



# MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE CHANEY  
State Fire Marshal

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Donna Cromeans

601-359-3569

Donna.Cromeans@mid.ms.gov

## **For Immediate Release**

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# **State Fire Marshal Encourages Keeping Smoke Alarms Up to Date During National Fire Prevention Week**

**October 9-15, 2016**

Jackson – Does your home have a working smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the answer is likely yes: NFPA research shows that most American homes have at least one. But do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like most people, you're probably not so sure. Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney urges all Mississippians to know how old their smoke alarms are.

He also urges everyone to test their smoke alarm monthly and to replace the batteries in alarms once a year. Smoke alarms themselves should be replaced every 10 years.

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, NFPA is promoting this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," to better educate the public about the critical importance of knowing how old their smoke alarms are and replacing them once they're 10 years old. Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2016.

A recent survey conducted by NFPA revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. That lack of awareness is a concern for all Mississippians and NFPA, along with fire departments throughout the country, because smoke alarms don't last forever.

"Time and again, I've seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in a home fire, but I've also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren't working properly," said Chaney.

"That's why the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office is continuing a concerted effort to educate Mississippians about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and that they do have a life limit."

The State Fire Marshal's Office recently partnered with Vision 20/20 to provide 500 smoke alarms in Alcorn County, which were installed in at risk homes by local fire departments and Boy Scouts.

NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, requires smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date (*not* the date of purchase). The State Fire Marshal's Office also says smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and that batteries should be replaced once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they're running low.

For more information on smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years", visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org) or visit the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office booth next to the Trade Mart this week at the Mississippi State Fair.