

**The Council Chambers  
City Hall  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

**A Proclamation**

- Whereas:** The City of Portsmouth which has experienced many devastating fires in its history and is vigilant in ensuring the safety and security of all our residents and visitors; and
- Whereas:** Fire remains a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally with home fires causing more than 2,700 US deaths in 2022, and fire departments responding to 360,000 home fires; and
- Whereas:** We know working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in home fires almost in half, yet three out of five fire deaths happen in homes without working smoke alarms; and
- Whereas:** Best practice recommends that Portsmouth residents should install smoke alarms inside and outside every sleeping room and on every level of the home because they sense smoke well before you do and can provide essential minutes for your family to escape to safety; and
- Whereas:** Portsmouth residents should test their smoke alarms at least once a month and make sure they are placed to meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities; and
- Whereas:** Research shows that those who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more likely to respond quickly, calmly and efficiently and therefore survive a fire; and
- Whereas:** The Portsmouth Fire Department is dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through fire prevention and protection education, so Portsmouth residents understand how to take personal steps to increase their safety from fire, especially in their homes; and
- Whereas:** The 2024 Fire Prevention Week theme, “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you.” reminds us all of the importance of having working smoke alarms in our homes.

Now, therefore, I, Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, on behalf of the members of the City Council and the citizens of Portsmouth, do hereby proclaim October 6 through 12, 2024 as

***Fire Prevention Week in Portsmouth***

and urge the entire Portsmouth community to ensure they have working smoke alarms in their homes and businesses and to support the many public safety activities and efforts of the Portsmouth Fire Department.



Given with my hand and the  
Seal of the City of Portsmouth,  
on this 7th day of October 2024.

Deaglan McEachern, Mayor of Portsmouth