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NEWS RELEASE

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Hoverboard safety tips

BOISE ID (December 10, 2015) – Self-balancing scooters – hoverboards – will be a hot ticket item on many Christmas lists this year. The Idaho State Fire Marshal, in conjunction with the National Association of State Fire Marshals, has safety tips for hoverboard users to help lessen the incidence of injuries and fires involved with their use.

“An element of danger is associated with these scooters,” says Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl. “We hope that users will heed these safety tips so that everyone can enjoy a safe and happy holiday.”

When shopping for a hoverboard:

- Research the product before you buy – devices that have been tested to meet minimum safety standards will be clearly marked on the packaging, on the device itself, or on its charging equipment.
- Verify safety standards of items purchased online – many may not meet this country’s inspection and safety requirements.
- Purchase a device with a warranty or buy it in person at a brick and mortar store.

When charging your hoverboard:

- Allow the device time to cool off after use and prior to charging.
- Never leave the device unattended while it is charging.
- Do not overcharge the device – follow manufacturer’s recommended charging times; do not leave the device plugged into an outlet overnight.
- Do not use imitation electrical chargers – they may be unsafe.
- Plug in only one device per outlet.

When operating your hoverboard:

- Wear appropriate safety equipment – similar to bicycle safety equipment.
- Do not text or operate a cell phone while using a hoverboard.
- Operate the device in accordance with its intended use.
- If the device becomes very hot, discontinue use and check with the manufacturer or retailer – this could be a sign of a faulty battery that needs replacing.

The Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office is a division of the Idaho Department of Insurance. Consumers with questions about fire-related incidents regarding these devices are encouraged to contact the Idaho State Fire Marshal's office by visiting www.doi.idaho.gov, or calling 334-4250 in the Boise area, or 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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