



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **CLAY FIRE**

18355 Auten Road, South Bend, Indiana 46637

Fire Chief Timm Schabbel

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## **Chimney Fire in Harris Township causes a 3<sup>rd</sup> white bulb on the “Keep the Wreath Red”**

**Harris Township, IN** - At 0611 hours on December 29, 2014, Clay Fire was dispatched to the 52000 block of Monte Vista Drive in Harris Township for a possible residence fire with a fire in the chimney. During investigation, a fire had occurred and extended to the adjacent wood trusses in the attic. No one was hurt at the fire. The fire damage was minimal, but with this fire comes the changing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> red bulb on the "Keep the Wreath Red" program. "Keep the Wreath Red" is a holiday fire safety program designed to increase fire safety awareness. Our goal is to keep the bulbs on the wreath red throughout the Holiday Season. In the event of a fire, firefighters will replace one red bulb with a white one.

This is third fire for Clay Fire during the holiday season involving fire in the chimney. Deputy Fire Marshal Ron Melser would like to remind people that "Clean chimneys don't catch fire and to make sure you have a Certified Chimney Sweep clean and inspect your solid fuel venting systems annually." Per NFPA, in 2007-2011, the leading factor contributing to home heating fires (28%) was failure to clean, principally creosote from solid-fueled heating equipment, primarily chimneys. Also, half (50%) of all home heating fires occurred in December, January and February in 2007-2011.



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