



# Proclamation #14-94

## FIRE PREVENTION MONTH OCTOBER 2014

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Surfside Beach is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state; fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

**WHEREAS**, home fires killed more than 2,500 people in the United States in 2011, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and fire departments in the United States responded to 370,000 home fires; and cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States where fire departments responded to more than 156,000 annually between 2007 and 2011; two of every five home fires start in the kitchen; and unattended equipment was a factor in one-third of the reported cooking fires; and

**WHEREAS**, 57-percent of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves; children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire; the Town of Surfside Beach residents should stay in the kitchen when frying food on the stovetop, keep a three-foot kid-free zone around cooking areas and keep anything that can catch fire away from stove tops; and

**WHEREAS**, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; the Town of Surfside Beach first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and the Town of Surfside Beach residents are responsive to public education measures and are able to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes;

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires!" effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

**THEREFORE**, I, Douglas F. Samples, Mayor of the Town of Surfside Beach, do hereby proclaim October 6-12, 2014, as Fire Prevention Week throughout the town, and I urge all the people of the town to check their kitchens for fire hazards and using safe cooking practices throughout the year, and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the Surfside Beach Fire Department .

**BE IT SO PROCLAIMED** this 23rd day of September 2014.

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The Hon. Douglas F. Samples  
Mayor, Town of Surfside Beach

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra E. Herrmann, CMC, Town Clerk