



Fire Prevention Week – Do You Know the Drill?

Date: Monday, October 5, 2009

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Recognized annually every October, *Fire Prevention Week* is held across British Columbia from Sunday, October 4 to Saturday, October 10, 2009. This year's campaign, "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned," will focus on burn prevention and home fire safety.

The most important things to know to prevent painful burns and reduce the risk of fire are:

- **Cooking:** Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over. Each year, children are accidentally burned by pulling on protruding pot or pan handles and pouring the boiling contents onto themselves.
- **Heating:** To avoid scalds, set the thermostat setting in your water heater to no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit or 49 degrees Celsius. Always check the temperature of bath water before placing children in the tub.
- **Electrical:** Call a qualified electrician or landlord if you have recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, discoloured or warm wall outlets, flickering lights or a burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance. Unplug laptop computers when not in use to prevent batteries from overheating and catching fire.
- **Smoking:** Keep smoking materials away from items that can burn, like bedding, furniture and clothing. When smoking outdoors, never use a planter for an ashtray. Use deep, sturdy ashtrays or a large tin can filled with sand.

This year's *Community Fire Drill* is encouraging all British Columbia residents to develop and practice a fire escape plan for their home. Fire departments across the province will participate in the *Community Fire Drill* on Wednesday, October 7, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Every household should have an escape plan 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.

For More Information:

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

Fire Inspector Bonnie Barratt
Victoria Fire Department
Cellular: 250.880.1793