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Professionally and Compassionately Helping People

Holiday Safety Demonstration

Burien, Wash. - December 14, 2015 - According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately 230 home fires start due to holiday trees each year. These fires result in an average of six deaths, 22 injuries, and over \$18 million in damages.

In addition, one out of every 40 fires that started due to a tree resulted in a death. When compared to the average of one death per 142 fires for all types of home fires, the dangers of a tree fire are staggering. The NFPA says that one third of these fires were caused by electrical problems.

The Puget Sound Skills Center will be hosting two demonstrations this week showing just how quickly a tree can ignite and burn. In each case, a specially built box will hold the tree and normal furnishing while a small fire is started near the tree.

Times: 8:45 and 11:45 am
Date: December 17, 2015
Location: Puget Sound Skills Center
18010 8 Ave. S.
Burien, WA 98148

Please contact Captain Ohashi at 206-450-8400 for details. Students and staff will be available for interviews before and after the demonstrations.

The Puget Sound Skills Center is hosted by Highline Public Schools and offers 18 different programs designed to help prepare students for success in college, careers, and in citizenship. Learn more about PSSC at www.highlineschools.org/pssc.

To reduce the chances of a tree fire:

- Buy a fresh cut tree
- Saw off the bottom inch of the trunk to create a fresh surface to absorb water
- Keep the tree well-watered and check the water level daily
- Remove the tree from the home if large amounts of needles begin falling off
- Never use candles on or near a tree
- Keep trees away from heat sources such as fireplaces and baseboard heaters
- Use the correct type of holiday lights on the tree
- Consider buying an artificial tree, which are more fire resistant

Fire fact: Almost 40% of residential tree fires take place in January.

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