



**CONTACT:**  
Dan Brown, Fire Chief  
563-589-4160  
[dbrown@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:dbrown@cityofdubuque.org)  
[www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)

# NEWS RELEASE

*Dec. 6, 2013 -- For Immediate Release*

## Remember Fire Safety When Decorating for the Holidays

DUBUQUE, Iowa –With the onset of the holiday season comes a higher risk for potential fire hazards, including lights, decorations, candles, and Christmas trees. The Dubuque Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal’s office offer the following tips for keeping holiday décor fire free:

- When purchasing a natural Christmas tree, try to buy from a tree farm where trees are purchased while still in the ground. A freshly cut tree will last longer than one that has been cut weeks earlier and shipped to retailers.
- Keep your tree away from open flames or heat sources, which may dry it out prematurely.
- Mount a tree within eight hours of cutting the base. A tree should have a continuous supply of water in the stand to avoid drying out.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn. Nearly half of all holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.

- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini light sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs.
- When Christmas is over, don't keep a natural tree too long. Natural Christmas trees may be properly disposed of during the City of Dubuque's "Merry Mulch" tree collection and composting program for two weeks beginning Monday, Jan. 6, 2014 and ending Friday, Jan. 17.

Additionally, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors should be tested to make sure they're working. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of the home.

For more information and safety tips, visit [www.cityofdubuque.org/fire](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/fire) or call 563-589-4160.

# # #