

FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:

Sarah Lock, Director of Strategic Communications
(608) 364-6726 or locks@beloitwi.gov

City of Beloit Fire Department Urges Fire Safety This Holiday Season

December 22, 2022 - The City of Beloit Fire Department is reminding residents to practice fire safety as it has seen an increase in house fires this holiday season.

Each Thanksgiving, the department displays a wreath at Headquarters, 1111 Church Street. It starts with all green bulbs. The bulbs are changed to red for every residential fire and blue for every fatal fire that occur during the holidays. The goal is to keep the bulbs green through New Year's Day. Unfortunately, the wreath currently has five red bulbs to represent the five house fires in the City of Beloit this holiday season.

Year to date, we have had 96 fires causing \$2.7 million in damage. The following statistics show the number of residential fires in the City of Beloit during the holiday season.

- 2017- 2
- 2018- 5
- 2019- 1
- 2020- 1
- 2021- 1 (Fatal fire)
- 2022 - 5 (through 12-21-2022)

“Whether you’re cooking the big holiday meal, decorating with candles or having a quick smoke to avoid talking to relatives, please keep fire safety at the top of your mind,” said Deputy Chief Jason Griffin. “Keep a close eye on the stove and/or open flames and candles. Make sure that cigarette is properly extinguished.”

The City of Beloit Fire Department also recommends closing all bedroom doors in homes to slow down the spread of fire and to provide valuable time to exit a home in case of a fire. And, as always, make sure smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are in working condition with fresh batteries.

The cause of recent fires in Beloit have varied - improper jumping of car batteries, smoking, and electrical issue are among causes. Nationwide, the leading cause of residential fires are as follows, according to the U.S. Fire Administration:

- 192,600 cooking fires.
- 33,000 heating fires.
- 27,800 other unintentional, careless fires.
- 23,400 electrical malfunction fires.

Learn more about how you and your family can prevent residential fires this holiday season at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/>.

###