



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 2,630 people in the United States in 2017, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the Merced Fire Department responded to 87 structure fires; and
- WHEREAS,** the majority of US fire deaths (4 out of 5) occur at home each year; and
- WHEREAS,** the fire death rate per 1000 home fires reported to US fire departments was 4 percent higher in 2017 than in 1980; and
- WHEREAS,** when the smoke alarm sounds, Merced's residents may have less than two minutes to escape to safety; 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 residents should make a home escape plan, drawing a map of each level of the home, showing all doors and windows; and
- WHEREAS,** Merced's residents should make sure everyone in the home knows how to call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone; and
- WHEREAS,** Merced's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take action to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and
- WHEREAS,** the 2019 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practice Your Escape!" 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 2019, as Fire Prevention Month throughout this community. I urge all the people of Merced to develop a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and practice it twice a year, and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of Merced fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Month 2019.

Signed this 21st day of October 2019.

Mike Murphy, Mayor of Merced