



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: J. Kevin Nalder, Director Fire and Building Department
Date: September 4, 2014
Subject: Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaims the week of October 5-11, 2014 as Fire Prevention Week.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Each year, our nation observes "National Fire Prevention Week" during the second week of October. This annual event commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, in which more than 250 people were killed, 100,000 were left homeless, and more than 17,400 buildings were destroyed. The purpose is to educate communities about the devastating effects of fires, provide proactive measures to prevent fires from occurring and reduce the loss of life in the event of a fire.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "**Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives**"

Many people don't test their smoke alarms as often as they should. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. You need working smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Test yours every month!

Smoke detectors are more important today than ever. Fire, smoke and toxic gases are more deadly in today's fires than in fires of the past due to petroleum based interior furnishings. Also, modern lighter weight construction material allows occupants less time to escape.

In 2013, Kirkland Fire Department responded to 182 fires in residential structures. NFPA reported that nationally, working smoke alarms reduced the risk of dying in reported residential structure fires by half.

During this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign the Kirkland Fire Department will be encouraging homeowners to ensure smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and fire sprinkler systems in the home are functioning properly through information posted on the fire department website. During school and neighborhood interactions the department will provide safety tips to prevent fires from occurring and proper actions to take should a fire occur in their home, school or place of business.

City of Kirkland Fire Marshal, Battalion Chief Dave Walker, will accept the proclamation.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Proclaiming October 5-11, 2014 as "Fire Prevention Week" in Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, since 1925, the President of the United States has signed a proclamation each year pronouncing a week of observance for fire prevention; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association, the world's leading advocate in fire prevention, encourages communities to participate in its annual "Fire Prevention Week" campaign; and

WHEREAS, the educational theme being promoted by the National Fire Protection Association for Fire Prevention Week 2014 is "**Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives**" and

WHEREAS, fires result in 14,000 injuries to people every year and result in 2,520 deaths and billions in direct costs; and

WHEREAS, smoke detectors cut the risk of dying in a fire in half; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland Fire Department will be making additional efforts to educate the public on practices and actions that can reduce the losses in Kirkland from fires; and

WHEREAS, the City of Kirkland is committed to ensuring the safety and security of those living in and visiting our City;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim October 5-11, 2014 to be "**Fire Prevention Week**" in the City of Kirkland, to encourage residents to protect their homes and families from fire by practicing fire safe habits, ensuring smoke detectors and sprinkler systems work properly, and by eliminating fire hazards which can cause the loss of life and property.

Signed this 16th day of September, 2014

Amy Walen, Mayor