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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mike Chaney, Commissioner of Insurance/State Fire Marshal Mississippi Insurance Department Jackson, Mississippi Friday, December 12, 2008 For additional information, please contact Donna J. Cromeans, Public Relations Director 601-359-3569

"12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety" Campaign Tips for Days 2-3-4

Jackson – Holiday lights are the focus of the fire safety tips for Days 2-3-4 of the State Fire Marshal's "12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety" Campaign. Beginning Friday, December 12, and every day for the next 12 days, the State Fire Marshal's Office will highlight a Christmas Fire Safety tip. The tips will focus on various areas that hold the potential for starting holiday fires. Areas covered include decorating, tree trimming and maintenance, entertaining and cooking.

The tips for Days 2-3-4 are:

- Day 2 -Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Use lights that are approved by Underwriter's Laboratories. Do not overload extension cords.
- Day 3- Keep children and pets away from light strings and electrical decorations.
- Day 4 Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

The "12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety" Campaign is part of an ongoing State Fire Marshal's Office effort to educate Mississippians on the dangers of holiday fires.

A special "12 Days of Christmas Fire Safety" webpage has been developed for the Mississippi Insurance Department website www.mid.state.ms.us and will be updated with each day's new tip. Additional Christmas fire safety tips will be available on the website as well.