

City of Fort Lauderdale Mayors Proclamation for Fire Prevention Week October 6-12, 2013

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Lauderdale is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our city; and

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 2,500 people in the United States in 2011, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to more than 370,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States where fire departments responded to more than 156,000 annually between 2007 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, two of every five home fires start in the kitchen; and

WHEREAS, unattended equipment was a factor in one-third of the reported cooking fires; and

WHEREAS, 57% of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; and

WHEREAS, children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire; and

WHEREAS, Fort Lauderdale's residents should stay in the kitchen when frying food on the stovetop, keep a three foot kid-free zone around cooking areas and keep anything that can catch fire away from stove tops; 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, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, Fort Lauderdale's Fire Inspectors are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, Fort Lauderdale's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires!" effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

THEREFORE, I John P. "Jack" Seiler, Mayor of Fort Lauderdale do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2013 as Fire Prevention Week throughout this City, and I urge all of my neighbors of Fort Lauderdale to check their kitchens for fire hazards and use safe cooking practices during Fire Prevention Week 2013, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department.