



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the State of New York is committed to ensuring the safety and security of residents and visitors from all dangers, including the loss of life and property that can result from a fire; and

Whereas, tragically, 2021 brought significant loss of life as well as damage and destruction due to home fires, both nationwide and statewide; according to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2021 fire departments in the United States responded to 361,000 residential structure fires resulting in 2880 deaths; here in New York State, 152 people perished in a home fire, according to research conducted by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services' Office of Fire Prevention and Control; and

Whereas, smoke alarms detect smoke well before human beings are able to, and while they are sleeping, and these devices alert people to danger in the event of fire, when a building's occupants may have as little as two minutes to escape safely; and

Whereas, a working smoke alarm can save lives and reduce the risk of death by fifty percent; fire safety experts recommend they be installed on each floor of a home and that each device is tested regularly and that all occupants know how to react and respond to an activated alarm; and

Whereas, New Yorkers who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are better prepared for such an event and, therefore, are more likely to survive a fire; and

Whereas, all New Yorkers should conduct regular checks to make sure their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms meet the needs of all family members and visitors, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and

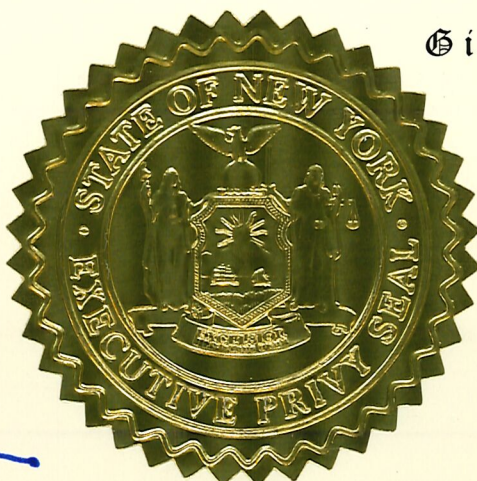
Whereas, New York State's first responders are dedicated to reducing the incidence of home fires and related injuries by educating people about prevention and protection, and individuals who are responsible and responsive to public education measures are better prepared to take steps that will help keep them and loved ones safe in the event of a fire, especially in their homes; and

Whereas, the 2022 Fire Prevention Week theme – "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape." – reinforces the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly; in addition, this October marks the 100th Anniversary of Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest-running public health observance on record, and we join to commemorate this milestone in the history of such a valuable initiative focused on combatting the destructive forces of fire;

Now, Therefore, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim October 9-15, 2022 as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

throughout this state, and I urge all New Yorkers to "Plan Your Escape" for Fire Prevention Week 2022 and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of New York State's fire and emergency services.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this seventh day
of October in the year two thousand twenty-two.

Kathy Hochul
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Keogh