

For Immediate Release

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State Fire Marshal's Office Provides 2,000 Smoke Alarms to Greenville in Partnership with Vision 20/20

Jackson, MS – Homes in Greenville, Mississippi that are most at risk for a fire will receive smoke alarms this week thanks to a partnership with the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's office and the Vision 20/20 project. The distribution of nearly 2,000 smoke alarms on Saturday will be the culmination of a week-long fire safety education campaign in Greenville.

"The State Fire Marshal's Office strives to provide fire safety education to consumers and fights to reduce fire deaths in the state. We welcome this partnership with Vision 20/20 and thank them for providing these vital devices," Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney said.

"As we repeat over and over, having working smoke alarms can cut your risk of dying in a fire by half."

This week, fire safety education officers from the State Fire Marshal's office took their fire safety trailer and Sparky to schools in the Greenville area.

The fire safety trailer has proven to be a valuable tool in helping the State Fire Marshal's office to take the important fire safety messages to groups across the state.

Educators can now teach lifesaving lessons in a realistic setting in the nearly 21 foot long trailer. It demonstrates how to safely escape your home if a fire breaks out. Children and families will be educated on the importance of fire drills in the home. Additionally, adults will learn to extinguish simulated kitchen fires that are intense and true to life, yet completely safe. The real home kitchen setting uses overhead heaters, smoke, digital flames, and sound effects to recreate the stress of an actual fire emergency.

On Saturday, April 23rd, the Greenville Fire Department, civic volunteers, and State Fire Marshal deputies will install up to 2,000 smoke alarms in homes that have been identified as being the most at risk in the area.

Vision 20/20 is a national project that is dedicated to providing national strategies in fire prevention across the country.

For more information on fire safety education in Mississippi, visit the State Fire Marshal pages of the Mississippi Insurance Department website at <u>www.mid.ms.gov</u>. You can also follow us on Twitter - @msfiresafe and on Facebook.