



## **NEWS RELEASE – City of Palm Coast**

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### **Help Palm Coast Fire Department keep the wreaths green by preventing fires**

**Palm Coast, Fla.** – The holiday season is under way, and the Palm Coast Fire Department is asking everyone to help keep the wreaths green at the City's fire stations by preventing fires.

Project Green Wreath is a fire prevention program that runs through the end of December. Large wreaths have been hung at all five stations, with green light bulbs in each. Firefighters will replace one green light with a red light for each structure fire during the month.

"Project Green Wreath is a visual reminder of the importance of implementing and following fire safety practices during the holiday season," said Palm Coast Fire Chief Mike Beadle. "We hope everyone will do their part to keep the wreaths green!"

Here are some tips to help keep your home safe this holiday season:

- Never leave food that is cooking unattended.
- Select only the freshest natural trees, and remember to keep your tree watered away from heat sources (including televisions and radios).
- Use only those artificial trees with safety tags.
- Ensure that trees and other decorations don't block exits.
- Check all light strings for damage; throw away light strings if they have frayed cords or sockets and replace with UL-approved devices.
- Never use "indoor" lights outside.
- Don't put cords under carpets or throw rugs.
- Be careful not to overload circuits or extension cords; check instructions on light strings to determine the maximum number you may place in one outlet.
- Before bed or leaving the house, turn off all holiday lights and extinguish all candles.
- Keep candles a safe distance from children and decorations, especially trees; never leave a candle unattended or burning through the night.
- Be sure to keep space heaters at least three feet from surrounding items.
- Never use heaters around water – water increases the chance of electric shock.
- Unplug heater when not in use.
- Don't leave space heaters unattended.
- Make sure your fireplace is in good working order.
- Christmas wrapping and tree branches should not be burned in the fireplace; their intense and rapid burning can cause chimney fires and flames to extend out of the firebox into your home.

- Double-check your smoke alarms and make sure they are in good working order.

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season. If you have any questions, please contact the Palm Coast Fire Department at (386) 986-2300.