



**For Immediate Release**  
**September 12, 2012**

**Fire Marshal's Office Urges Statewide  
Observation of Campus Fire Safety Month**

**September Campus Fire Safety Month**

JACKSON –State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney and the State Fire Marshal's Office urge state educators to focus on fire safety education for their students during September, Campus Fire Safety Month.

“Every student, from kindergarten through college, that learns and practices fire safety becomes another person helping reduce fire deaths in the state,” Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said.

“Learning and practicing fire safety measures 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.”

Since 2000, 155 people have died in campus-related fires across the nation with over 85% of them occurring in off-campus occupancies, as identified by Campus Firewatch. The number of fire deaths had been decreasing from a high of 20 fatalities in the 2006-2007 academic year, but, unfortunately, the 2011-2012 academic year saw the first increase in five years to 9 deaths.

The five 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](http://twitter.com/msfiresafe) and on @MSInsuranceDept. 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.