

STATE OF KANSAS



PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our state; and

WHEREAS, wildland fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Kansas fire departments responded to 4,125 vegetation-related fires that resulted in 16 reported injuries, and 145,418 acres burned and damage burning 35 buildings; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, these fires required mutual aid in 880 instances; and

WHEREAS, eighty-four percent of the firefighters in Kansas volunteer their time and energy to suppress wildland fire; and

WHEREAS, we the Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council, including the National Weather Service Office, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Kansas Forest Service, encourage all residents to follow the guidelines for outside burning as described in Kansas Administrative Regulation 28-19-645 thru 649; and

WHEREAS, the majority of wildland fires will result from human activities; and

WHEREAS, preparation is crucial in preventing the loss of life and property from wildfires, and every Kansas citizen shares this responsibility; and

WHEREAS, protection measures such as defensible space around homes and communities, use of fire resistant building materials and adequate road access can help protect homes and communities; the public should exercise safe, responsible behavior when conducting outdoor burning, refrain from dangerous and unlawful use of fireworks and report all suspicious fire and smoke; and

WHEREAS, Kansas first responders and the Kansas Interagency Wildfire Council, including the National Weather Service Office, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Kansas Forest Service, are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of wildland fires, injuries, and property loss as a result of wildland fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Laura Kelly, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim February 15th - 19th, 2021 as

Wildfire Awareness Week

in Kansas and I urge all citizens to join in this observation.

DONE: At the Capitol in Topeka under the Great Seal of the State this 15th day of February, A.D. 2021



BY THE GOVERNOR:

Laura Kelly

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State