



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

John F. King

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SIDE-BY-SIDE FIRES TO BE SET BY GEORGIA INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE Fires Meant to Demonstrate Need for Home Fire Sprinkler Systems

ATLANTA – On Tuesday, February 4, representatives with the Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner's Office, along with the Georgia Fire Inspectors Association and the Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association, will intentionally light two fires in front of a live audience made up of State Legislators and fire service members at 4:30pm at the Steve Polk Plaza on Lower Alabama Street in downtown Atlanta.

"Sometimes people just need to see it to believe it," said Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King. "There's nothing like the heat and smoke of a real fire to best demonstrate just how fast a home fire is. With our side-by-side comparison, we can show both the danger of fire and the value of having a fire sprinkler system installed."

Staff will be constructing two fire demonstration units for this live burn – both will have smoke alarms and one will have a fire sprinkler system installed to show the audience the life-saving difference this vital protection makes when fire strikes.

"Fire is a serious concern in any community and homes are where our citizens are the most vulnerable," said Georgia Fire Inspectors Association President Craig Landolt. "In fact, more than 80 percent of all fire deaths occur at home. Local and national fire safety experts say widespread use of home fire sprinkler systems could save thousands of lives per year, which is exactly what this burn is meant to demonstrate."

This dramatic, yet safe, form of education has become increasingly popular with fire departments across the country. This demonstration shows firsthand why a typical home fire becomes deadly in three minutes or less.

"Following an emergency call, it takes 9-12 minutes, on average, for a fire department to arrive on the scene of a fire," said Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association President Allen Cagle. "By that time, a fire in an unsprinklered home will have spread, causing smoke and heat damage and threatening the lives of the residents. In a sprinklered home, the fire gets under control right away, limiting damage and protecting residents and first responders."

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The mission of the Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner is to protect Georgia families by providing access to vital insurance products and safe buildings through fair regulation that creates economic opportunities for all Georgians.