



PROCLAMATION



Fire Prevention Week October 8 – 14, 2023

WHEREAS, the City of DeKalb is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our city; 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 more than 2,800 people in the United States in 2021, according to the National Fire Protection Association® and fire departments in the United States responded to 338,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States and fire departments responded to more than 166,400 annually between 2016 and 2020; and

WHEREAS, two of every five home fires start in the kitchen with 31% of these fires resulting from unattended cooking; and

WHEREAS, more than half of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; and

WHEREAS, children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb's residents should turn pot handles toward the back of the stove; always keep a lid nearby when cooking; keep a three-foot kid-free zone around the stove, oven, and other things that could get hot; watch what they heat; and set a timer to remind them that they are cooking; and

WHEREAS, 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, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires almost in half; and

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

WHEREAS, DeKalb's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme "Cooking Safety Starts with You. Pay attention to Fire Prevention" effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

THEREFORE, I, Cohen Barnes, Mayor of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 8 – 14, 2023, as Fire Prevention Week throughout DeKalb, and urge all the people of DeKalb to check their kitchens for fire hazards and use safe cooking practices during Fire Prevention Week 2023, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of DeKalb's fire and emergency services.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the City of DeKalb, Illinois, this 9th day of October 2023.

Cohen Barnes
Mayor