

Proclamation

of

Arson Awareness Week

- WHEREAS, the US Fire Administration reports that there are an estimated 210,300 intentionally set fires each year resulting in approximately 375 deaths and 1,300 injuries across the United States; and
- WHEREAS, in Buncombe County in 2010 there were 25 set fires that resulted in losses in excess of \$1 million; and
- WHEREAS, public awareness is a great deterrent to arson bringing attention to the seriousness of the crime and its effects on a community; and
- WHEREAS, local arson investigation by fire professionals in Buncombe County and the City of Asheville has resulted in 8 arrests in 2010; and
- WHEREAS, arson can devastate a community and cause the decline of a neighbourhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue, and a decrease in property values; and
- WHEREAS, citizens can reduce the likelihood of arson by reporting unusual activities along with implementing improved internal and external security for homes and businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Buncombe as follows:

1. That the week of May 1 – 7, 2011 be proclaimed:

ARSON AWARENESS WEEK

in Buncombe County.

2. That this Board does hereby commend local fire professionals and law enforcement for their work to investigate the crime of arson and to educate the public on the effects and prevention of this crime.
3. That this Board requests all citizens to report any suspicious activity to a law enforcement professional and to become acquainted with the signs and seriousness of arson.

This the 3rd day of May, 2011.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE
COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

DAVID GANTT, CHAIRMAN