**Family Letter**

This Fire Prevention Week, October 4-10th, Port Coquitlam Fire & Emergency Services and your child’s school have teamed up for safety! Your child has been learning about home fire escape planning, working smoke alarms, fire and burn hazards and ways to prevent home fires.

The theme this year is “Serve Up Fire Safety In The Kitchen”. Its theme is to help remind us of the simple steps we can take to prevent a fire due from cooking.

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| **Fire Captain of the Day Contest:** Your child will also be eligible for the “Captain of the Day” contest. To be entered, please visit <https://www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire-department-ballot/>. **Entries must be submitted before Friday, October 1, 2020 to be eligible for the draws.**  **iPad Contest:** All students can submit a Fire Prevention Week poster to win some fantastic prices for their school and themselves! For information on this contest, please view the [Fire Prevention Week 2020 Contest](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/fire-safety/public-education/fire-prevention-week) poster. |

Most fatal fires occur in residential settings where people feel safest. Fire can spread quickly through your home, leaving only precious minutes to escape. Your ability to get out fast depends on advanced warning from smoke alarms and planning, such as creating a home fire escape plan. Reduce your family’s risk from fire by following the tips below.

Kitchen Fire Safety

* Watch what you are cooking. Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off
* Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so no one can bump them or pull them over
* Never pour water on a cooking pan grease fire! Smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turn off the stove

Smoke Alarms

* Make sure everyone in your home can recognise the sound of the smoke alarm and knows exactly what to do when it sounds.
* Install working smoke alarms near sleeping areas and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be tested once a month by pushing the test button and listening for the alarm.
* For battery operated smoke alarms, replace batteries at least once a year. Batteries should also be replaced when the smoke alarm makes a chirping sound.
* Smoke alarms should be cleaned at least every 6 months by gently vacuuming the exterior.
* Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
* To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Thank you for making fire safety your priority in your home! Visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org) for more information.

Port Coquitlam Fire & Emergency Services