



Fire Prevention Week is October 9 -15 Don't Wait Check the Date

Date: Friday, October 7, 2016

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – Recognized annually every October, *Fire Prevention Week* will be held across the country from Sunday, October 9 to Saturday, October 15, 2016. This year's campaign, *Don't Wait Check the Date*, emphasizes the importance of replacing home smoke alarms every 10 years.

Home smoke alarms don't last forever. A recent survey by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced.

Working smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a home fire by half. Almost three of every five reported home fire deaths between 2007 and 2011 resulted from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Working smoke alarms give you and your family time to get out. Important safety tips to remember are:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home.
- When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.
- Test your smoke alarms monthly. Replace the batteries every six months.
- Replacing your smoke alarms every 10 years is recommended.

The Victoria Fire Department offers a free smoke alarm to residents who need one to ensure every home has a working smoke alarm. If you reside in a City of Victoria single family home, duplex or townhouse, and require a new smoke alarm, you may be eligible to receive one free of charge. Upon request, a Fire Prevention Officer will conduct a free safety inspection of your home to determine the best locations for a smoke alarm, install new alarms, or test existing ones. For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/smokealarms

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

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

The media is invited to attend a proclamation ceremony on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 from 8:50 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. outside the Pandora Avenue entrance of Victoria City Hall where Mayor Lisa Helps will proclaim it to be *Fire Prevention Week* and speak to its significance to the community.

For More Information:

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