



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

WHEREAS: In the United States, between 2005 and 2009, fires started by juveniles accounted for an average of 56,300 fires with associated losses of 110 civilian deaths, 880 civilian injuries, and \$286 million in direct property damage annually; and

WHEREAS: Lighters were the heat source in half of the residential fires started by children, and a child's bedroom continues to be the location of origin in 40 percent of home fires started by children; and

WHEREAS: In 2010, 40 percent of arson arrests nationwide were juveniles, and nearly half of those children were under 16 years of age; and

WHEREAS: Arrests of juveniles for the crime of arson are higher, proportionally, than for any other crime; and

WHEREAS: Parents and others should teach young children that fire is a tool and not a toy; keep matches and lighters out of reach; and set a good example by safely using matches, lighters, and fire; and

WHEREAS: The theme for Arson Awareness Week 2012 is "Prevent Youth Firesetting," and the week of May 6-10 is a time to focus public attention on the importance of collaboration among families and teachers, energy services, law enforcement, social services, mental health professionals, and the juvenile justice system to reduce the occurrence of juveniles engaged with fire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim the week of May 6-10 as:

## ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Minnesota.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May.

Handwritten signature of Mark Dayton in black ink.

GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Mark Ritchie in blue ink.

SECRETARY OF STATE