"Keep the Wreath Red"

Fire Safety Program



The River Forest Fire Department Continues the Statewide Holiday Safety Program for the Coming Holiday Season

As we approach the holiday season, the River Forest Fire Department would like to remind you to keep your holiday safe and happy. The Fire Department will once again team up with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association and neighboring fire departments in the **"Keep the Wreath Red"** fire safety program . This year, the program will run from Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 26, 2020) through Sunday January 3, 2021. The "Keep the Wreath Red" fire safety program was designed to alert residents of fires caused by holiday-related decorations. The wreath will serve as a visual reminder to all River Forest residents to take additional safety precautions during the holiday season to make them happy and safe.

During the holiday season, fire departments are asked to hang a holiday wreath containing red lights in a conspicuous spot, easily seen by the public. The wreath will be hung at the River Forest Fire Station at 400 Park Av. The wreath will be illuminated constantly and if a fire occurs anywhere in the village that is directly caused by holiday decorations (trees, lights, cords, candles, burning wrapping paper in fireplaces, etc.), the red bulb(s) will be changed to white bulb(s). People tend to look at fire stations on their way to work or going home and fire departments participating in the program have observed that people have become very interested as to whether or not their communities have had a fire caused by holiday decorations, either commercially or in private residences.

The River Forest Fire Department offers the following fire safety tips to "Keep the Wreath Red"...

Check all illuminated decorations to make sure they are in good condition. Light strands that have frayed or cracked wires should be thrown away and replaced with New UL approved devices. Outside cords should be approved for exterior use and inside cords should not be placed under carpets or throw rugs. Power strips should be used inside

whenever possible. The Village will have a “used light” bin again this year and will be located on Central Av behind the Village Hall for all old light strands.

Keep live trees watered frequently. The water level should cover the tree stem by at least two inches and should be checked at least daily. Be aware of the life of your tree, if the needles fall off readily when the tree is shaken, remove the tree from your home. Always turn off the lights when leaving your home or retiring for the night. NEVER use lighted candles on trees.

Candle use is increased during the holidays and candles are used in a number of holiday ceremonies. Use extreme caution while using candles. Extinguish candles when leaving the room or retiring for the night. Use sturdy candle holders that will not tip over easily. Keep candle wicks trimmed to keep the flames small. During power outages, avoid using candles. Use flashlights or battery operated candles.

Make sure your fireplace is in good working order. Have the chimney cleaned regularly. Christmas wrappings and tree branches should NEVER be burned in your fireplace. Their intense rapid burning can cause a chimney fire or flames can extend out of the firebox and into your home. Make sure the chimney flue is open before using the fireplace.

As always, check your smoke detectors to ensure they are working. Smoke detectors over 10 years old should be replaced. New smoke detectors make good presents!

Prepare a Family Escape Plan and post it so the entire family and visitors can see. Plan Two ways out of every room in your home and designate a Family Meeting Place outside for everyone to meet to ensure everyone got out in case of a fire.
Please use our wreath as a reminder to have a Fire Safe Holiday and help us **“Keep the Wreath Red!”**

For more information on the "Keep the Wreath Red" program, call the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.

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