

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

Beth Reiss

Communications Director

beth.reiss@mid.ms.gov

601-359-2403

MEDIA ALERT: play safe! be safe! workshop to address early childhood fire safety

JACKSON, Miss. – In 2018, seven children died in fires in Mississippi. Every year, almost 50,000 fires in the U.S. are caused by children playing. However, fire and lighter safety education is proven to significantly reduce the likelihood of a fire-related accident.

The Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) hopes to combat fire fatalities by presenting the play safe! be safe! childhood fire safety workshop on April 25, 2019, in celebration of the program's 25th anniversary.

Members of the press are invited to interview fire safety educators between 12:30-1:15 PM at the Downtown Jackson Marriott (200 E Amite Street) about the importance of fire and lighter safety education and what tactics work best with children.

play safe! be safe! is a three hour workshop for fire safety educators outlining children's experience with fire, their understanding of fire risk, and activities shown to improve children's fire and lighter safety skills. The workshop is presented locally in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Public Fire Safety Educators, Jackson Fire Department, Fireproof Children, and sponsored by BIC Corporation, the leader in lighter safety.

In addition to the 25th anniversary of the program, BIC Lighters is commemorating 25 years since the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) mandated a child-resistant feature on all lighters sold in the U.S. with a national education initiative.

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ABOUT play safe! be safe!

play safe! be safe! is a multimedia classroom fire safety education program created by a team of child development and fire prevention specialists including Fireproof Children, and sponsored by BIC Corporation. Each year, eight communities in the U.S. and Canada are selected to receive *play safe! be safe!* community fire safety workshops at no cost. Workshops are targeted toward early childhood educators, pre-school and kindergarten teachers, pediatric health care providers, fire service community outreach personnel—anyone who works with young children and cares about their safety.