

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the City of Ocala, Florida is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Ocala; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, Ocala Fire Rescue Department responded to 4,740 fire calls in 2016 and, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. home fires resulted in 2,560 civilian deaths the year prior; representing the majority (78 percent) of all U.S. fire deaths; and

WHEREAS, newer homes, built with lightweight and synthetic materials, burn faster than older homes, producing increasingly toxic gases and smoke which make it impossible to see and breathe within moments; and

WHEREAS, low visibility and limited oxygen supply decrease the amount of time a family has to escape a home fire, to as little as one to two minutes after being alerted by a smoke alarm; and

WHEREAS, a home fire escape plan includes two exits from every room in the home; a path to the outside from each exit; smoke alarms in all required locations; and a meeting place where all occupants will gather upon exiting; and

WHEREAS, Ocala's firefighters are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through preparedness and prevention education and Ocala's residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" effectively serves to educate the public about the vital importance of developing a home fire escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it twice a year;


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kent Guinn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Ocala, Florida, do hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2017, as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

I urge all the people of Ocala to develop a home fire escape plan with all members of the household, to practice it twice a year, and to participate in the many public education and safety programs offered by Ocala Fire Rescue Department not only during Fire Prevention Week 2017, but all year round.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Ocala, Florida, to be affixed this 3rd day of October, 2017.




Kent Guinn, Mayor
City of Ocala