



Proclamation

WHEREAS: Incendiary fires in the state of Minnesota caused nearly \$2.7 million in property damage in approximately 850 fires during 1985; and

WHEREAS: A large percentage of property insurance premiums is used to cover the losses from arson, and tax dollars must be used to pay for extinguishing and investigating these malicious acts, which is a senseless waste of our precious resources when the public citizens must directly bear the burden for an individual's criminal actions; and

WHEREAS: Incendiary fires present a distinct threat to the life and safety of Minnesota's citizens; and

WHEREAS: Incendiary fires have resulted in the death of three Minnesota citizens in the first month of 1986; and

WHEREAS: These arson statistics do not reflect the indirect losses, both emotional and financial, including funerals, medical and legal costs, lost wages, business interruption losses, firefighting and law enforcement efforts that together exceed the direct losses manyfold; and

WHEREAS: Incendiary fires cause extensive damage each year to Minnesota's forest and grasslands; and

WHEREAS: Incendiary fires are often set for economic gain of white collar criminals; and

WHEREAS: Incendiary fires are often set as a cry for help from emotionally disturbed, battered and abused men, women and children; and

WHEREAS: Incendiary fires continue to cause property destruction, financial hardships, injury and death to Minnesotans;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rudy Perpich, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the second week of May to be

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
FILED

APR 24 1986

Jean Anderson Howe
Secretary of State

in Minnesota.

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 this twenty-first day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six, and of the State the one hundred twenty-seventh.

Rudy Perpich
GOVERNOR

Jean Anderson Howe

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