STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Proclamation

WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all people in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally. In 2012, residential fires accounted for 76 percent of all structure fires and 72 percent of structure fire deaths in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS: Cooking is the leading cause of fires in Minnesota, accounting for approximately 40 percent of all home structure fires, while unattended cooking was a factor in nearly one-third of reported cooking fires; and

WHEREAS: To prevent kitchen fires, stovetop cooking should never be left unattended and all flammable materials should be removed from the cooking area. And since most children injured in the kitchen are burned by hot surfaces and spills, children should be kept at least three feet from the stovetop; and

WHEREAS: Education and basic precautions will dramatically reduce the occurrence of kitchen and home structure fires, related property damage, and personal injury; and

WHEREAS: Residents who plan and practice a home fire escape strategy are more prepared and, therefore, more likely to survive a fire. Precautions, including working smoke alarms, cut the risk of dying in home fires in half; and

WHEREAS: Fire service personnel across Minnesota are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries, through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS: The 2013 Fire Prevention Month theme, Prevent Kitchen Fires!, serves to remind Minnesotans to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires during Fire Prevention Month and year-round.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2013, as:

FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

in the State of 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 25th day of September.

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY OF STATE