



NEWS RELEASE

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October 7 to 13 is Fire Prevention Week “Have Two Ways Out”

Parksville, BC: Fire Prevention Week, recognized every October, takes place from October 7 to October 13, 2012. The theme for this year is **“Have Two Ways Out”**.

Despite the fact that fewer fire losses are reported in Canada, still, on average, eight Canadians die from fire every week. Most of these fires are preventable and caused by careless behaviour. That is why it is critical to educate Canadians and incite them to act. During this week, fire departments across the nation will promote public awareness of the dangers of fire and the ways we can protect ourselves from fire.

This year's theme underscores the importance of making Canadians aware of the simple preventative measures they can take to prevent disaster from occurring to them. Statistics reveal that most fires are caused by careless behavior. An ounce of prevention in this case will save lives, homes and everything that we hold dear. It is the responsibility of every Canadian to educate themselves on the simple fire prevention measures they can take.

“Having two ways out is such a key part of fire escape planning. The reality is that when fire strikes, your home could be engulfed in smoke and flames in just a few minutes. It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds,” said Parksville Fire Chief Doug Banks. “

Residents are encouraged to have a plan for an escape which would include the following:

- Make a map of your home. Mark a door and a window that can be used to get out of every room.
- Choose a meeting place outside in front of your home. This is where everyone can meet once they have escaped. Draw a picture of your outside meeting place on your escape plan.
- Write the emergency phone number for the fire department on your escape plan.
- Have an adult sound the smoke alarm and practice your escape plan with those living in your home.
- Keep your escape plan on the refrigerator and remind adults to have your family practice the plan twice a year or whenever anyone in your home celebrates a birthday.

Designed for the public, Fire Prevention Canada’s newly revamped website contains a wealth of fire prevention and educational material www.fiprecan.ca.

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For more information:

Fire Chief Doug Banks

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