

# 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 2017, there were 799 residential structures fires reported in Alaska, resulting in 18 civilian deaths, 53 civilian injuries, 31 firefighter injuries, and \$33,604,670 in property loss; and

WHEREAS, the three most common causes of residential fires in Alaska in 2017 were unsafe heating methods, unattended cooking, and electrical malfunction, and notably, 22% of home fire fatalities result from fires in properties without smoke alarms or 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, never leave cooking unattended and keep the cooking area free from ignitable materials. Be 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 that are maintained and tested 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, "LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere."

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bill Walker, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF ALASKA, do hereby proclaim October 2018 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 12, 2018



*Bill Walker*

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