



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the malicious act of intentionally setting fire to buildings and property, known as arson, is one of the Nation's most devastating crimes in terms of financial and personal loss, and it is also one of the largest, deadliest, and most expensive fire problems in the Empire State; and

Whereas, the entire community is affected when arson is committed, as these deliberate fires result in the loss of lives, untold physical and emotional suffering caused by painful injuries, and the destruction of property; society as a whole further bears the burden in higher insurance premiums, degraded communities, a diminished local government tax base and the unsurpassed terror that shadows this crime; and

Whereas, with the theme being "Vehicle Arson- A Combustible Crime", the goal for this year's Arson Awareness Week is to focus on the importance of a collaborative effort with fire and emergency service departments, law enforcement, insurance companies, and the justice system to help reduce the unscrupulous crime of vehicle arson; and

Whereas, in New York State we have developed as a working relationship with National Insurance Crime Bureau and New York Anti-Car Theft and Fraud Association via the creation of a Vehicle Arson Awareness Program, a means to make fire and police more aware of the factors used to identify the potential vehicle arson. This coupled with OFPC's Vehicle Fire Investigation course, becomes a solid platform to educate fire investigators to first identify, and then confirm by thorough investigation, the act of vehicle arson; and

Whereas, according to the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control, approximately 9,000 vehicle fires are reported by fire departments each year, with property losses approaching \$11 million; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported that over the last 10 years (2003-2012) there have been an average of 14,737 vehicle arsons reported, accounting for 26.5 percent of total arsons annually; and

Whereas, New York applauds all who work toward the goal of eliminating arson by increasing public awareness of this problem, conducting community-based fire safety and education classes, sponsoring training programs for fire and law enforcement personnel who specialize in the area of arson, and by sharing their expertise in conducting investigations of arson crimes; and

Whereas, New York supports local, state, and national efforts to curtail the incidence of vehicle arson and joins in this observance and important fire prevention campaign, honoring those who work in the fire prevention or fire and law enforcement investigation agencies, either in volunteer or career capacity, to mitigate the incidence of vehicle arson fires and we thank them for their daily efforts to protect and preserve our families and communities;

Now, Therefore, I, Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim May 4-10, 2014 as

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at
the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth day
of April in the year two thousand fourteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor