

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 2003 Fire Prevention Week theme, "When fire strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!" 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, fire safety education has contributed to a substantial decrease in fire death rates over the past twenty years, from over 6,000 per year in 1970, to fewer than 4,000 in 2000; In addition to the civilian loss of life, approximately 100 fire fighters lose their lives each year in the line of duty; 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 5 through October 11, 2003, as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

in the State of Mississippi and I urge the people of Mississippi to participate 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, September 24, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-seventh year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR