

For Immediate Release  
Alaska Department of Public Safety  
State Fire Marshal's Office

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### **Fire Prevention Month**

To emphasize our commitment to public safety and recognize and support the efforts of the fire prevention effort throughout Alaska, the month of October is set aside to build a distinct awareness of fire safety. The Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety and fire and emergency services throughout Alaska will be educating Alaskans about fire safe behaviors and fire prevention techniques. Nevertheless, they cannot do the job alone. Every citizen of the state must get involved in practicing fire safety every day.

In Alaska the number one cause of child fire deaths is children playing with matches and lighters.

Alaskans must be reminded how important it is to teach their children that matches and lighters are tools, not toys. Matches and lighters in the wrong hands can be a deadly weapon. Keep matches and lighters locked up out of children's reach.

Check your smoke alarms monthly and practice your fire escape plan on a regular basis.

By practicing these simple safety procedures, Alaskans can reduce child fire injuries and death.

Governor Sarah Palin has proclaimed October 2008 as "Fire Prevention Month" and encourages all citizens to practice fire safety at home, at work, and at school. This year's theme for "Fire Prevention Month" is "Matches and Lighters In The Wrong Hands Can Be A Deadly Weapon".