



# COAL CITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### COAL CITY FIRE GOING RED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

COAL CITY, ILLINOIS – Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 Americans, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. Once again this year the Coal City Fire Protection District will be asking you to help us “Keep the Wreath Red.”

On fire station 1 a green wreath with red lights has been placed on the front facade. For every holiday related fire a red light will be replaced with a white one. Over the past few years no lights have had to be changed. We hope to continue this tradition. To help do that please read and follow these simple safety tips.

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly. When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green; needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles. When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of foot traffic and do not block doorways.

Indoors or outside, only use lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards. Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets. Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted. Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples, not nails or tacks, to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores). Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire. For added electric-shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit

interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children. Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them. Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

The Coal City Fire Protection District would like to wish everyone a very safe holiday season.

For more safety information about this or other topics please visit us at [www.ccfire.net](http://www.ccfire.net).

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