



New Tool For Student Renters to Minimize Fire Risk

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC —Moving into a suite or an apartment for the first time can be very exciting and at the same time dangerous. There are many fire risks within a home and for a first time renter it is critical they know what to watch for, and take precautions, to minimize fire risk.

“We see far too many fires that could’ve been prevented,” notes Chief Fire Prevention Officer, Myles Anderson. “First time renters, in particular students, must take the time and perhaps spend a few extra dollars to protect themselves. It may save their life.”

The Victoria Fire Department is distributing a new publication, *Fire Safety Basics for Students Living in Off-Campus Housing*, produced by the Office of the British Columbia Fire Commissioner, to educate students and parents of basic ways to minimize fire risk in off-campus housing.

The brochure covers a variety of fire safety items including security, over-crowding at parties, clear exits, electrical safety, smoke alarms and cooking.

Anderson adds, “Living on your own is a natural opportunity for social get-togethers and first-time students are often first-time chefs when it comes to cooking. Cooking is the number one cause of home fires in British Columbia and you must be prepared for ‘what if’.”

Fire officials stress the importance of knowing your surroundings. Make certain you have a working smoke alarm and install new batteries when you move in. Ensure windows and doors open easily and access is not blocked inside or outside. If windows have security bars, there should be a quick-opening device on the inside for easy access out. Furnaces and heaters should be clear of furniture or stored items.

Students are also reminded that they must prepare for the fire risk posed by neighbours. All renters should have tenant insurance. Parents of university students living away from home should contact their home insurance carrier and confirm whether their children’s contents are protected when renting.

To download *Fire Basics for Student Accomodation*, visit www.victoria.ca and click on *What’s New*.

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For More Information:

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