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For immediate release

University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center presents Leland Gayheart Prevention Award to Michigan Fire Inspectors Society

Ann Arbor, Mich. – The U-M Trauma Burn Center recently presented the Leland Gayheart Fire Safety and Prevention Award to the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society for its 2010 Fire Prevention Calendar.

“This year’s award winner is particularly outstanding because its calendar delivers fire safety messages to our community throughout the year,” says Karla Klas, BSN, RN, CCRP, injury prevention education specialist at the U-M Trauma Burn Center.

The Leland Gayheart Fire Safety and Prevention Award is presented each year by the Gayheart family and the U-M Trauma Burn Center to recognize the work of Michigan fire fighters. The award is given as a tribute to Leland Gayheart, a 23-year-old firefighter who lost his life due to a devastating burn injury in 1991. The Leland Gayheart Prevention Award was created to encourage prevention programs by local fire departments. Included is an honorarium, which is awarded annually to the fire department whose innovative efforts have demonstrated a statewide, countywide, or citywide impact on prevention and fire safety.

Taylor Fire Marshal John Hager, who serves on the MFIS executive board, accepted the award on behalf of the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society. He was instrumental in using a \$4,000 fire prevention grant from FM Global to create special calendar, which included fire prevention messages. There have been 21,000 calendars distributed to fire departments throughout Michigan and given away. Hager said the \$500 cash prize that is part of the award will be used to print more calendars.

The calendar is filled with tips and activities for all ages. It provides a variety of safety messages to help people protect themselves from the dangers of fire – from the importance of sprinkler systems to practicing home fire drills to the dangers of novelty lighters that may be mistaken for toys. It also highlights the many organizations in the local communities that support fire safety. The calendar is distributed to communities by fire departments throughout Michigan, and all money raised by the calendar project is used to print more calendars.

“Raising fire safety awareness among the communities across the state of Michigan is one of the most important steps that can be taken to prevent fire related accidents from occurring,” says Ronald R. Farr, Michigan’s Fire Marshal. “I congratulate the Michigan Fire Inspectors Society on their 2010 Fire Prevention calendar and thank them for their efforts to raise the level of fire safety awareness.”

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The University of Michigan Hospital Trauma Burn Center is an internationally recognized leader in patient care, research and rehabilitation. It was established in 1959 as the Burn Center, and it is classified as both a burn center and a Level-1 trauma center. Its programs address preventable injuries to children, adolescents and adults, as well as the medical and social consequences of injury and disability. The TBC is committed to community education on prevention, consequences and treatment of traumatic injury.

More Information:

University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center:

<http://www.traumaburn.org/>

The Leland Gayheart Fire Safety & Prevention Award and past winners;

<http://www.traumaburn.org/prevention/leland.shtml>

Michigan Fire Inspectors Society:

<http://mfis.org/>

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