

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

WHEREAS: The State of Georgia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state. 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 2,500 people in the United States in 2006, according to the latest research from the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to nearly 400,000 home fires; and

WHEREAS: Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, while heating equipment and smoking are the leading causes of home fire deaths. Georgia first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS: Georgia residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes. Residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS: The 2008 Fire Prevention Week theme, *It's Fire Prevention Week: Prevent Home Fires!*, effectively serves to remind us all of the simple actions we can take to stay safer from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year-round; now

THEREFORE: I, SONNY PERDUE, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim October 5–11, 2008 as FIRE PREVENTION WEEK in Georgia and urge all citizens to better protect their homes by learning more about fire prevention and to participate in the many public safety education activities and efforts of Georgia's fire and emergency services.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 15th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.