



**For Immediate Release**

**October 7, 2014**

**Working Smoke Alarms Saves Lives!**  
**State Fire Marshal's Office Supports**  
**National Fire Prevention Week**

Jackson, MS, – Your chances of dying in a fire are cut in half if you have a working smoke alarm. Remember and practice this year's National Fire Prevention Week theme: "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!"

Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney announces that the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office, firefighters and safety advocates nationwide are joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during National Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11.

Local residents are being reminded about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home and testing them monthly. The latest NFPA research states that almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"In a fire, seconds count; home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out." Chaney said.

Statistics reported to the State Fire Marshal's Office shows that half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 12 p.m. and 5 a.m., when most people are asleep.

Thanks to fire prevention efforts across the state and a statewide smoke alarm installation program, Mississippi has seen a reduction in fire deaths from an average of 81 deaths per year in 2007-2011 to 62 deaths in 2012 and 67 deaths in 2013.

This year's National Fire Prevention Week campaign includes the following smoke alarm messages:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. This way, when one sounds, they all do.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.

The State Fire Marshal's Office will be hosting activities at the Mississippi State Fair during National Fire Prevention Week and assisting fire departments across the state throughout the month of October to promote "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives!" Through these educational, family-oriented activities, residents can learn more about the importance of working smoke alarms and testing them monthly.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in your area, please contact the State Fire Marshal's Office 888-900-7414 or your local fire department. Fire safety tips can be found on the State Fire Marshal Facebook page and by following them on Twitter @MSFireSafe.

To learn more about smoke alarms and "Working Smoke Alarms Saves Lives", visit NFPA's Web site at [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

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