Proclamation by Governor Jim Justice

Whereas, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

Whereas, home fires killed more than 2,700 people in the United States in 2022, according to the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), and fire departments in the United States responded to 360,000 home fires; and

Whereas, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or with no working smoke alarms; and

Whereas, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires almost in half; and

Whereas, residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home along with meeting the needs of all their family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and

Whereas, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

Whereas, the 2024 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you." serves to remind us the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home; and

Whereas, the Great State of West Virginia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Jim Justice, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 6-12, 2024* as:

Fire Prevention Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Sixth day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Four, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Second year of the State.



Jim Justice Governor

By the Governor:

Mac Warner Secretary of State