

A Proclamation

Whereas, burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental death and injury in our Nation where tragically, children, the elderly, and the disabled are especially vulnerable to burn injuries, and almost one-third of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15; and

Whereas, in the United States, the CDC reports 276,086 people received medical care for treatment of unintentional burn injuries in 2020, with 3,028 deaths from fire and smoke inhalation. Of 87 hospitals reporting to the American Burn Association registry 91,875 people were treated in hospitals for burn-related injuries with 32% of those being for scalds; and

Whereas, compared to the overall population, children under five were 2.0 times as likely to be seen for burn injuries at a hospital emergency department. Young adults from 20 to 29 had 1.4 times the risk, and those in the 30-39 age group had 1.3 times the risk of the general population; and

Whereas, the primary causes of injury include fire-flame, scalds, contact with hot objects, and electrical and chemicals. Most of the injuries occur in the home. Today, 96.8% of those who suffer burn injuries will survive. Unfortunately, many of those survivors will sustain serious scarring, life-long physical disabilities, adjustment difficulties; and

Whereas, National Burn Awareness Week, an initiative of the American Burn Association, is a coming together of burn, fire, and life safety educators to make the public aware of the frequency, devastation, and causes of burn injury as well as consistent and authoritative measures to prevent these injuries and how to best care for those that are injured; and

Whereas, the theme for 2023 National Burn Awareness Week is “**Scalds: Hot Liquids Burn Like Fire,**” where a common risk of injury exists from hot liquids, steam, and hot bath water; and

Whereas, significant research and medical advances have dramatically improved burn care and treatment, aided rehabilitation, shortened hospital stays, and increased burn survival rates. Aftercare support for the physical and emotional effects of burns has also played a key role in the successful reintegration of burn survivors into our communities. Furthermore, burn safety education and prevention efforts continue to reduce the number of people who suffer burns each year; and

Whereas, many people devote their lives and careers to treating, caring for, supporting, and rehabilitating burn injury survivors, including those performing vital work in burn research and development. There are dedicated firefighters who risk their own lives every day to protect others, as well as burn foundations and other life safety professionals who promote burn injury awareness and prevention.

Now, Therefore, I, _____, do hereby proclaim the week of February 5th through February 11th, 2023, as National Burn Awareness Week. I call upon all government agencies, fire, life safety, and health care organizations, communications media, and the people of _____ to observe this week with the appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____ in the year 20____.

Signature: _____