

State of



Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

*W*HEREAS, arson for profit is a criminal method of obtaining money from a fire loss policy and the losses for arson are staggering; and

*W*HEREAS, arson for profit, or economic arson, is when businesses or individuals set fires to reduce financial loss, recoup initial investments, or dispose of depreciated assets, usually for a payout from insurance companies; and

*W*HEREAS, in 2005, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated that there were 323,900 intentional fires which resulted in 490 civilian fire deaths, 3 firefighter on duty deaths, 1,500 civilian fire injuries, 7,600 firefighter on duty injuries, and \$1.102 billion in direct property damage; and

*W*HEREAS, the Insurance Information Institute reports that arsonists destroyed nearly \$900 million in insured property and killed 295 civilians nationwide in 2007; and

*W*HEREAS, Connecticut has reported that in the years 2006 and 2007, 10% of all fires were intentionally set which resulted in two fatalities, 20 civilian injuries, 15 firefighter injuries, and over \$11,000,000 in property damage; and

*W*HEREAS, public awareness is one of the specific responsibilities of the United States Fire Administration (USFA); now

*T*HEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby designate May 3 – 9, 2009, as

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in the State of Connecticut and join the Office of the State Fire Marshall in paying special tribute to all fire and law enforcement and investigative agencies for their dedicated and tireless service.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor