



**For Immediate Release**  
**September 16, 2009**

**Fire Marshal's Office Encourages State-Wide  
Fire Drill on Campus Fire Safety Day**

**September 17<sup>th</sup> declared Campus Fire Safety Day**

JACKSON – The Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office is encouraging schools, K through College, to ring the fire drill alarms, hold fire safety assemblies and programs on Thursday, September 17. That day has been declared Campus Fire Safety Day in Mississippi by Governor Haley Barbour.

Campus Fire Safety Day is the latest in the activities planned throughout the state during September, which has been declared Campus Fire Safety Month by Governor Barbour.

“Many of the same factors we find in campus-related fires mirror problems found at-large in fires all over the State. If we educate students now and show them the importance of fire safety knowledge at their age, then ten to fifteen years from now, after they graduate, they will carry that knowledge into their adult lives,” Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said.

“The Campus Fire Safety Month campaign has been very well received and supported. We will continue to bring fire safety messages to Mississippians of all ages once the official campaign ends.”

The State Fire Marshal's Office has been joined by the Mississippi Department of Education, the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning, and the Mississippi State Board for Community and

Junior Colleges, the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools and various private colleges and universities in promoting Campus Fire Safety Month.

"The Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Healthy Schools would like to encourage all K-12 public schools to conduct a fire drill on Thursday, September 17th. Campus Fire Safety Day offers a perfect opportunity to fulfill the National Fire Protection Association requirement that schools conduct a fire drill once a month during session, weather permitting," Mississippi Department of Education-Office of Healthy Schools-School Facilities Supervisor Mark Hobson said.

Hobson also announced that his office would be joining the State Fire Marshal's Office on the next stops of the month long Campus Fire Safety Tour. Although the tour stops are on college campuses Hobson said that the Mississippi Department of Education wanted to reach out to the public schools in those communities by visiting the campuses and interacting with students and staff who live in the area. The next stops on the State Fire Marshal Campus Fire Safety Tour are: September 17-Millsaps College, Jackson; September 22- Pearl River Community College, Poplarville; September 24-the University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg; and September 29- the Mississippi University for Women, Columbus.

More information on Campus Fire Safety Day and Campus Fire Safety Month can be found on a special web page on the Mississippi Insurance Department website at [www.mid.state.ms.us](http://www.mid.state.ms.us) or by contacting the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office at 1-888-648-0877. Find the Mississippi State Fire Marshal on Facebook and you can also follow the campaign on Twitter at [twitter.com/msfiresafe](https://twitter.com/msfiresafe).

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