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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mississippi Insurance Department
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Dale Urges Heating Appliance Safety During Cold Weather

Jackson –With severe cold weather forecast this week, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal George Dale today urged citizens to exercise caution when using portable heating devices. Mississippi is among the leading states in the nation in fire deaths, averaging between 85 and 95 deaths a year.

“During any period of cold weather I urge all Mississippians to use extreme caution with any portable heating device,” said Dale.

The State Fire Marshal’s Office cautions everyone with heating appliances to only use UL (Underwriters Laboratory) approved appliances as recommended by the manufacturers. The State Fire Marshal’s Office also strongly discourages the use of candles as heating devices.

Everyone is encouraged to have and use working smoke detectors in the home. Be sure to replace batteries at least every three months. Also have an emergency evacuation plan for the family to follow and have a designated meeting place for all family members. Once everyone is outside the burning home, **DO NOT RE-ENTER THE HOUSE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES!!!**

For more information visit the State Fire Marshal’s Office webpage on the Mississippi Insurance Department Website at www.doi.state.ms.us.

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