



# NEWS RELEASE

## CLAY FIRE

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## Advent candle causes fire that changes 4<sup>th</sup> bulbs on Clay Fire's "Keep the Wreath Red"

**Clay Township, IN** - Crews from Clay Fire were called to the 16000 block of Linfield Ct in Granger for a table on fire just after 3:30 pm on Tuesday. Units arrived on scene within minutes to find a table in the front yard smoking from a fire and smoke throughout the home. The occupants just arrived home to find smoke in the home and then moved the table that was on fire out of the home. Crews had found a significant amount of smoke on the first and second floors. The two occupants along with two dogs were not injured. The investigation found that an Advent Candle had been left unattended for hours which caused the preventable fire. With this fire comes the changing of the 4<sup>th</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.

The Community Risk Reduction Division of Clay Fire would like to remind the community that between on 2009 -2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 9,300 home structure fires that were started by candles. More than half (58%) of home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was left or came too close to the candle. December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. In December, 11% of home candle fires began with decorations compared to 4% the rest of the year. Please be careful during this holiday season.



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