



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
**PROCLAMATION**  
BY THE GOVERNOR

**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, 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 U.S., and 31% of kitchen fires result 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**, simple steps like ensuring pot handles face toward the back of the stove, keeping a lid nearby, maintaining a three-foot kid-free zone around hot appliances in the kitchen, and setting a timer when cooking can help lower the risk of kitchen fires; and

**WHEREAS**, Tennesseans can take steps to prepare for the event of a home fire, including planning and practicing a home fire escape plan and ensuring smoke alarms are working properly; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Bill Lee, Governor of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of October 8-14, 2023, as

*Fire Prevention Week*

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this twelfth day of September, 2023.

*Bill Lee*

Governor

*Lu Hargatt*

Secretary of State