Fire Prevention Week – Protect Your Family from Fire!

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VICTORIA, BC – Recognized annually every October, Fire Prevention Week will be held across British Columbia from Sunday, October 9 to Saturday, October 15, 2011. This year’s campaign Protect Your Family from Fire!, focuses on preventing the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating and electrical equipment, candles and smoking. The campaign also promotes the proper use, testing and maintenance of household smoke alarms and the importance of having a family escape plan.

There are simple things you can do to prevent a fire from occurring in your home.

- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short time, turn off the stove.
- Keep anything that can burn at least one metre away from heating equipment such as a furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater. Create a one-metre “no child zone” around these items.
- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords.
- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- If you smoke, smoke outside. Use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.

Here is what you need to do to protect your family in the event of a fire:

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom and on every level of the home, including the basement. Interconnect all smoke alarms in your home so when one sounds, they all sound.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month and change batteries annually. Replace battery-operated and hard-wired smoke alarms that are 10 years old. Check the back of a smoke alarm for the manufacture date.
- Practise your family escape plan to see how fast you can get out. Draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Make sure everyone knows where to meet outside.

During Fire Prevention Week, the Victoria Fire Department will attend City of Victoria elementary schools to participate in fire drills and promote fire prevention and protection in the home.

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