

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

A Proclamation of Fire Prevention Week

With losses from preventable fires this year threatening to reach the greatest toll of lives and the greatest waste of material resources this nation has ever experienced, the American people are called upon to fight another war - a home-front war against fire.

Fire is a silent partner of inflation. These past two years have been a period of widespread material shortages and worldwide demand for food. Fire destroyed property valued at \$484,000,000 in the United States in 1945, whereas it is estimated the total loss for the current year will be at least one-fifth higher.

Last year farm fires caused the loss of 4,000 lives, and 7,000 farm people were injured. Every fifteen minutes there is a farm fire in America. Every day ten persons die as a result of farm fires. Farm fires put many a food production plant out of business. This is a matter of vital concern, especially to the people of Minnesota.

In this state also, our splendid forest areas require a special vigilance to prevent forest fires, which in the past have taken a heavy toll of priceless natural resources.

The tragic aspect of the record is that nine out of ten fires can be prevented by following simple rules of precaution. This places a responsibility on every individual to help prevent fires.

Therefore, in proclaiming the week of October 6 to 12, 1946 as Fire Prevention Week in Minnesota, I ask every citizen to do his part to detect and eliminate all possible causes of fires in his home and in his business, to protect both lives and property, to safeguard essential materials in view of the shortage of houses, and to prevent the destruction of food sorely needed in the world today. I request state and local governmental agencies, the schools, the press and radio, civic groups and agencies, and private enterprises to co-operate in the observance of Fire Prevention Week that we may develop care and awareness in meeting the menace of preventable fires.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol in St. Paul this first day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred forty-six and of the State, the eighty-ninth.

Edward Tamm
GOVERNOR

Attest:

Walter H. H. H.
SECRETARY OF STATE

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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Walter H. H. H.
Secretary of State