



Fire Prevention Week 2022 is October 9 to 15

This year's Fire Prevention Week™ theme is "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.™"

The theme was chosen by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) because, due to a variety of factors such as furniture materials and building preferences, modern homes burn faster than ever before. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.

Check out www.FPW.org and www.gov.bc.ca/FirePreventionWeek for some great information to help you, your family and loved ones learn together about fire safety and prevention.

It is important for everyone to plan and practice a home fire escape. Everyone needs to be prepared in advance, so that they know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds. Given that every home is different, every home fire escape plan will also be different.

Home escape planning

- Draw a map of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. You can download a grid by visiting the websites above.
- Children, older adults, and people with disabilities may need assistance to wake up and get out. Make sure they are part of the plan, and someone will help them
- Make sure all escape routes are clear and that doors and windows open easily.
- Pick an outside meeting place (something permanent like a neighbour's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) that is a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet.
- Everyone in the home should know the local emergency number and how to call once safely outside.
- Practice! Practice! Practice! Practice day and night-time home fire drills.

Smoke alarms

- Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

Fire Prevention Week is a great time to discuss fire and burn prevention with your friends, family and the people you live with. Practice your home escape plan or create one if you haven't yet. Take the opportunity to test your smoke and CO alarms and replace them if they aren't working or have expired.

Be sure to check out the Fire Prevention Week contest at www.gov.bc.ca/FirePreventionWeek for an opportunity for students in B.C. to win some fantastic prizes, including an iPad!

Have a great Fire Prevention Week!