

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2015

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Fire Prevention Week – every bedroom needs a smoke alarm
Hear the beep where you sleep!

BOISE ID (October 5, 2015) – Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has signed a proclamation declaring October 4-10 as Idaho Fire Prevention Week. The Idaho State Fire Marshal's key message for this week is to encourage smoke alarm installation in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of every home – including the basement. Smoke alarms are an inexpensive and effective means of protecting Idaho homes – and Idaho people.

"Fire prevention begins at home. When it comes to smoke alarms, it's all about location, location, location," State Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl said. "Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries."

The State Fire Marshal's Office, a division of the Idaho Department of Insurance, has investigated many residential fires where no smoke alarms were present or where the batteries had been removed. Proper maintenance includes replacing smoke alarms every ten years.

Widespread use of smoke alarms in homes is considered to be a principle factor contributing to the decline of home fire deaths. Nationwide statistics show that three of every five home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Research also indicates that home fires spread more rapidly today than in years past due to the synthetic fibers used in home furnishings, magnifying the need for working smoke alarms in the home.

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres.

About the Department of Insurance

The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capital
Boise

WHEREAS, nationally more than 80 percent of all fire deaths occur in the home, and half of all home fires occur between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when people are most likely to be asleep; and

WHEREAS, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, widespread use of smoke alarms in homes is considered to be a principle factor contributing to the decline of home fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, every bedroom, hallway to bedrooms, and every floor level of every Idaho home should have a smoke alarm properly installed; and

WHEREAS, smoke alarms are an inexpensive and effective means of protecting Idahoans; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Fire Marshal supports local fire departments and encourages participation in fire prevention week activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim October 4 through October 10, 2015, as

**IDAHO FIRE PREVENTION
WEEK**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 4th day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred fortieth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-sixth.

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE