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Advisory - Viral Teen Video Resulting in Fire Incidents

HOLDEN – The Holden Fire Department would like to warn parents of a new viral teen video that may result in fire incidents and cause serious injury. State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey released an advisory today to inform the general public of two incidents that have taken place in Massachusetts, one of which was in Holden. We would like parents to be aware of the new “challenge”.

The “challenge” seen on the popular video app, TikTok, involves using the plug part of a phone charger, partially inserting it into the wall outlet, and then sliding a penny down the wall onto the exposed prongs. The result is sparks, electrical system damage, and in some cases fire.

These videos are a concern and similar to past viral videos that encourage unsafe behavior. We are alerting parents to this challenge, and advise them to not only look for signs of fire play like scorched outlets, but to have conversations about fire and electrical safety with tweens and teenagers.

As a reminder, please follow the electrical fire safety tips from the US Fire Administration:

- Insert plugs fully into sockets
- If you have young children, install tamper-resistant electrical outlets
- Replace wall outlets if plugs do not fit tightly, or show signs of damage.
- Do not overload outlets
- Never force a three-pronged plug into a two slot outlet.

In addition to electrical fire safety, the department would like to remind parents and children to discuss the dangers of certain online “challenges” and recognizing the dangerous activity on the internet.

