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PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Derrick J.V. Sawyer
Fire Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, December 7, 2015

Each year, during the Holiday Season, the Philadelphia Fire Department promotes “Holiday Fire Safety” in order to educate citizens regarding the proper care and disposal of Christmas Trees.

Philadelphia, PA, On Tuesday, December 8, 2015, at the Fire Administration Building, 240 Spring Garden Street, Fire Commissioner Derrick J.V. Sawyer will demonstrate the proper way to select, prepare and maintain a fresh cut tree for the Holiday Season. During the 11:00 a.m. ceremony, Deputy Commissioner Donald Carlton, Streets Department and Deputy Chief Gene Janda, Division of Public Safety, University of Pennsylvania, will present a six-foot replica of a tree tag to the Fire Department. This six-foot tree tag represents the 30,000 tree tags donated by the University of Pennsylvania. Firefighters will distribute these tree tags to Christmas tree lots throughout Philadelphia. The tree tag provides the consumer with information on the proper maintenance of a live Christmas tree. Holy Redeemer and Sullivan Schools Junior Fire Patrols will assist the Commissioner in recommending Philadelphians to follow these vital messages.

When preparing your Christmas tree:

1. Make a 1” fresh cut at the base of the tree.
2. Place the tree firmly in the stand with plenty of room for water.
3. Check water level daily and add if needed.
4. Check electrical cords for wear, and outlets for overloading. (replace if necessary)
5. Make sure your electrical products are Underwriter’s Laboratory approved.
6. Never leave a lighted tree unattended.
7. Make sure your tree does not block exits or stairs.
8. Keep your tree away from portable heaters.
9. The tree should be free of ornaments and decorations before disposal.

During this year’s disposal of Christmas trees, residents should set their trees out with rubbish on their scheduled collection day. Citizens who wish to drop off their tree for recycling may visit www.philadelphiastreet.com/holiday/2015 and click on Christmas tree recycling program for detailed information regarding drop off time, dates and locations.

Fire Commissioner Sawyer wishes to remind all that Fire is Everyone’s Fight™

1 COMMUNITY

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