

Proclamation

by Governor Patrick Morrisey

- Whereas,** the State of West Virginia is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting the State; and
- Whereas,** fire remains a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and the presence of lithium-ion batteries in many household devices introduces fire risks; and
- Whereas,** most of the rechargeable electronics used in homes daily, including smartphones, tablets, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, e-scooters, and toys, are powered by lithium-ion batteries, which if misused, damaged, or improperly charged, can overheat, start a fire, or explode; and
- Whereas,** the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) reports an increase in battery-related fires, underscoring the need for public education on the safe use of lithium-ion batteries and devices; and
- Whereas,** the way lithium-ion battery devices are charged can make a difference in helping prevent home fires; and
- Whereas,** safe charging includes using the cord and charger that came with the device or one approved by the manufacturer, charging on a hard, flat surface, watching for warning signs like devices that are very hot or start to swell, unplugging when fully charged, and charging larger devices like e-bikes outside and away from exits; and
- Whereas,** residents are encouraged to understand that safe charging means making smart choices every time they plug in; and
- Whereas,** West Virginia first responders remain dedicated to reducing the occurrence of fires through prevention, safety education, and community outreach; and
- Whereas,** the 2026 Fire Prevention Week™ theme, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Safe Charging is a Superpower,” serves to remind all residents that safe charging can help reduce the risk of fires in homes and communities.

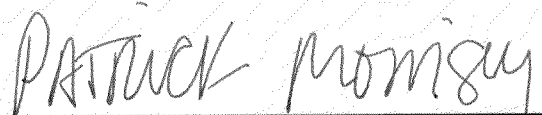
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Patrick Morrisey, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *October 4-10, 2026*, as:

Fire Prevention Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in observance.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-Second Day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Six, and in the One Hundred Sixty-Fourth Year of the State.



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

By the Governor:



Kris Warner
Secretary of State