



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 2,735 people in the United States in 2016, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 352,000 home fires; and
- WHEREAS,** the majority of U.S. fire deaths (4 out of 5) occur at home each year; and
- WHEREAS,** the fire death rate per 1000 home fires reported to U.S. fire departments was 10 percent higher in 2016 than in 1980; and
- WHEREAS,** Merced's residents should identify places in their home where fires can start and eliminate those hazards; and
- WHEREAS,** working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; 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 listen for the sound of the smoke alarm and when it sounds respond by going outside immediately to the designated meeting place; 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 2018 Fire Prevention Month theme, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware – fire can happen anywhere™" effectively serves to remind us that we need to take personal steps to increase our safety from fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE MURPHY, Mayor of Merced, do hereby proclaim October 2018, as Fire Prevention Month throughout this city, and I urge all the people of Merced to be aware of their surroundings, look for available ways out in the event of a fire or other emergency, respond when the smoke alarm sounds by exiting the building immediately, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Merced's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Month 2018.

Signed this 1st day of October 2018.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced