



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### BURN AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS:** Burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental death and injury in our nation, with children, the elderly, and the disabled especially vulnerable to burn injuries; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the CDC, 276,086 people received medical care for treatment of unintentional burn injuries in 2020, with 3,028 deaths from fire and smoke inhalation. Of 87 hospitals reporting to the American Burn Association registry, 91,875 people were treated in hospitals for burn-related injuries with 32% of those being for scalds; and
- WHEREAS:** Compared to the overall population, children under five were twice as likely to be seen for burn injuries at a hospital emergency department. Young adults from 20 to 29 had 1.4 times the risk, and those in the 30-39 age group had 1.3 times the risk of the general population; and
- WHEREAS:** The primary causes of injury include fire-flame, scalds, contact with hot objects, electrical, and chemicals. Most of the injuries occur in the home. Today, 96.8% of those who suffer burn injuries will survive. Unfortunately, many of those survivors will sustain serious scarring, life-long physical disabilities, adjustment difficulties; and
- WHEREAS:** National Burn Awareness Week, an initiative of the American Burn Association, is a coming together of burn, fire, and life safety educators to make the public aware of the frequency, devastation, and causes of burn injury as well as consistent and authoritative measures to prevent these injuries and how to best care for those that are injured. The theme for 2024 National Burn Awareness Week is Flammable Liquids, where a common risk of injury exists from flammable liquids; and
- WHEREAS:** Significant research and medical advances have dramatically improved burn care and treatment, aided rehabilitation, shortened hospital stays, and increased burn survival rates. Aftercare support for the physical and emotional effects of burns has also played a key role in the successful reintegration of burn survivors into our communities. Furthermore, burn safety education and prevention efforts continue to reduce the number of people who suffer burns each year; and
- WHEREAS:** Many people devote their lives and careers to treating, caring for, supporting, and rehabilitating burn injury survivors, including those performing vital work in burn research and development. Many people devote their lives and careers to treating, caring for, supporting, and rehabilitating burn injury survivors, including those performing vital work in burn research and development. There are dedicated firefighters who risk their own lives every day to protect others, as well as burn foundations and other life safety professionals who promote burn injury awareness and prevention; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 4-10, 2024, as BURN AWARENESS WEEK in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four.



*B. Kemp*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Lauren M. Curry*

CHIEF OF STAFF