

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT

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Interview opportunity: Fire officials will be available for interview following the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial at the Mississippi State Fire Academy (1 Fire Academy Road, Pearl, MS) on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 10 a.m.

State Fire Marshal Chaney Urges You to Power Up Devices with Fire Safety in Mind

Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW™) is October 4–10, 2026

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) to support Fire Prevention Week. This year's theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower," focuses on the simple steps people can take to recharge safely.

Many devices used in our daily lives, like phones, tablets, laptops, tools, toys, e-bikes, and scooters, run on rechargeable lithium-ion batteries, which store a lot of energy in a small space. If they are damaged or charged the wrong way, they can overheat, start a fire, or even explode.

"There have been at least 15 fires caused by lithium-ion batteries this year in our state," said State Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. "The way you charge your lithium-ion battery devices can make a difference in helping prevent home fires. It comes down to using simple habits each time you plug in."

Use the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.

- Charge devices on a table, desk, or other hard, flat surface. Do not charge them on beds, couches, or under pillows. Devices and chargers produce heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause the battery to overheat.
- Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell. These are warning signs that the battery may be damaged or failing.
- Unplug your device when it is fully charged. Do not leave it plugged in longer than needed. Leaving a device plugged in too long can increase heat and stress on the battery.

- Charge larger items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside and away from exits. These batteries are larger and store more energy. If they fail, fires can grow quickly and spread.
- When on a plane, keep your device where you can see it while charging. Do not charge devices in overhead compartments. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane. If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to respond quickly.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms, visit fpw.org

The SFMO offers more safety tips online at <https://www.mid.ms.gov/mississippi-insurance-department/preparedness/fire-preparedness/>

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