



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the malicious act of intentionally setting fire to buildings and property, known as arson, is a crime that devastates communities throughout our State, putting first responders and citizens in serious danger, and costing many New Yorkers their lives, their homes, and their property; the financial impact of arson on the statewide population amounts to tens of millions of dollars each year; and

Whereas, entire communities are affected when arson is committed, as these deliberate fires result in death, untold physical and emotional suffering caused by painful injuries, and the destruction of property; and

Whereas, society as a whole further bears the burden of arson through higher insurance premiums, degraded communities, a diminished local government tax base, and the fear that follows these crimes; and

Whereas, each year, the first full week of May is designated as National Arson Awareness Week by the U.S. Fire Administration to raise awareness of this serious public safety issue, and this year's theme, "Accelerant Detection Canines: Sniffing Out Arson," recognizes the invaluable role that specially trained dogs have in uncovering evidence of intentionally set fires, and the vital services they provide in keeping our people and communities safe; and

Whereas, New York joins in this year's observance of Arson Awareness Week and its theme, applauding the tireless efforts of the Office of Fire Prevention and Control investigators and its accelerant detection K-9s, as well as citizens from a variety of industries who work toward reducing instances of arson by increasing public awareness, conducting community-based fire safety and education classes, sponsoring training programs for fire and law enforcement personnel, and sharing their expertise in conducting investigations of arson crimes; and

Whereas, the prevention of community disasters and keeping our neighbors safe depends on each of us, and New Yorkers must be vigilant in stopping arson in their own communities by reporting suspicious or criminal activity, practicing fire safety and prevention, making authorities aware of abandoned cars and buildings, and partnering with law enforcement and community groups to begin watch programs; and

Whereas, New York thanks and honors those who work each day in volunteer or career capacities 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 3 - 9, 2015 as

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in the Empire State.



G i v e n under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this first day
of May in the year two thousand fifteen.

Governor

Walter J. Mahon
Secretary to the Governor