



Agenda Memorandum

Agenda Item – {{section.number}}.B.

City Council Meeting
October 14, 2024



Strategic Priority 3: Community Health and Safety

Invest in innovative and collaborative approaches to provide a continuum of services that preserve, promote, and protect the health, safety, and environment of Westminster.

Subject: Proclamation for Fire Prevention Month

Prepared By: Emily Peek, Public Information Specialist
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Recommended City Council Action:

Mayor Pro Tem Nurmela to present a proclamation designating October as Fire Prevention Month.

Summary Statement:

- Annually, the President of the United States proclaims a week in October as Fire Prevention Week. This designation always occurs during the week that includes October 9, the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Fire Prevention Week is the longest-running public health observance in the United States.
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) designates the theme for National Fire Prevention Week every year. The NFPA theme for 2024 is "Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!"
- In order to enhance a fire safe community, the City of Westminster extends the celebration of Fire Prevention Week for the entire month of October. The Westminster Fire Department promotes the campaign with fire safety outreach at several community events with residents and businesses regarding public safety. A fire station open house was held prior to Fire Prevention Month at the end of September.

- Throughout the month, several thousand community members are expected to take advantage of these special programs. Westminster residents will be encouraged to participate in the NFPA Fire Prevention theme.
- Members of the Fire Department will be present to accept the Proclamation.

Fiscal Impact:

\$0 in expenditures

Source of Funds:

Not Applicable

Policy Issue(s):

Does City Council wish to use the theme “Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!” and designate the month of October as Fire Prevention Month?

Alternative(s):

City Council could choose not to proclaim October 2024 as Fire Prevention Month for the City of Westminster nor designate the national theme as proposed. Staff does not recommend this alternative as proclaiming the entire month as Fire Prevention Month allows for greater emphasis on the importance of fire prevention and planning and is consistent with previous practice for the City. Additionally, tying into the national theme provides greater visibility and continuity in educating the public.

Background Information:

Fire service professionals throughout the United States will celebrate Fire Prevention Week October 6 through October 12, 2024. Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which was the tragic October 9, 1871, conflagration that killed more than 250 people.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation. Since 1922, Fire Prevention week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls.

During Fire Prevention Month, the Westminster Fire Department will promote the theme “Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work For You!” throughout the community. This theme focuses on ensuring public awareness of fire in any location by integrating fire safety behaviors into daily activities.

Residents and businesses can each do more by doing the following:

- Maintaining working smoke alarms in homes by checking the batteries once a month and changing the batteries twice per year when clocks are changed to accommodate daylight savings time - “spring forward and fall back” - or when the alarm chirps.
- Making a home escape plan with two ways out from each room and practicing it twice a year with family members.

- Staying in the kitchen when frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- Using barbeques and smokers appropriately, away from houses, buildings, and combustible materials.
- Making sure heating systems are cleaned once a year.
- Never leaving burning candles unattended.
- Making sure to have a carbon monoxide alarm near each sleeping area.

The Westminster Fire Department wants to bring a sense of safety and empowerment to the community and the best way to start is to have people ask themselves a simple question: What can I do to prevent fires?

Although this proclamation highlights Fire Prevention Month, the Westminster Fire Department provides year-round fire safety programming. Many preventable fires have taken place in 2024, and safety education is paramount to helping ensure residents are safe. Safety events take place throughout the year in schools, businesses, and at City events.

During Fire Prevention Month, safety information is shared with the community through the following:

- Hosting smoke detector and fire safety educational booths at City recreational centers;
- Participating in Lowes and Home Depot public education events;
- Providing fire extinguisher training classes;
- Participating in the Fire Station #4 Open House on September 28;
- Hosting a safety booth and fire sprinkler demonstration at Westy Fest on October 19; and
- Conducting preschool fire safety talks.

This proclamation, along with the public education efforts of the Westminster Fire Department, supports the City's Strategic Priority of Community Health and Safety. By utilizing innovative and collaborative approaches, the Fire Department engages the community through education and outreach, providing essential resources to promote and protect the health, safety, and well-being of Westminster residents. These efforts emphasize both prevention and enforcement, and include programs and opportunities to raise awareness about fire safety to help ensure a safer and more resilient community.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Andrews

Jody L. Andrews
City Manager

Attachments:

Fire Prevention Month Proclamation 2024