

A PROCLAMATION

2026 National Burn Awareness Week is

“Burn Prevention Where You Live, Work, and Play Preventing Burns in the Workplace”

Whereas, burn injuries continue to be one of the leading causes of accidental death and injury in our Nation, where tragically, children, the elderly, and the disabled are especially vulnerable to burn injuries, and almost one-third of all burn injuries occur in children under the age of 15; **and**

Whereas, in the United States, the CDC reports that 398,000 people received medical care for burn injuries in 2021, with 252,000 deaths from injuries related to hot objects or substances (e.g., contact burns); **and**

Whereas, compared to the overall population, children under five were 2.0 times as likely to be seen for burn injuries at a hospital emergency department. Young adults from 20 to 29 had 1.4 times the risk, and those in the 30-39 age group had 1.3 times the risk of the general population; **and**

Whereas, the primary causes of injury include fire-flame, scalds, contact with hot objects, and electrical and chemicals. Many injuries occur in the workplace. Today, 96.8% of those who suffer burn injuries will survive. Unfortunately, many of those survivors will sustain serious scarring, life-long physical disabilities, adjustment difficulties; **and**

Whereas, National Burn Awareness Week, an initiative of the American Burn Association, is a coming together of burn, fire, and life safety educators to make the public aware of the frequency, devastation, and causes of burn injury as well as consistent and authoritative measures to prevent these injuries and how to best care for those who are injured; **and**

Whereas, the theme for 2026 National Burn Awareness Week is “Burn Prevention Where You Live, Work, and Play – Preventing Burns in the Workplace”, where a common risk of injury exists from fire injury in the workplace; **and**

Whereas, significant research and medical advances have dramatically improved burn care and treatment, aided rehabilitation, shortened hospital stays, and increased burn survival rates. Aftercare support for the physical and emotional effects of burns has also played a key role in the successful reintegration of burn survivors into our communities. Furthermore, burn safety education and prevention efforts continue to reduce the number of people who suffer burns each year; **and**

Whereas, many people devote their lives and careers to treating, caring for, supporting, and rehabilitating burn injury survivors, including those performing vital work in burn research and development. Dedicated firefighters risk their own lives every day to protect others, as well as burn foundations and other life safety professionals who promote burn injury awareness and prevention.

Now, Therefore, The Cottage City Commission, do hereby proclaim the week of February 1st through February 7th, 2026, as National Burn Awareness Week. We call upon all government agencies, fire, life safety, and health care organizations, communications media, and the people of The Town of Cottage City, Maryland to observe this week with the appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, we have here unto set our hands this 14th day of January in the year 2026.



Wanda Wheatley, Commissioner Chair, Ward 3

Julia Salsich, Commissioner, Ward 1

Demetrius Givens, Commissioner, Ward 4

Reney Henderson, Commissioner, Ward 2

John Brooks, Commissioner, At-Large

