



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the City of Key West is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our island; 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 2009, according to the latest research from the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to more than 360,000 home fires; and
- WHEREAS, cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and associated injuries, and the third leading cause of home fire deaths; and
- WHEREAS, heating and electrical equipment and smoking materials are among the leading causes of all reported home fires; and
- WHEREAS, home candle fires are reported to a US fire department every 30 minutes, on average and the risk of dying in a home structure fire caused by smoking materials rises with age; and
- WHEREAS working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half and automatic fire sprinkler systems cut the risk of dying in a home fire by about 80%; and
- WHEREAS the Key West Fire Department is dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and
- WHEREAS the residents of Key West are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes. 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 2011 Fire Prevention Week theme, "It's Fire Prevention Week. Protect your Family from Fire!" effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to keep our homes and families safe from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Craig Cates, Mayor of the City of Key West, do hereby proclaim
October 9th through October 15th, 2011 as

Fire Prevention Week

in the "Southernmost City of the Continental United States" I would like to urge all the citizens of Key West to protect their homes and families by heeding the potentially life-saving messages of Fire Prevention Week 2011, and to support the many activities and efforts of Key West Fire Department.

WITNESS my hand and seal of the City of Key West, Florida, this 5th day of October 2011.

Craig Cates, MAYOR