

*State of Idaho*  
**DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

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**Idaho Department of Insurance Consumer Alert**

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## **Bellevue home fire caused by improper use of multi-tap plug**

**BELLEVUE, ID (January 21, 2025)** – The Idaho State Fire Marshal’s Office has determined that the cause of a home fire in Bellevue, Idaho on January 18 was due to the improper use of a multi-plug extension that was being used in conjunction of a portable space heater. The multi-tap plug, known as a relocatable power tap, was also plugged into an additional extension cord, which is dangerous. The multi-tap was purchased from an online store and was not UL Listed (i.e. had not passed safety tests and did not meet nationally recognized standards for safety and sustainability).

Damage to the home was significant and it is no longer habitable. The State Fire Marshal’s Office reminds all Idahoans to never connect extension cords to power space heaters. Space heaters must be plugged directly into outlets and always kept at least 3 feet away from anything combustible. Idahoans are also reminded to always look for a UL marking or other nationally recognized laboratory to ensure electrical appliances have been tested to the highest safety standards to prevent a tragedy.

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### **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 serve and protect Idahoans by equitably, effectively and efficiently administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, please visit us at [doi.idaho.gov](http://doi.idaho.gov) or email us at [consumeraffairs@doi.idaho.gov](mailto:consumeraffairs@doi.idaho.gov).

### **About the Idaho State Fire Marshal**

The State Fire Marshal’s Office participates in and coordinates an integrated statewide system designed to protect human life from fire and explosions through fire prevention, investigation and public education activities. The program involves fire prevention activities, fire/arson investigation, code enforcement and the operation of the National Fire Incident Reporting System. The State Fire Marshal’s Office provides assistance to local fire agencies throughout the state.