



CITY OF EAU CLAIRE
"Proudly Meeting the Needs of our Community"

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
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NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 21, 2011
TO: All News Media
FROM: Scott Burkart DC of EMS - Prevention
SUBJECT: HOLIDAY FIRE SAFETY INITIATIVE

KEEP THE WREATH GREEN!

As the holiday season begins, families should take time to ensure that their season is safe, happy, and memorable for the right reasons! In addition to the seasonal fire safety tips recommended by the fire departments of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire Fire and Rescue is once again promoting the fire prevention initiative, "*Keep the Wreath Green!*"

The Eau Claire Fire Department is again placing five-foot wreaths in front of fire stations and in front of City Hall. The wreaths will be decorated with green lights, which represent a fire safe community. For the time period of Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day, each time a structure fire occurs within the city of Eau Claire, a red light will replace a green light on the wreath. A fire may be a grease fire on a stove at home, a wastepaper basket fire at work, or a mattress fire from smoking in bed. Any fire that causes structural damage to a home or a business will add a red light to the wreath. All of these fires are structure fires and have the potential to take lives and displace families or disrupt businesses. The goal of the project is to "*Keep the Wreath Green*" by preventing fires and the tragedies that can accompany them.

Also, in keeping with a practice begun in 2008, the wreaths will contain a single white bulb as a reminder of all the men and women in the armed services who are serving our country throughout the world.

Let us all work together to have an enjoyable, happy, and memorable holiday season this year and every year. Let's "*Keep the Wreath Green*" and leave the red lights in their packages!

Please call the Fire Prevention Bureau at 715-839-4825 if you have any questions regarding this fire prevention program.