

2018 National Arson Awareness Week Proclamation

WHEREAS, The theme for the 2018 Arson Awareness Week: Reducing Arson at Vacant and Abandoned Buildings; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Fire Administration, intentional actions were the leading cause of vacant residential building fires at 34 percent; and

WHEREAS, According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, there have been an average of 550 reported incendiary/arson fires per year at properties reported as abandoned, vacant-secured and vacant-unsecured, uninhabited, idle, not routinely used, and being demolished; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Fire Protection Association reports, fires in vacant buildings are more likely to have been intentionally set and spread beyond the building than fires in other structures. They also cause a disproportionate share of firefighter injuries; and

WHEREAS, We will use the week of May 6 to 12 to focus on the importance of a cooperative effort with fire and emergency services departments, law enforcement, public works, insurance companies and the justice system to help prevent the horrendous crime of arson at vacant and abandoned buildings; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., Board of Directors meeting in Executive Session on Nov. 1, 1985, in Atlanta, Georgia, hereby proclaim the week, beginning on May 4, 1986, as National Arson Awareness Week, and the first full week of May shall be so designated each year thereafter.