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Commissioner Chaney Praises Statewide “Safe at Home” Fire Safety Effort

Jackson – Mississippi Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Marshal Mike Chaney is calling on all Mississippians to be part of Safe at Home – Preventing Fires in Mississippi, an innovative statewide effort to prevent home fires and save lives. This year is getting off to a rough beginning with eight Mississippians losing their lives in fires since January 1st.

“Mississippi has one of the highest fire death rates in the nation,” said Commissioner Chaney. “It is time that we all work together to prevent such needless tragedies. Safe at Home’s public education effort is the right thing at the right time for our state.”

Over 70 people died in 53 residential fires in Mississippi in 2007, a slight increase over 2006.

Safe at Home – Preventing Fires in Mississippi is a personalized, grassroots education movement which gets information about fire safety out to people all across Mississippi. The campaign demonstrates how cooking, heating, and smoking often cause fires. It also provides important tips to help reduce those risks and encourages Mississippians to share fire safety information with friends and family.

“All of us can be part of this movement to keep our loved ones and ourselves safe. Churches, schools, and other groups throughout Mississippi are engaged in this effort and telling people they serve how to prevent fires,” said Commissioner Chaney.

Safe at Home – Preventing Fires in Mississippi is a project of the National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org), with funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness. Safe at Home was launched late last year in Jackson and Tupelo with the support of fire safety officials, educators, ministers, business leaders, state and local elected officials, and others. In just a few months, the campaign has directly reached thousands of Mississippians.

“This campaign is built around person-to-person outreach. That is the best way to share this life-saving information and we are pleased to support this work,” said Commissioner Chaney.

If you would like to be a part of Safe at Home – Preventing Fires in Mississippi go to www.safeathome-ms.org or call 1-888-MS-FIRE1.

Other fire safety initiatives supported by Commissioner Chaney include the Rural Fire Truck Acquisition Program, enactment of uniform statewide fire codes, and an effort to apply local tax rebates to fire prevention.

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