

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation* by *Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern, people are at greatest risk from fire in residential homes, and fires cause devastating personal injury and property loss throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, there were 805 residential structures fires reported in Alaska, resulting in 18 civilian deaths, 52 civilian injuries, 23 firefighter injuries and \$26,411,988 in property loss; and

WHEREAS, the three most common causes of residential fires in Alaska in 2016 were unattended cooking, unsafe heating methods, and equipment malfunction, and notably, 20% of home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that Alaskans perform their responsibility to help protect their homes and families by practicing simple fire prevention measures every day, such as to never leave cooking unattended and keeping the cooking area clean and free from other ignitable materials, being cautious with home heating equipment keeping anything that can burn at least three feet away, and insuring that heating equipment and chimneys are cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional; and

WHEREAS, it is also important for every Alaskan household to have properly functioning fire safety equipment, such as smoke alarms, Carbon Monoxide alarms, and fire extinguishers and to test them regularly, as well as a well-prepared fire escape plan; and

WHEREAS, by following and utilizing these important fire safety and prevention guidelines and methods, we can reduce fire-related injuries and prevent future loss of life in our communities. We encourage all Alaskans to practice this year's fire safety theme, "EVERY SECOND COUNTS, PLAN 2 WAYS OUT".

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim October 2017 as:

### *Fire Prevention Month*

in Alaska, and encourage all Alaskans to be proactive and take precautionary measures to avoid fires, and participate in public safety activities offered this month by the Alaska Division of Fire and Life Safety and emergency services across our great state.

Dated: October 2, 2017



*Bill Walker*

*Bill Walker, Governor*  
*who has also authorized the*  
*seal of the State of Alaska to*  
*be affixed to this proclamation.*