

State of Vermont
Executive Department
A Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Vermont is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living and visiting our state; and
- WHEREAS,** fire is a serious public safety concern nationally and locally, especially in their homes; and
- WHEREAS,** home fires killed more than 2,800 people in the United States in 2021, and according to the National Fire Protection Association®, fire departments in the United States responded to 338,000 home fires in the same year; and
- WHEREAS,** cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States and fire departments responded to more than 166,400 cooking fires annually between 2016 and 2020; and
- WHEREAS,** two of every five home fires start in the kitchen with 31% of these fires caused by unattended cooking; and
- WHEREAS,** more than half of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; and
- WHEREAS,** children under five face a higher risk of burns from scalding liquids and steam from cooking; and
- WHEREAS,** teaching children about the hazards in a kitchen and keeping them a safe distance from hot appliances and scalding liquids is key to reducing the risk of serious burns; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermonters should turn pot handles toward the back of the stove; always keep a lid nearby when cooking; keep a three-foot child-free zone around the stove, oven and other things that could get hot; watch what they heat; and set a timer to remind them they are cooking; and
- WHEREAS,** residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and
- WHEREAS,** properly installed and maintained smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire almost in half; and
- WHEREAS,** properly installed and maintained carbon monoxide (CO) alarms will provide early detection and occupant notification of the presence of the odorless, colorless, and invisible poisonous gas, prompting the immediate evacuation of the home; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermont’s first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention, protection, education, and Community Risk Reduction; and
- WHEREAS,** Vermonters are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2023 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, “Cooking Safety Starts with YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention”™, effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

NOW, THEREFORE,

I, Philip B. Scott, Governor, hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2023, as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
in Vermont.



Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont on this 11th day of October, A.D. 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Philip B. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brittney J. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brittney J. Wilson
Secretary of Civil and Military Affairs