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Remove hurricane shutters, boards to prevent fire hazard

September 14, 2017 – Residents are encouraged to remove their hurricane shutters and boards from windows to prevent fire hazards.

“All residential rooms are required to have two points of egress,” said Flagler County Fire Marshal Jerry Smith. “If there is a fire, it is important to make sure you have a way to get out of your home.”

Keeping shutters up until the end of the hurricane season can create a fire hazard that has potentially deadly consequences.

“A fire inside a home with shuttered windows may not be visible until it is too late,” Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Don Petito. “It can delay firefighters trying to enter a home that is on fire.”

Flagler County firefighters follow a “vent, enter, search” protocol, which means they will enter room-by-room and search them to ensure everyone is out of the burning structure. Shuttered and boarded-up windows can hinder this process.

“We know folks are tired and weary, but please take the time to remove your shutters,” Flagler County Deputy Fire Chief Joe King said.

Check for current information on Flagler County’s website www.flaglercounty.org, or tune into the county’s partner radio station WNZF, 1550 am, 106.3 fm, KIX fm 98.7, which regularly provides updates during its programming. Follow “Flagler County Government” or “Flagler County Emergency Management on Facebook or Twitter. The county’s social media team will provide updates through these official accounts:

- Facebook.com/FlaglerCountyGovernment
- Facebook.com/FlaglerEOC
- Twitter.com/FlaglerCtyGov
- Twitter.com/FlaglerEM
- Flagler TV Spectrum Channel 492