



WHEREAS, Gaston County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our county; and,

WHEREAS, in 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to more than 1.3 million fires according to the National Fire Protection Association; and,

WHEREAS, of the nearly 500,000 structure fires occurring in 2017, they resulted in an estimated 3,400 civilian deaths, 15,000 civilian injuries, and over \$23 billion of property loss; and,

WHEREAS, this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere," works to educate people about three basic steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire — and how to escape safely in the event of one:

**"LOOK"** for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

**"LISTEN"** for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

**"LEARN"** two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims October 7-13, 2018, as

## **FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

throughout this community. We urge all citizens to "Look. Listen. Learn." and to participate in the many public safety activities and efforts of Gaston County's fire and emergency services during Fire Prevention Week 2018.

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Chad Brown, Chairman

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Jack B. Brown

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Tom Keigher, Vice-Chairman

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Allen R. Fraley

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Tracy L. Philbeck

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Bob Hovis

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Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted the 23<sup>rd</sup> Day of October 2018



# Gaston County

Gaston County  
Board of Commissioners  
www.gastongov.com

## Fire Marshal Board Action

File #: 18-330

Commissioner Chad Brown - Fire Marshal - Proclamation - To Proclaim the Week of October 7-13, 2018 as Fire Prevention Week and Adopt the Theme: Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.

### STAFF CONTACT

Eric Hendrix - Fire Marshal - 704 866-3231

### BACKGROUND

National Fire Prevention Week is observed across the United States each year during the first full week (Sunday thru Saturday) that contains the date of October 9th. It commemorates the Great Chicago Fire, a horrific conflagration that burned from Sunday, October 8, to early Tuesday, October 10, 1871. The fire killed more than 250 people, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2000 acres of land in Chicago. In the United States, the first Presidential proclamation of Fire Prevention Week was made in 1925 by President Calvin Coolidge. The non-profit NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), which has officially sponsored Fire Prevention Week since its inception, selects the annual theme for Fire Prevention Week. On the 40th anniversary (1911) of the Great Chicago Fire, the Fire Marshals Association of North America; the oldest membership section of the NFPA, sponsored the first National Fire Prevention Day, deciding to observe the anniversary as a way to keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention. This year's FPW campaign, "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere," works to educate people about three basic but essential steps to take to reduce the likelihood of having a fire--and how to escape safely in the event of one:

"LOOK" for places fire could start. Take a good look around your home. Identify potential fire hazards and take care of them.

"LISTEN" for the sound of the smoke alarm. You could have only minutes to escape safely once the smoke alarm sounds. Go to your outside meeting place, which should be a safe distance from the home and where everyone should know to meet.

"LEARN" two ways out of every room and make sure all doors and windows leading outside open easily and are free of clutter.

### ATTACHMENTS

Proclamation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	JBrown	AFrale	BHovis	TKelgher	TPhillback	RWolney	Vote
2018-249	10/23/2018	TK	CB	A	A	AB	A	A	A	A	U

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A=AYE, N=NAY, AB=ABSENT, ABS=ABSTAIN, U=UNANIMOUS