



Office of the Chief

Chief John R. Batiste
"Service with Humility"

*****For Immediate Release*****

Captain Deion Glover
Government and Media Relations

State Fire Marshal's Office
State Fire Marshal Chad Cross

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Contact: Deputy State Fire Marshal Gregory Baruso

Phone: (360) 596-3929

Email: fpbpio@wsp.wa.gov

Twitter: @WaFireMarshal

2023 Fire Prevention Week – Cooking Safety Starts With YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention

Olympia – Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in the United States. During Fire Prevention Week it a time to focus on fire safety and prevention measures. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

In a fire, mere seconds can be the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education is not just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time during Fire Prevention Week, as well as every day, to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

This year's theme is, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." This works to educate the community about simple, but important actions to take to keep everyone safe when cooking. Nationally, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. Last year in Washington State, cooking was eighth among causes of ignition for all fire incidents with a total of 2,121 and a total dollar loss of over 10 million.

The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office is honored to have Governor Jay Inslee proclaim October 8-14, 2023, Fire Prevention Week, in observance of this all-important fire safety message in hopes that all Washingtonians practice safe cooking methods whenever indoors or outdoors, aiming to prevent fire incidents, burns and injuries. Stay alert and use caution when cooking.

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The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state; and

WHEREAS, residential property fires caused 81 civilian deaths in Washington in 2022, and fire departments in Washington responded to 9,475 residential property fires; and

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of residential property fires in both one-and-two family homes and apartments, with a much larger share in apartments; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, cooking was eighth among causes of ignition for all fire incidents in Washington, and residents should be aware that kitchens are the leading area of origin for cooking-related fire incidents; and

WHEREAS, children under 5 face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking; and

WHEREAS, Washington residents should keep a 3-foot, kid-free zone around the stove, oven, and other items that retain heat; turn pot handles toward the back of the stove; always keep a lid nearby when cooking; and set a timer to remind themselves when the stove or oven are turned on; and

WHEREAS, Washington residents who plan and practice a home fire escape plan are better prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, Washington residents should make sure their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms work properly and meet the needs of all their family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention," effectively serves to remind Washingtonians to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires and burns;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2023, as

Fire Prevention Week

I invite all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 5th day of September 2023

Governor Jay Inslee



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