FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2026

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30,000 Smoke Alarms Being Distributed to Communities

JACKSON, Miss. – Working smoke alarms are one of the simplest and most effective ways to save lives in a home fire. To help protect Mississippi families, the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) and the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) are distributing more than 30,000 smoke alarms for installation in homes statewide at no cost to residents.

The 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms were purchased with $500,000 in grant funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). During installation visits, firefighters will also share home fire escape-planning tips and distribute 30,000 educational brochures covering smoke alarms, cooking safety, and general fire prevention.

The effort comes as Mississippi continues to face an alarming number of fire fatalities, with 67 fire deaths reported so far in 2026. The state has consistently ranked among the top 10 nationally for fire deaths per capita, underscoring the urgent need for stronger fire prevention efforts and education.

"Every home should have this basic protection," said State Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner Mike Chaney. "This grant gives us a tremendous opportunity to reach thousands of Mississippians by providing smoke alarms installed by local firefighters. It also allows us to educate families about fire safety. I encourage everyone to check their smoke alarms, create a home escape plan, and make sure every family member knows how to get out and where to meet outside."

The first alarms were handed out to fire departments in the Jackson Metro area on Thursday, November 5, 2026. Fire departments that received alarms include Jackson, Brandon, Terry, Vicksburg, Pearl, Ridgeland, Madison, and the Reservoir. **Smoke alarms will be delivered to other parts of the state over the next two weeks.**

Smoke alarm safety tips:

- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Replace alarms immediately if they do not respond properly.
- Replace all smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Install alarms on walls or ceilings in every sleeping area, hallway, and on every level of the home.
    - Carbon monoxide alarms are also encouraged throughout the home and should be placed low to the ground.
- Make sure everyone recognizes the alarm sound and knows how to respond.
- Once outside during a fire, call 911 and never re-enter the home.

Residents can contact their local fire department or county fire coordinator to request installation through the Free Smoke Alarm Installation Program.

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