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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wheeling FD Reminds Public of Holiday Fire Dangers

The Wheeling Fire Department's Bureau of Fire Prevention wants to remind the public about several fire dangers during the Christmas and holiday season.

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, the month of December has the highest amount of fires from decorations – mostly from candles. Never leave a room or house with candles still burning and be sure to place them away from any flammable materials.

Fifty-six percent of December home decoration fires were started by candles, nationally between 2012-2016.

Again, this year, the Wheeling Fire Department and the Osiris Shriners of Wheeling are once again joining forces to educate the public on the dangers related to Christmas tree fires.

Fresh cut Christmas trees are a dangerous source of house fires during the holidays. The main take away point is to water your tree daily and to cut two-inches from the bottom of the trunk after purchasing. A tree can consume a gallon of water per day after being cut.

The National Fire Protection Association notes that a dry tree – once ignited – can get out of control in just **10 seconds. Always make sure you have a working smoke detector.**

Finally, extension cords and space heaters also can cause a home or business fire, if not used properly. Be sure to check your extension cords for any damage, do not overload with power, and most importantly, do not use with a space heater.

“Under no circumstances should extension cords be used with space heaters. They are not designed to carry the electrical current to produce that amount of heat. If you do, it could have deadly consequences,” said Capt. Deric Jamison, WFD's Bureau of Fire Prevention.

Should one encounter a fire, or another incident – always call 9-1-1 and do not try to fight the fire on your own.

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