

# Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## A Proclamation

His Excellency Governor Deval L. Patrick

**Whereas** Sixty-seven percent of the land mass that lies within the boundaries that is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is woodland; and

**Whereas** Historically, the month of April causes great concern for the prevention of wildfires in part due to: the highest average occurrence and acreage loss to wildfires, an increase in recreational activity in forested areas during the third week of April's spring school vacation, an increase in fire weather factors such as drying winds as normal protective moisture content in natural fuels and the soil is used by spring vegetative growth needs and a higher number of open burn permits going out of control as homeowners' near the legal season end of disposal of forestry debris; and

**Whereas** Massachusetts can expect an average occurrence of more than thirty-five hundred wildfires per year, of which more than ninety percent are caused by people ~ all which have the potential to destroy valuable natural resources, property and may threaten human life; and

**Whereas** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts can expect an average of more than 3,500 wildfires per year, which all have the potential to destroy valuable resources, property, and threaten human life; and

**Whereas** Through public awareness, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to educate the public on the prevention and hazards of wildfires; and

**Now, Therefore, I, Deval L. Patrick,** Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim April 14 – April 20, 2013, to be,

## WILDFIRE AWARENESS WEEK

And urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this ninth day of April, in the year two thousand and thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

By His Excellency

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH

WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN  
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

God Save the Commonwealth of Massachusetts