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NEWS RELEASE

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Tips for Winter Home Fire Prevention

DUBUQUE, Iowa –Statistics show that home fires spike in the winter months of December through February due in part to portable heating appliances and holiday cooking. As part of the national “Fire is Everyone’s Fight” effort to raise public awareness of fire prevention and safety, the Dubuque Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal’s office offer the following tips for winter home fire prevention:

- Avoid placing heating appliances too close to combustible objects like furniture and blankets; ideally, portable heaters should have an automatic shut-off. If not, always turn off portable heaters when leaving a room or going to bed.
- Fireplaces should have sturdy screens to stop sparks from flying into a room. Always use metal containers for ashes and keep them far from your home.
- Have your furnace inspected and serviced by a qualified professional on a yearly basis. Chimneys and vents should also be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional.
- Make sure all appliances, including portable space heaters, are plugged directly into an outlet.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they’re working. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of the home.
- Do not leave cooking equipment unattended at any time.

- Portable heaters should not be used as the only source of home heat.
Additionally, ovens should not be used to heat a home.

For more information and safety tips, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/fire or call 563-589-4160.

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