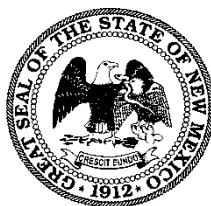


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NMPRC MEDIA CONTACT

Carlos A. Padilla
Public Information Officer
Office: 505-827-4446
Mobile: 505-467-9116
carlos.padilla2@state.nm.us
1120 Paseo de Peralta
Suite 423
Santa Fe, NM 87504

ACTING INTERIM CHIEF OF STAFF ANDREA DELLING

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NEWS RELEASE

State Fire Marshal's Office Reminds New Mexicans To be Safe When it Comes to Fire This Halloween

SANTA FE – Costumed children excitedly running door to door to trick-or-treat, festive decorations like glowing jack-o-lanterns, paper ghosts and dried cornstalks adorning front porches – these are some of the classic hallmarks of Halloween that make the holiday special for kids and adults alike.

Unfortunately, these Halloween symbols and activities can also present lurking fire risks that have the potential to become truly scary. By planning ahead, however, you can help make this Halloween a fire-safe one. Taking simple fire safety precautions, such as keeping decorations far away from open flames and using battery-operated candles or glow-sticks in jack-o-lanterns, can help ensure your holiday remains festive and fun.

New Mexico State Fire Marshal John Standefer reminds New Mexicans to practice these fire safety tips during the upcoming Halloween season.

HALLOWEEN BY THE NUMBERS

- Decorations were the item first ignited in an estimated average of 900 reported home structure fires per year.
- Nearly half of decoration fires in homes occurred because the decorations were too close to a heat source.
- These fires caused an estimated average of one civilian death, 41 civilian injuries and \$13 million in direct property damage per year.
- Forty-one percent of these incidents were started by candles; one-fifth began in the living room, family room, or den.

(Source: NFPA Fire Analysis & Research Division, during the five-year-period of 2006-2010)

ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFETY

Some parts of New Mexico are already seeing plunging overnight temperatures. With this in mind, the State Fire Marshal's Office reminds the public that this is the right time to have their chimneys cleaned and their heater filters changed to minimize the risk of fire in the home.

In addition, the day after Halloween marks the end of Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, at 2 a.m. The State Fire Marshal's Office reminds New Mexicans to test the batteries in the smoke detectors throughout their homes, and change the batteries.

About the NMPRC

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in the State of New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal's Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy in Socorro, N.M., and the Pipeline Safety Bureau.

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