

State of South Carolina

Governor's Proclamation

- WHEREAS, a fire department in the United States responds to a fire somewhere in the nation every 23 seconds and, in South Carolina, every 27 minutes; and
- WHEREAS, in 2020, fires nationally were responsible for 3,500 civilian deaths, 74 percent of which occurred in the home, and 15,200 civilian injuries, with 76 percent related to fires in the home, as well as an estimated \$21.9 billion in property damage; and
- WHEREAS, in South Carolina, fires were responsible for 99 civilian deaths, 83 percent of which occurred in the home, and 177 civilian injuries, all of which were related to home fires, as well as an estimated \$130.7 million in property damage; and
- WHEREAS, wildland/urban interface (WUI) related fires remain a concern nationwide with multibillion dollar losses in 2020, including an estimated \$331,000 property loss in wildfires in our state; and
- WHEREAS, the fire service responds to a growing number of medical calls for service, surpassing 80 percent of total call volume in some jurisdictions; and
- WHEREAS, Community Risk Reduction is a data-informed process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact; and
- WHEREAS, the value of community support from local, state, and national partners to address community risks is recognized to meet the demands on paid, combination, and volunteer members of the fire service; and
- WHEREAS, the goal of Community Risk Reduction is to reduce the occurrence and impact of emergency events for both community members and emergency responders through deliberate action in the areas of the five E's of Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency response, and Economic incentive; and
- WHEREAS, most fire-related and many medical calls for service are preventable with the five E's performed as part of an integrated Community Risk Reduction program; and
- WHEREAS, Monday, January 17, 2022, is Martin Luther King Day and is recognized as a National Day of Service and an opportunity for communities to reduce their risk through a series of educational and other programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Henry McMaster, Governor of the great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim January 17-23, 2022, as

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION WEEK

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to learn more about this grassroots initiative of fire service professionals across the nation to raise awareness of the importance of Community Risk Reduction in the fire service community and the opportunity to make our communities safer.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henry McMaster".

HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA