



# *NEWS RELEASE*

## **CLAY FIRE**

18355 Auten Road, South Bend, Indiana 46637

Fire Chief Timm Schabbel

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## **Mercury Dr. House Fire changes the 1<sup>st</sup> bulb on Clay Fire's “Keep the Wreath Red”**

**Clay Township, IN** - Crews from Clay Fire were called to the 50500 block of Mercury Drive just after 7 Friday night for a report of a chimney fire. Units arrived on scene within minutes to find flames and smoke coming from the roof of the house. The fire was quickly brought under control and contained to the area around the chimney with minimal smoke and water damage to the rest of the house. The occupants were at home at the time of the fire and were able to safely escape along with the family dog. The cause of the fire is still under investigation but appears to have started near the area of the chimney. With this fire comes the changing of the 1st 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.

Chimneys are one of the most common locations of residential structure fires in the country. The Chimney Safety Institute of America reports that creosote accumulation is the leading cause of chimney fires. A chimney that is dirty, blocked or is in disrepair can inhibit proper venting of smoke up the flue and can also cause a chimney fire. Nearly all residential fires originating in the chimney are preventable.

An annual chimney inspection by a qualified chimney sweep can prevent fire or carbon monoxide poisoning and check your smoke alarms monthly. We all want to have a safe and happy holiday season!



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