

October 1, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Hershel Lee – 854-4621

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2009

Fire Prevention week in 2009 is October 4-10. The focus for this year is **STAY FIRE SMART! DON'T GET BURNED!**

Travis County Fire Marshal Hershel Lee is encouraging everyone to Stay Fire Smart, Don't Get Burned. Getting burned applies to loss of property as well as physically burned. Survey your home and protect your family, friends and property.

Fire prevention is a topic that should constantly be on our minds. The use of fire and heat is so common in our everyday lives that we begin to take it for granted. By taking fire for granted we forget about the severe damage fire can cause. We also sometimes take for granted the many precious "things" we have accumulated over our lifetime. "Things" that can never be replaced.

First Responders deal with tragedies involving fire many times each year. They know all too well the heartbreak of a family losing property and livelihood.

Here are some suggestions and tips for Fire Prevention Week:

Watch your cooking. Cooking is a leading cause of residential fires. Do not leave cooking unattended, even for a moment.

Keep candles away from combustible materials. If you use candles, be sure to place them on a firm, flat, non-combustible surface away from combustible materials.

Smoke out of doors. Provide sturdy non-combustible ashtrays. Keep lighters and matches stored away from the reach of young children.

Give space heaters space. Space heaters need three feet of clearance in all directions.

Install and inspect smoke alarms. Change the battery at least annually and anytime they begin to chirp. Test your smoke detectors monthly.

Have a home escape plan. Have a plan and practice it at least twice annually.

Inspect electrical cords. Replace worn cords or cords that have loose connections. Never place cords under rugs.

Have your home heating system inspected by a licensed company. Central heat units should be cleaned and inspected annually. Chimneys and flues of wood burning fire places should also be inspected and cleaned by professionals.

Install home fire sprinklers. If you are remodeling your current home or building a new home, install an automatic fire sprinkler system. Residential fire sprinklers are designed to contain or even extinguish a fire, many times before the arrival of the fire department.

###