



City of Winston-Salem

Proclamation

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- WHEREAS:** The City of Winston-Salem is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our city; and
- WHEREAS:** Fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at the greatest risk from fire; and
- WHEREAS:** Home fires caused more than 2,800 deaths in the United States in 2021 according to the National Fire Protection Association®, 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 United States; two of every five home fires start in the kitchen with 31% resulting from unattended cooking; and
- WHEREAS:** More than half of the reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves, and children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire; and
- WHEREAS:** City of Winston-Salem residents should turn pot handles toward the back of the stove; always keep a lid nearby when cooking; keep a three-foot kid-free zone around the stove, oven, and other things that could get hot; watch what they heat; and set a timer to remind them that they are cooking; and
- WHEREAS:** City of Winston-Salem first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and
- WHEREAS:** Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires almost in half; 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, J. ALLEN JOINES, Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2023 as

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

and I urge all residents to plan and practice a home fire escape plan twice per year.

Given under my hand and seal this 18th day of September, 2023.

J. ALLEN JOINES

Mayor