



**2010-9**

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS  
NATIONAL ARSON AWARENESS WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc., Board of Directors meeting in Executive Session on November 1, 1985, in Atlanta, Georgia, proclaimed the week, beginning on May 4, 1986, as National Arson Awareness Week, and the first full week of May shall be so designated each year thereafter ;

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 (most recent year for statistics), 316,600 intentionally-set fires occurred, injuring 7,825 firefighters and civilians;

**WHEREAS**, arson has one of the lowest clearance rates of any major crime; the national rate for arson in 2007 according to the FBI was 18%; and an estimated 5%-7% of arson offenses resulted in convictions;

**WHEREAS**, the price that America pays for arson is extreme, as in 2006, 10 firefighters died as a result of arson; and in addition to needless injury and death, an estimated \$1.1 billion in direct property loss occurs annually;

**WHEREAS**, public awareness is one of the specific roles of the National Sheriffs' Associations Neighborhood Watch Program;

**WHEREAS**, a community Arson Watch component in their Neighborhood Watch can put the neighbor back into neighborhood by creating a sense of cooperation as it brings the fire service, law enforcement, and the citizens together to reduce the crime of arson;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that National Sheriffs' Association supports and hereby joins the International Association of Arson Investigators, Inc. and the U.S. Fire Administration in proclaiming the first full week of May as National Arson Awareness Week, and encouraging citizens to start Neighborhood Watch groups with arson watch as a component.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Anaheim, CA on June 29, 2010.