



Fire Prevention Week Kicks off Monday

Date: Thursday, October 2, 2008

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Recognized annually every October, *Fire Prevention Week* will be held across British Columbia from Sunday, October 5 – Saturday, October 11, 2008. This year's campaign focuses on preventing the four leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical and smoking.

The most important things to know to prevent fires in the home:

- **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- **Heating:** Keep anything that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least three feet away from heat sources.
- **Electrical:** Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords and only use extension cords for temporary wiring. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- **Smoking:** Avoid smoking indoors. When smoking outdoors, never use a planter for an ashtray. Use deep sturdy ashtrays or a large tin can filled with sand.

Building on the success of the first community-wide fire drill, this year's *Island-Wide Great Community Fire Escape Drill* has grown to include all Vancouver Island and Gulf Island residents, encouraging them to develop and practice a fire escape plan for their home.

Fire departments from as far away as Campbell River will participate in the *Island-Wide Great Community Fire Escape Drill* on Wednesday, October 8 at 6:30 p.m. Every household should have a plan for how to escape from their home in the event of a fire. When every second can mean the difference between life and death, pre-planning is essential.

All participating fire departments will have their trucks outside of their halls and will sound the sirens to signify the start of the drill at 6:30 p.m. When residents hear the siren, they should test their smoke alarm, then practice their escape plan and gather at their predetermined meeting place. Residents are encouraged to discuss their plan with their local fire department if they have questions or concerns.

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For More Information:

Contact local fire department or the Office of the Fire Commissioner at 1.888.988.9488

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