

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

It has been 133 years since the great Chicago Fire destroyed nearly 20,000 structures, took lives and left 100,000 homeless. It has become a tradition for the American public to join the fire service community in memorializing this tragedy each year by observing Fire Prevention Week. Members of the fire service, parents, teachers, and young people become involved each year in an effort to remind everyone of the steps that can be taken to protect life and property from the dangers of fire.

Since 1984, fourth and fifth graders in Connecticut's schools have carried the fire prevention message, "Fire Prevention...Everyone, Everyday," into their schools and homes to emphasize the importance of fire safety. It is the slogan imprinted on every poster entered in the annual fire prevention poster contest in elementary schools throughout the state and has become familiar to thousands of students and their families.

In Connecticut, it is traditional for the winning posters in the annual Fire Prevention Poster Contest for the state's fourth and fifth graders to be exhibited at the State Capitol during the month of October.

Effective fire safety depends on teamwork. The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Test Your Smoke Alarms!" It is a simple idea: team up with the people with whom you live, work, play and worship so that all of you will be better prepared to prevent, and if necessary, survive a home fire. Having and practicing a home escape plan, recognizing fire hazards and insuring that working smoke detectors are installed in our homes and work places are essential factors in any safety plan.

Therefore, I, M. JODI RELLE, Governor of the State of Connecticut, in recognition of the importance of this safety message from our school children to the people of this state, do hereby proclaim October 3-9, 2004, as

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
in the State of Connecticut.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor