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POC: Armando Lucio, Cameron County Fire Marshal

Entering its 87th year, National Fire Prevention Week—the longest-running public health and safety observance on record in the U.S.—takes place from October 4th through October 10th, 2009.

This year's campaign theme, "Stay Fire Smart...Don't Get Burned", focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns.

"Annually, about 3,000 people die as a result of home fires and burns, and more than 200,000 individuals are seen in the nation's emergency rooms for burn injuries. Unfortunately, most of these incidents are preventable and caused by careless behavior, stated Cameron County Fire Marshal Armando Lucio.

"It is because of these staggering statistics that we must continue educating our residents of the importance of fire prevention. An ounce of prevention in this case will save lives, homes and everything we hold dear," added Lucio.

The following is just a sampling of safety tips for the home:

Kitchen

- Never leave your cooking unattended.
- Use appropriate cooking appliances and keep them clean.
- Keep a timer handy to remind you when the oven and burners should be switched off.

Living Room

- Do not overload electrical outlets or use extension cords in the place of additional outlets.
- Ensure careful use of smoking materials (never leave unattended) and extinguish in water before disposal.
- Keep matches, lighters and lit candles out of the reach of children.

Bedroom

- Install at least one smoke alarm outside each sleeping area. For improved safety, install a smoke alarm in every bedroom.
- Check electrical appliances regularly: electric blankets, heating pads, curling irons, radios, televisions, irons.
- Bedrooms should be non-smoking areas.

Basement/Attic/Garage

- Store gasoline in well-ventilated areas.
- Do not store propane indoors.
- Flammable materials – thinners, gasoline, paints, industrial cleaners – should be stored neatly in approved containers and away from possible ignitable sources.

For a more, complete listing of safety tips, visit our site <http://www.co.cameron.tx.us/emergency/index.htm> and click on the "National Fire Prevention Week" icon.