



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Merced is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Merced; 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 2,755 people in the United States in 2013, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 369,500 home fires; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half and three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms; and

WHEREAS, in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, none were working and when smoke alarms should have operated but did not do so it was usually because batteries were missing, disconnected, or dead; and

WHEREAS, Merced's residents should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home; and

WHEREAS, Merced's residents should install smoke alarms and alert devices that meet the needs of people who are deaf or hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS, Merced's 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, Merced's first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Fire Prevention Month theme, "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!" effectively serves to remind us that we need working smoke alarms to give us the time to get out safely.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, STANLEY P. THURSTON, Mayor of the City of Merced do hereby proclaim October 2015, as FIRE PREVENTION MONTH throughout this city, and I urge all the people of Merced to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Merced's fire and emergency services.

Signed this 5th day of October 2015.

Stanley P. Thurston, Mayor of Merced