VICTORIA, BC – Recognized annually every October, Fire Prevention Week will be held across the country from Sunday, October 7 to Saturday October 13, 2012. This year’s campaign, Have Two Ways Out, stresses the importance of both identifying and practising two escape routes from your home.

Plan your escape now by maintaining your properly installed smoke alarms, have a family discussion identifying at least two escape routes from every room, and designate a meeting place for when you get outside. Once you have your plan, practise often, get out quickly and safely, and close doors behind you.

If you live in a building with an elevator, you should always use the stairs to exit. If you have a disability which makes it difficult for you to evacuate then you should stay in your unit and “protect in place”. To do this, you should first call 911 and let the fire department know where you are. Close but do not lock your doors, then seal all door cracks and ventilation ducts with wet towels. Open the window for air, but you may need to close it if smoke starts to come in.

Remember; once you have evacuated never go back into a burning building.

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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