



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the city of Merced, California is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all residents and visitors of Merced; and

WHEREAS, fire is an ever increasing public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations at greatest risk; and

WHEREAS, house fires killed 7 people a day in 2014, and fire departments in the United States responded to 357,000 residences; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of death in half; and

WHEREAS, three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms; and in one-fifth of all homes with smoke alarms, none were working; and

WHEREAS, smoke alarms should have operated but did not due to being disconnected, disabled, or having dead batteries; and

WHEREAS, half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep; 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 fire escape plan are more prepared and 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, Merced's residents are involved in public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Fire Prevention Month theme, "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace smoke alarms every 10 years!" 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 Merced, do hereby proclaim October, 2016, as Fire Prevention Month, and I urge all people of Merced to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, on every level of the home, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of Merced's fire and emergency services.

Signed this 3rd day of October 2016.

Stanley P. Thurston, Mayor of Merced