

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
Governor

700 West State Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0043
Phone (208)334-4250
Fax (208)334-4398
Website: <http://www.doi.idaho.gov>

DEAN L. CAMERON
Director

Idaho Department of Insurance News Release

For immediate release, October 11, 2016

Contact: Tricia Carney 208-334-4312 or 208-850-2342

Tricia.carney@doi.idaho.gov

Fire Prevention Week – Don't Wait: Check the Date!

BOISE ID – Does your home have a smoke alarm? The majority of people answer yes to this question, but most people are not sure how old their smoke alarms are. This lack of awareness is a concern for the Idaho State Fire Marshal's Office because smoke alarms don't last forever.

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter has signed a proclamation declaring October 9-14 as Idaho Fire Prevention Week. The focus is on smoke alarms for the third year in a row. Public misconceptions about the value of smoke alarms may put them at risk in the event of a home fire.

"If a smoke alarm is ten years old or more, replace it," says Idaho State Fire Marshal Knute Sandahl. "Smoke alarms lose sensitivity after ten years and can fail to alert you to a fire in your home."

To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced ten years from that date.

In 2015, fire fighters responded to 986 home fires resulting in 12 deaths. "I urge every Idahoan to check their smoke alarms for a current date and replace the batteries at least once a year. A working smoke alarm is your first and best defense from becoming a statistic," says Sandahl.

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.

###



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS the public has many misconceptions about smoke alarms, which may put them at increased risk in the event of a home fire; 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, Idahoans should learn how old their smoke alarms are and replace them every ten years; 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 9-15, 2016 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 9th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and sixteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred forty-first and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-seventh.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter".

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lawrence Denney".

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE