

The Council Chambers
City Hall
Portsmouth, New Hampshire
A Proclamation

Whereas: Portsmouth suffered major fires in 1802, 1806 and 1813 that together destroyed 500 buildings and transformed the downtown streetscape from wood to brick while establishing a proud legacy of firefighting among the men and women of today's Portsmouth Fire Department; and

Whereas: As demonstrated as recently as the State Street Saloon fire of 2017, the threat of catastrophic fire in Portsmouth remains very real; and

Whereas: The National Fire Protection Association was founded in 1896 for fire protection education and to create what today are known as Life Safety Codes that mandate fire safety construction techniques, sprinklers and smoke detectors; and

Whereas: Sadly, despite ongoing fire prevention and fire safety efforts and education, in 2021 home fires killed more than 2,800 people in the United States and fire departments in the United States responded to 338,000 home fires; and

Whereas: Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States, with fire departments responding to more than 166,000 each year, where two of every five home fires started in the kitchen and a third of those fires resulting from unattended cooking; and

Whereas: Last year we issued a Mayor's Award to two young residents in recognition of their bravery and quick thinking when they confronted a fire emergency at their home. We said, "By remaining calm, knowing the right steps to take to keep the fire from spreading, and calling 911, you were a model fire prevention citizen and are an example to the community."; and

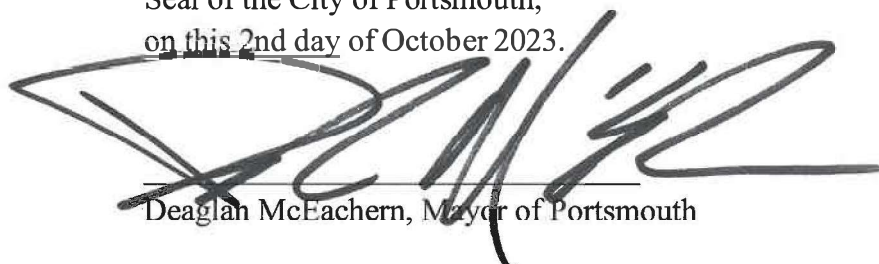
Whereas: The 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention," to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council, the Portsmouth Fire Department and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim October 8-14, 2023

Fire Prevention Week in Portsmouth

And call upon our community to observe this month by thanking our Portsmouth Fire Department for their selfless dedication to fire safety, prevention, education and emergency response.

Given with my hand and the
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,
on this 2nd day of October 2023.



Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth

