

# STATE OF ALASKA



## *Executive Proclamation by Governor Bill Walker*

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern, and people are at greatest risk from fire in their or others' homes, as fires cause devastating personal injury and property loss throughout Alaska each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, there were 963 residential structure fires reported in Alaska, resulting in 16 civilian deaths, 50 civilian injuries, 27 firefighter injuries and \$31,915,878 in property loss; and

WHEREAS, the three most common causes of home fires in Alaska in 2015 were unattended cooking, unsafe heating methods, and equipment malfunction, and notably, approximately 36 percent 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 following the manufacturer's safety precautions when using appliances and unplugging them when not in use, being cautious not to overload circuits or extension cords, and not placing wires or cords under rugs or in high traffic areas; and

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

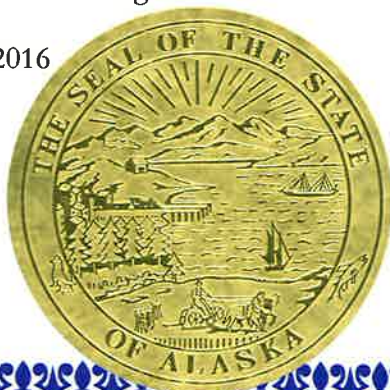
WHEREAS, by following and utilizing these important fire safety and prevention guidelines and methods, we can reduce fire-related injuries and prevent future loss of life in our communities. We encourage all Alaskans to practice this year's fire safety theme, "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years."

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim October, 2016 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 Life Safety and emergency services across the our great state.

Dated: September 15, 2016



*Bill Walker*

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