

**A Proclamation  
By  
Governor Ronnie Musgrove**

**WHEREAS**, 85% of all U.S. fire deaths occur in the home and Mississippi is committed to reducing fire related deaths and injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi leads the nation in the number of fire related deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, taking simple safety precautions, such as identifying and removing everyday home fire hazards, can help prevent the majority of home fires and home fire deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, proper installation, testing and maintenance of smoke alarms listed by qualified testing laboratories are part of a system of fire protection; and

**WHEREAS**, developing a home fire escape plan, with two ways out of each room and an outside meeting place, and practicing it twice a year with every member of the household is critical to escaping a fire safely; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFPA 2002 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Team Up for Fire Safety™," motivates children and families to work together to conduct a home hazard hunt, develop and practice a home fire escape plan, and install and test smoke alarms; and

**WHEREAS**, NFPA dedicates "Team Up for Fire Safety" to the firefighters who place their lives in harms way everyday to save others especially those who gave their lives on September 11, 2001; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Mississippi, the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Mississippi Department of Insurance, the Fire Marshall's Office and all of its fire departments and all emergency services are committed to the saving lives and property from the devastating effects of fire:

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim October 6 through October 12, 2002, as

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

in the State of Mississippi to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, which killed more than 250 persons, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings, and serves as the motivating force to bring the people of Mississippi together to build a safer community.

I call upon the people of Mississippi to "Team Up for Fire Safety" by participating in fire prevention activities at home, work and school, and taking the steps needed to make their homes and families safe from fire.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE in the City of Jackson, October 7, 2002, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

**RONNIE MUSGROVE  
GOVERNOR**