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Free smoke detector distribution event Dec. 9 Fire chief offers safety tips for the season

(BIG SPRING, TEXAS) - The City of Big Spring will be providing free smoke detectors on Dec. 9 from 5-6 p.m. in the parking lot of the Water Office at 410 E. 3rd Street. Cars may drive-thru to receive a free smoke detector starting at 5 p.m. and detectors will be distributed as long as supplies last.

“I can’t stress enough how important it is for you to have functioning smoke detectors in your homes; they save lives,” said Jay Holt, Big Spring Fire Department Fire Chief. “We want all residents to be safe and we are happy we can provide smoke detectors to those who do not have them.”

As cold weather and the holiday season arrives, the Big Spring Fire department also offered the following safety tips:

- Check your smoke detectors and make sure the batteries are fresh, and the detectors are in proper working condition.
- Create a family escape plan in case of a fire. An escape plan can make the difference between life and death, and it is crucial you review and practice an escape plan for each member of your family. Make sure everyone knows a second route out too if the first is inaccessible.
- Use care with space heaters. Never use an extension cord – plug directly into a wall outlet. Keep the heater at a safe distance- at least 3 feet- from kids, pets and flammable items.
- Never leave a space heater unattended and make sure it has an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over. Make sure to follow manufacturer instructions and never try to repair a broken one.
- Keep all heat sources away from your Christmas trees and other flammable decorations and don’t overload extension cords. Extension cords are a large factor in fires during the holidays.
- If you have appliances or devices that use natural gas or propane, be sure you have a functioning carbon monoxide detector. A detector should be located within 10 feet of each bedroom door, and there should be one near or above any attached garage.