



## Keep the Wreath Red This Holiday Season

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WESTERN SPRINGS, IL, December 1, 2022 – The Village of Western Springs Department of Fire & Emergency Services will once again participate in the **"Keep the Wreath Red"** program, in partnership with the Illinois Fire Chief's Association. The program begins on Thursday, December 1, and run through Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

**"Keep the Wreath Red"** is designed to increase fire awareness during the holiday season and centers around the display of a Christmas wreath draped in red light bulbs hung outside of both fire stations in the Village. In the event of a holiday-related fire, firefighters will replace a red bulb with a white one. The goal is to **"Keep the Wreath Red"**.

### Some holiday safety reminders include:

- Check all illuminated decorations to make sure they are in good condition. Light strands that have frayed or have cracked wires should be discarded and replaced with UL approved items. Holiday lights can be recycled at Village Hall, Village True Value Hardware, or the Thomas Ford Library.
- Make sure that electrical cords are not overloaded and that cords used outdoors are designed for that use. Inside, do not place electrical cords under carpets or rugs. All electrical cords should be UL approved.
- Live Christmas trees need frequent watering to keep them from drying out prematurely. Be aware of your tree's condition, and when it becomes dry and brittle, discontinue the use of decorative lighting. Do not leave home with the lights lit - turn them off.
- Use caution with holiday candles, fragrance burners, sternos, the stove, etc., to ensure they will not set fire to objects nearby.
- Make sure your fireplace is in good working order and that the chimney is free of obstructions and creosote build-up. Christmas wrapping, Christmas trees, or tree branches should not be burned in the fireplace. Their intense rapid burning can cause chimney fires or result in flames extending out of the firebox into your home.
- Check all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are in good working order.



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