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NEWS RELEASE

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Christmas Tree Safety

The Mount Prospect Fire Department reminds residents to celebrate the holidays safely this season. Christmas trees account for approximately 200 fires each year, resulting in an average of 6 deaths, 16 injuries and more than \$16 million in property damage.

Tree fires can be the result of shorts in electrical lights, proximity to heat sources and contact with open flames such as candles. Having a dry tree can increase the risk. An artificial tree provides a safer alternative, but if you do have a live tree, ensure your safety by closely following these important tips:

- Make sure you have a working smoke alarm in your home.
- Position the tree at least 3 feet from heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators or other heat sources.
- With the heat on in your home, your tree will likely dry out more rapidly so keep the basin filled with water at all times; think of the tree as a bouquet of flowers that you want to keep fresh.
- Do not rely on chemical coatings or sprays to fireproof trees.
- Never put lit candles on or near a tree.

For more holiday and winter fire safety tips, visit the Fire Department section of the web site, www.mountprospect.org or contact the Mount Prospect Fire Prevention Bureau at 847.818.5253.

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