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December 6, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Heat Lamp Concerns and Safety Tips

The Hobbs Fire Department (HFD) has responded to an increase in the number of structure fires where heat lamps or space heaters are potential causes of the fire. These fires have resulted in loss of property and pose a potential loss of life of family members and pets as well as further damage to property. To help keep you, your loved ones, and your property safe, HFD would like to share the below information.

- Heat lamps or space heaters that are not properly maintained, left running for too long, or placed in an unsafe/unmonitored location have the potential to be the ignition source for fires. Colder weather is uncomfortable for all of us, but it is no reason to disregard important safety measures.
- The Hobbs Fire Department is reminding all residents of the dangers heat lamps and space heaters pose if improperly placed or supervised.
- All heat lamps should be placed at least three feet away from any combustible materials.
- It is recommended to place heat lamps on a set timer to prevent the bulb from bursting.
- All heat lamps should *never* be left on without proper supervision in place, which includes leaving heat lamps on to prevent animals from being exposed to the colder temperatures.
- Heat lamps should not be placed in doghouses, left in garages to keep pets there warm overnight or when the owner is out of the house, or any other unsupervised area with a pet. The Hobbs Fire Department has responded to fires caused by heat lamps or space heaters left in pets' outdoor homes which lead to the death of those family pets. These items are more likely to put the animals' lives at risk than to keep them safe.

The Hobbs Fire Department is also reminding everyone to make sure your home has properly working smoke detectors installed on every floor. Hobbs Fire Department offers free smoke detectors to elderly residents and families with new-born members. It is recommended that the smoke detectors be tested once a month by pushing the "test" button and fresh batteries should be installed at a minimum of every six months. For more information on fire safety and heating concerns, contact the Hobbs Fire Prevention Division at (575)391-8158 or on the Hobbs Fire Departments Facebook page.

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