MIKE CHANEY Commissioner of Insurance State Fire Marshal

LEE HARRELLDeputy Commissioner



1001 Woolfolk Building (39201) Post Office Box 79 Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0079 (601) 359-3569 www.mid.state.ms.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Mike Chaney, Commissioner of Insurance/State Fire Marshal Mississippi Insurance Department Jackson, Mississippi Friday, December 19, 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 9-10-11

Jackson – Holiday cooking and entertaining are the focus of the fire safety tips for Days 9-10-11 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 9-10-11 are:

Day 9 -Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for the holidays remember to keep an eye on the range.

Day 10 -When entertaining provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.

Day 11 - After a party, always check on, between and under upholstery and cushions for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) recommends having a fire extinguisher within easy reach in your kitchen.

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.