



Proclamation

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 9 - 15

WHEREAS, Jackson County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting the county; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, home fires killed 3,280 people and injured 15,700 people in the United States in 2015, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA); and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, none were working; and

WHEREAS, when smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so it was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead; and

WHEREAS, half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep; and

WHEREAS, residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home; and

WHEREAS, residents should install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing; 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, Jackson County's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, residents 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 2016 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of replacing the smoke alarms by checking the date of manufacture on the back of the alarms.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim October 9-15, as Fire Prevention Week throughout this county, and urges all the people of Jackson County to find out how old the smoke alarms in their homes are and to replace them if they are more than 10 years old.

ADOPTED the 6th day of October, 2016.

Attest:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman