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MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

People's Burn Foundation Encourages Common Sense Fire and Burn Safety as Winter and Holidays Approach

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – The People's Burn Foundation always encourages responsible common sense fire and burn safety, but particularly as the winter and holidays approach to save lives, prevent burn injuries, and avoid fire devastation, according to Jim Shaffer, Executive Director.

"This time of year with colder temperatures and the holidays approaching there is inevitable higher risk for fires, burn injuries, property damage and even deaths," Shaffer said. "The People's Burn Foundation encourages people to practice common sense fire and burn safety to avoid becoming victims to life-changing circumstances."

These basic safety practices will help save lives, prevent burn injuries and avoid property damage:

SPACE HEATERS: Keep children away; allow area at least three feet around heater free from curtains, blankets or paper (anything flammable); never leave unattended.

CANDLES: Use artificial candles; never leave wick-lighted candles unattended; keep children away; avoid anything flammable near or above; extinguish before leaving room or home or going to bed.

SMOKE ALARMS: Place minimum of one unit per floor in hallway; check batteries monthly; replace batteries annually; replace entire unit every few years.

ELECTRICAL CORDS: Never use frayed, broken or crimped cords and remove if under rugs or furniture. Use only special outside cords for spotlight, tree and house light decorations.

FIREPLACES: Check gas fireplace annually; make sure chimney flew is open; keep children away; clear flammable items near fireplace; never leave unattended; use fireplace screen; make sure fire is extinguished before leaving home or going to bed.

COOKING: Keep children at least three feet away from cooking areas. Keep hot liquids and cooking appliances away from counter and table edges; smother grease fire and DO NOT use water to extinguish.

MICROWAVES: Keep at shoulder-level or below and supervise children using.

BATH & SHOWER WATER: Supervise children and test water temperature before allowing child in tub or shower.

HOT WATER HEATERS: Set to 120 degrees or less and keep flammable items away from pilot light.

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