



Fire Prevention Week is
October 4 - 10, 2009.
This year's theme is:

"Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned"



During Fire Prevention Week fire and life safety educators around the State of Louisiana will bring important safety messages to their community on burn awareness and prevention, as well as keeping homes safe from the leading causes of home fires.

Smoke Detectors Save Lives!
Is Yours Working?



Louisiana citizens are encouraged to test their smoke alarms and practice their escape plans.

You can help keep Louisiana Safe!



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Prevention Week officially begins October 4-10, 2009

Baton Rouge, LA, October 4, 2009 – Louisiana State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning, Jr. is excited to announce the official start of Fire Prevention Month in October by providing Louisiana’s Citizens with important tips to prevent fire loss and keep you and your family safe. This year’s theme, "Stay Fire Smart!- Don't Get Burned" will serve to educate homeowners about burn awareness and prevention, as well as keeping homes safe from the leading causes of fires.

During the awareness campaign, local fire departments across the State in a collaborative effort with the Fire Marshal’s Office and fire industry professionals will help to spread the word in their communities about the leading causes of home fires and steps to mitigate fire, smoke and soot damage. According to the NFPA, the most common causes of home fires include cooking, heating, electrical and smoking. For more information, go to www.nfpa.org.

"By following a few simple steps, property owners can go a long way in protecting themselves, their loved ones and their property," Browning stated." The safety of your family should be the number one concern when planning for fire prevention, he continued. Here are a few simple reminders that may save a life.

Family Plan. Make sure you have a plan and an escape route for getting out of the house in the event of a fire. Also, make sure to have a portable ladder in each room above ground level.

Home "Fire Drills". Practice evacuating with the family and pets at least twice a year. A perfect time to practice evacuating is when you're testing the smoke alarms and changing the batteries. Pick a spot outside where the entire family should meet. That way, if someone is missing, you can tell the fire department when they respond.

Smoke Alarms. Make sure your home smoke alarms are in proper working order by pushing the test button. Change the batteries once a year.

Household Clutter. Keep newspapers, magazines, mail, etc. away from clothes dryers, heaters, water heaters, furnaces, radiators, boilers, stoves and ovens. Remove lint regularly from around clothes dryers and don't forget the inside of the dryer vent hose.

Fire Extinguishers. Make sure there is a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, laundry room, and garage and that it is capable of putting out all three types of fires. If you don't know, learn how to use it, and be sure to test fire extinguishers annually to ensure they are in proper working order.

Candles. Use caution when burning candles. Better yet, discard them altogether. For emergency light during power failures, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns.

Chimney. Have your fireplace and chimney inspected and cleaned at least once a year if you have one.

You can help keep Louisiana Safe!