



Antioch Fire Department First Fire Protection District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Keep the Wreath Red reminds us to practice fire safety this holiday season

Antioch, IL – November 26, 2010

With the start of the holiday season upon us, the Antioch Fire Department announced today that they will begin the annual **“Keep the Wreath Red”** program to remind residents to practice fire safety during the season. Originally founded in 1954 by the Naperville (IL) Fire Department, Keeping the Wreath Red has become an annual holiday safety message by fire departments across Illinois, focusing awareness of fire safety while decorating our homes for the holidays. Each fire department places a wreath outside the fire station and the wreath is strung with red lights that signify a safe holiday season and remains lit twenty-four hours a day throughout the season. Residents are reminded of the fire safety message each time they pass a firehouse. Should an unfortunate resident experience a fire that is a result of holiday decorations, a white bulb replaces a red bulb on the wreath. This serves as a constant reminder to practice safety while installing and displaying holiday decorations.

According to Fire Chief John Nixon “During the holiday season everyone is focused on getting their shopping done, parties planned etc, however this is the time of year when we see a rise in fire responses”

The Antioch Fire Department wants to wish everyone a fire safe holiday and encourages its residents to support the “Keep the Wreath Red” program, and offers the following tips to insure everyone can do their part to “Keep the Wreath Red”:

- Discard any light strings having frayed cords or sockets
- Turn off all lights and extinguish all candles before bed and before leaving your house
- Avoid overloading circuits or extension cords. Check instructions with light strings to determine the maximum number you may place in one outlet
- Keep candles a safe distance from other things, and remembers that a flickering flame is a fascination to little children. Keep candles out of their reach
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens
- Keep candles away from other decorations and wrapping paper
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over
- Never leave cooking materials unattended, as cooking is the leading cause of residential fires.
- Create a three-foot “safe zone” around the stove keeping children and pets away from this area.
- Keep pot handles turned in to avoid spills, and keep potholders, dishtowels, food packaging and other clutter away from the stovetop

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