



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Fire Prevention Week Open House at Parksville Firehall on October 5

**Parksville, BC:** Each year, the Parksville Fire Department participates in Fire Prevention Week and will again this year open its doors to the public on Sunday, October 5 from 10 am to 2 pm. Fire Prevention Week is being recognized from October 5 to October 11. The open house will take 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. The department's firefighters will be on site providing tours of the station, including trucks and equipment and the RCMP will be on hand to check car seats. Don't forget to bring your camera.

"This open house is an opportunity to showcase the services we provide to the community and for our department to provide fire safety information to our residents," said Fire Chief Doug Banks.

The theme for this year is **Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives – Test Yours Every Month!**© which underscores the importance of testing smoke alarms often. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. You need working smoke alarms to give you time to get out. Test yours early month!

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.

#### History of Fire Prevention Week

The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 which lasted two days, October 8 and 9 and killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless and burned more than 2,000 acres. That fire forever changed the way public officials viewed fire safety. To mark the 40th anniversary of this tragic event, the Fire Marshals Association of North America deemed the most appropriate commemoration was to do everything they could to educate and inform the public about the importance of fire safety and prevention. Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed from Sunday through to the Saturday that October 9 falls on.

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#### For more information:

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