



# Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** 10/8/2013

**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Debbie Ties/854-6472

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Hershel Lee, Fire Marshal

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

**AGENDA LANGUAGE: CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON A PROCLAMATION DECLARING OCTOBER 6-12, 2013 AS "FIRE PREVENTION WEEK" IN TRAVIS COUNTY.**

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

October 6-12, 2013 is Fire Prevention Week. Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire from 1871. That fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and

# TRAVIS COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE

HERSHEL LEE, FIRE MARSHAL  
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(512) 854-4621, FAX (512) 854-6471



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Travis County Commissioners Court  
**From:** Hershel Lee, Travis County Fire Marshal  
**Date:** October 1, 2013  
**Subject:** Fire Prevention Week

October 6-12, 2013 is Fire Prevention Week. Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire from 1871. That fire killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,400 structures.

The focus of Fire Prevention Week in 2013 is "Prevent Kitchen Fires."

- In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 370,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 13,910 civilian injuries, 2,520 civilian deaths, \$6.9 billion in direct damage.
- On average, seven people die in U.S. home fires per day.
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment. Smoking is a leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.
- Two of every five home fires start in the kitchen.
- Unattended cooking was a factor in 34% of reported home cooking fires.
- Two-thirds of home cooking fires started with ignition of food or other cooking materials.

Travis County Fire Officials want to remind everyone of the dangers associated with unattended cooking which can result in a kitchen fire.

We want everyone to remember to **STAND BY YOUR PAN!**

# Travis County Commissioners Court



# Proclamation

WHEREAS, Travis County is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting our county; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States where fire departments responded to more than 156,000 annually between 2007 and 2011; and

WHEREAS, unattended equipment was a factor in one-third of the reported cooking fires; and

WHEREAS, residents should stay in the kitchen when frying food on the stovetop, keep a three-foot kid-free zone around cooking areas and keep anything that can catch fire away from stove tops; and

WHEREAS, residents who have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire; and

WHEREAS, working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in reported home fires in half; and

WHEREAS, first responders are dedicated to reducing the occurrence of home fires and home fire injuries through prevention and protection education; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Prevent Kitchen Fires!" effectively serves to remind us to stay alert and use caution when cooking to reduce the risk of kitchen fires.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT WE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, PROCLAIM OCTOBER 6 THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2013 AS "FIRE PREVENTION WEEK" IN TRAVIS COUNTY; AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS OF TRAVIS COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AT HOME, WORK AND SCHOOL.**

SIGNED AND ENTERED ON THE 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2013.

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SAMUEL T. BISCOE  
Travis County Judge

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RON DAVIS  
Commissioner, Pct. 1

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BRUCE TODD  
Commissioner, Pct. 2

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GERRARD BAUGHERTY

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MARGARET COMER