



City of Murphy  
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# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Murphy Fire Rescue plays host to North Pole visitor *Santa to ride fire engine for two weeks starting Dec. 6*

MURPHY (November 9, 2016) The Fire Department's unbreakable prohibition from picking up hitchhikers is always solidly followed, except for one brightly-dressed person, during a special time of year – Santa Claus!

The Jolly Old Elf will once again ride atop a Murphy Fire Rescue vehicle for about 15 days starting on Dec. 6. The rides will begin at 6:30 p.m. each evening and end around 8:30 p.m. There will be no Santa rides on Sundays.

Of course, severely inclement weather or a real-world emergency may preclude the department from taking Santa around town. The rides are scheduled to cover every street in Murphy, except short cul-de-sacs.

While he is on the truck, waving to and greeting residents, Santa will not be able to disembark. Doing so would delay his citywide tour, perhaps causing him to miss a street. Therefore, he will stay aboard the truck throughout each evening.

Even so, wrapped candy will trail the truck as firefighters, their families and some Council members will distribute treats as the truck covers a neighborhood. Parents of small children should keep a very close eye on the youngsters who may run into the street to retrieve the candy.

As in previous years, the Fire Department and the Information Technology staff will produce an interactive map with live tracking of the Santa truck on <http://www.murphytx.org/480/Santas-Ride>. Each neighborhood and subdivision is included in the schedule, and planners hope that weather and emergencies do not cause an interruption or cancellation of any planned visits.

The truck carrying Santa will announce itself with the full complement of lights, bell ringing and an occasional blast from the siren. That will be the signal that Kris Kringle is in the neighborhood.

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**ABOUT MURPHY** -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27<sup>th</sup> Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.