



Proclamation

Fires in homes are one of the most common threats Americans face each year. Often, when a fire starts in a residence, occupants may have less than two minutes to escape.

While Hawai'i's brave firefighters are well-trained and equipped for these situations, residents can assist firefighting efforts through prevention and protection education. Because every second counts during a fire, families can help achieve the best possible outcome by practicing emergency evacuation plans. It is important for everyone to be familiar with escape routes, especially adults over the age of 55, who are often most at risk during a fire.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) research found that people who develop and practice exiting their homes are more likely to survive a fire. Yet a recent Red Cross poll shows that only 26 percent of Americans actually carry out such a task. We call upon our residents to take personal steps to increase their awareness of public education resources concerning fire safety. Installing fire alarms in the home and testing them every month in addition to creating and testing exit routes is vital. The NFPA actively encourages Hawai'i residents to practice escaping a crisis through the "Great American Fire Drill," where families choose a night to draw up and test ways to leave their home during a fire.

Each October, the NFPA observes Fire Prevention Week to promote fire safety education and to reduce the occurrence of fires in homes, thereby preventing the resulting property damage and loss of life. This year's theme, "It's Fire Prevention Week – Prevent Home Fires!" reminds us of the simple actions we can take to increase our safety.

THEREFORE, I, LINDA LINGLE, Governor, and I, JAMES R. "DUKE" AIONA, JR., Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim **October 5 – 11, 2008, as**

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

in Hawai'i, and encourage all of our citizens to evaluate the level of fire safety in their homes and to create and practice escape plans.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this second day of October 2008.

Linda Lingle
Governor, State of Hawai'i

James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr.
Lieutenant Governor, State of Hawai'i