 20:30 hours, the lights are dimmed and the candle is lit (the space heaters have been off for around 6 hours now and power needs to be conserved too) the atmosphere becomes almost tangible (B.O. and halitosis making up some 25% by volume) and at this critical moment refreshment is served (see below):



Trim with Holly and serve with Mulled Water* for a deliciously different party treat!

(* Recipe on www.cheapstuff.co.uk)

Finally, gifts are distributed to the team – popular amongst which are:

- The company tie (this is normally cleaned in 1,1,1 trichloroethylene and oven-dried in order to de-grease to oxygen-safe standard).
 - The company mug, brush and denture set (for obvious reasons, see above).
 - The company approved book of prayer and hymn (a well-thumbed and treasured anthology of quasi-religious dogma that's become a standard reference source and useful tool in brainwashing recruits**)
- (**New employees/team members/acolytes/fresh labour)
- The company de-lousing and latrine kit – including diagrams and step-by-step instructions to a more comfortable Christmas.

The faces of the team are, by the conclusion of this ceremony, both tear-smearred and (almost) aglow. In order of seniority, they file past the coat hooks, collect their caps, de-ice their bicycles and return to their [strangely &] wonderfully bedecked homes for a night of taut anticipation [abstinence makes the heart grow fonder] for the Day that will follow.

Count your blessings and keep it in perspective.

So, however you do it – have an excellent and safe holiday season,

David.

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