MISSISSIPPI
Insurance Department

Mike Chaney
Commissioner and State Fire Marshal

Press Release

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Fire Marshal's Office Promoting Safety Messages during Campus Fire Safety Month
September declared Campus Fire Safety Month

JACKSON –Mississippi State Fire Marshal Fire Safety Educators will be traveling the state this month teaching students the importance of learning and practicing fire safety. September has been declared Campus Fire Safety Month by Governor Haley Barbour.

"Learning about fire safety is one of the most important lessons a student can learn," Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said.

"What they learn and practice now will teach them how to protect themselves from fire while at school, and later they will carry these messages with them when they grow older and move away from home."

Beginning this week, Fire Safety Educators will be presenting special programs statewide. The current confirmed schedule is:
- 9-14-2011- 2:00pm –HINDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE – Raymond, MS
- 9-20-2011 –7:00pm-ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE – Fulton, MS
- 9-21-2011 – All Day – MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY – Starkville, MS

Programs are also being discussed for the University of Mississippi, Meridian Community College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and Copiah Lincoln Community College.

According to Campus Firewatch, since January 2000 to present there have been nearly 150 campus- related fatalities nationwide. Over 85 percent of campus related fires occur in off-campus housing such as rented houses and apartments.

The four most common factors in campus related fatal fires since 2000 are:
- Missing or disabled smoke alarms
- Careless disposal of smoking materials
- Impaired judgment from alcohol consumption
- Lack of automatic fire sprinklers in off-campus housing

Students will receive fire safety messages on school days via Twitter at twitter.com/msfiresafe. The Mississippi State Fire Marshal can also be found on Facebook. For more information on Campus Fire Safety Month, contact the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office at 1-888-648-0877.