



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, and the destruction of property; society, as a whole, bears the burden in higher insurance premiums, degraded communities, a diminished local government tax base, and the unsettling sense of fear and threat that shadows this crime; and

Whereas, the theme for this year's Arson Awareness Week is "*Reducing Residential Arson*," which focuses on providing New Yorkers with strategies to combat arson in their homes and communities; the public can become actively engaged in Arson Awareness Week by implementing neighborhood cleanups along with improving internal and external security for their homes and abandoned properties; and

Whereas, between 2008 and 2010, an estimated 16,800 intentionally set fires within residential buildings occurred annually in the United States; these fires resulted in approximately 280 deaths, 775 injuries, and \$593 million in property loss each year; and

Whereas, according to FBI documented information, 14,717 law enforcement agencies reported 43,412 arsons, with those involving single occupancy and other residential structures accounting for 29.3 percent of the total number of arson offenses; and

Whereas, New York State 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 State supports this important fire prevention campaign through the Office of Fire Prevention and Control, and local, state, and national efforts to curtail the incidence of residential arson; New Yorkers everywhere are encouraged to join in achieving the goals of this observance, while honoring those who work in fire prevention, or fire and law enforcement investigation agencies – in either a volunteer or career capacity – and 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 5-11, 2013 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 thirteen.

Governor

Secretary to the Governor