



Fire Prevention Week is October 8 – 14: Every Second Counts – Plan 2 Ways Out

Date: Friday, October 6, 2017

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – *Every Second Counts – Plan 2 Ways Out* is this year's *Fire Prevention Week* campaign, which emphasizes the importance of developing a home fire escape plan and practising it. *Fire Prevention Week* is recognized across North America from Sunday, October 8 – Saturday, October 14, 2017.

"Imagine it is 2 a.m. in the morning. You and your family are fast asleep when you awaken to the sound of your smoke alarm and the smell of smoke. You may only have one to two minutes to escape safely. Having an escape plan in place can save your life," said Chris Royle, Deputy Fire Chief of Administration at the Victoria Fire Department.

A home escape plan means having a working smoke alarm on every level of your home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also means having two ways out of every room, such as a door and a window, each with a clear path to a safe meeting place outside the home.

Important safety tips for developing and practising a home escape plan are:

- Draw a map of your home noting two exits from each room with paths to the outside.
- Practise your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one drill at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practise using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you aren't able to help them.
- Make sure your home address number is clearly marked and easy to see from the street.
- Close doors behind you as you exit – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

During *Fire Prevention Week*, the Victoria Fire Department will visit elementary schools, participating in fire drills and promoting fire prevention and protection in the home. The Victoria Fire Department offers a free smoke alarm to residents who need one to ensure every Victoria home has a working smoke alarm. Learn more at victoria.ca

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY:

Proclamation Ceremony – Tuesday, October 10 from 8:50 a.m. – 9:15 a.m., Victoria City Hall

Immediately following a fire drill at City Hall, a ceremony will be held outside the Pandora Avenue entrance where Mayor Lisa Helps will proclaim it to be *Fire Prevention Week* and speak to its significance.

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For More Information:

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