



For Immediate Release
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**State Fire Marshal's Office Reminds
Mississippians to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires'**
October 6-12 National Fire Prevention Week
October National Fire Prevention Month

JACKSON – It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 6-12 the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind Mississippians to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires.' During this year's fire safety campaign, fire services will be spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires--most of which result from unattended cooking—and teaching local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place.

The Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office will be offering fire safety tips at their trailer next to the Trade Mart at the Mississippi State Fair through Sunday, October 13, 2013.

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries. Since 2007 there have been 509 fire deaths in Mississippi, cooking was determined to be the cause in 66 of those fatal fires.

"Often when fire departments are called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents say that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said. "Unfortunately, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.

- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. Fire safety messages will be sent via Twitter at twitter.com/msfiresafe and on @MSInsuranceDept. The Mississippi State Fire Marshal can also be found on Facebook.

A series of NFPA Cooking Fire Safety Videos can also be found on the Mississippi Insurance Department YouTube page.