

## Jackson County Department of Public Health

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### STATE FIRE MARSHAL MIKE CAUSEY WARNS FAMILIES TO BE BURN AWARE

In recognition of 2019 National Burn Awareness Week which runs from February 3-9, Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Causey wants to remind the public of the frequency and causes of burn injuries and the resources of burn care available today.

Most “fire-related injuries” are burns. In fact, approximately every 60 seconds, someone in the US sustains a burn injury serious enough to require treatment, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

“It’s important to remember that burn injuries can happen anywhere at any time to anyone,” said State Fire Marshal Causey. “That’s why National Burn Awareness Week is so important to bring awareness to the many different causes of burn injuries and provide educational resources to keep everyone safe.”

According to the American Burn Association, burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental death and injury in the United States with approximately 486,000 people receiving treatment of burn injuries annually. Almost one-third of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15.

The focus of National Burn Awareness week is on preventing burn injuries in the home. The majority of preventable burn injuries occur in residences including scalds, fire-related injuries, and even electrical burns.

To prevent burns from fires and scalding, State Fire Marshal Causey wants families to remember these important safety tips:

- **Be "alarmed:"** Install and maintain smoke alarms in your home—on every floor and near all rooms family members sleep in. Test your smoke alarms once a month to make sure they are working properly. Use long life batteries when possible.
- **Have an escape plan:** Create and practice a family fire escape plan and involve kids in the planning. Make sure everyone knows at least two ways out of every room and identify a central meeting place outside.
- **Cook with care:** Use safe cooking practices, such as never leaving food unattended on the stove. Also, supervise or restrict children’s use of stoves, ovens, and especially microwaves.
- **Check water heater temperature:** Set your water heater’s thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Infants and small children may not be able to get away from water that may be too hot and maintaining a constant thermostat setting can help control the water temperature throughout your home—preventing it from getting too high. Test the water at the tap if possible.

For more information and safety tips, call Anna Lippard at 828-587-8225.

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