



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Fire Prevention Week Open House at Parksville Firehall on October 16

**Parksville, BC:** Each year, the Parksville Fire Department participates in Fire Prevention Week and again this year will open its doors to the public on **Sunday, October 16 from 10 am to 2 pm**. Fire Prevention Week will be recognized from October 9 to October 15. The open house takes place at the fire hall which is located at 160 Jensen Avenue West, Parksville.

Members of the community are encouraged to drop by for a little fun and most importantly, to learn some possible lifesaving strategies for fire prevention. Firefighters will be giving tours of the station, including trucks and equipment so be sure to bring your camera. The RCMP will be on site with a child restraint technician to conduct inspection of car seats for the public. If you would like your car seat inspected, please bring your car manual as well as the restraint manual so these can be referenced during the inspection. Also, the seat should be installed in the vehicle prior to arriving at the fire hall.

“The fire prevention open house will showcase the services we provide to the community and for the Parksville Fire Department to provide fire safety information to our residents,” said Fire Chief Marc Norris.

The theme for this year’s fire prevention week is **“Don’t Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every Ten Years®”** which underscores the importance of having a working smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. You need working smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Test yours every month!

Only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are or how often they should be replaced. The Parksville Fire Department works to educate the public about basic but essential elements of smoke alarm safety:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every ten years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; alarm should be replaced ten years from that date.

The Parksville Fire Department would like families to focus on preventing fire by planning ahead and integrating a few simple fire safety behaviours into everyday lives. By paying attention and eliminating potential fire hazards in your home, you can make a difference that will prevent or reduce fire related injuries, deaths and property damage.

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**For more information:**

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