

September 26, 2024

Fire Prevention Week October 6 – 12, 2024

Fire Prevention Week is a nationwide event that encourages Canadians to take the time to learn how they can stay safe in case of a fire. This year's theme "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!™" strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home. According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

Smoke alarm safety tips and guidelines include:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway) and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or stop responding when tested.

Fires in our homes can be started in many ways including when cooking, by candles, smoking, electrical issues, dirty chimneys and portable heaters. To help keep you and your family safe:

- Have a home escape plan that you practice with everyone in your home at least twice a year.
- Follow the smoke alarm tips above.
- "Close before you doze." Sleep with your bedroom door closed to help limit fire spread in the event of a fire in your home.
- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually.

During Fire Prevention Week, many fire departments across the region are hosting free events for residents to learn how to reduce injuries and deaths caused by fires in their homes, including demonstrations and fun activities for children. Residents can use the RDN's Fire Protection [interactive map](#) to see which fire department serves their area. Residents are encouraged to visit their local fire department's website and social media pages or contact them directly to find out what activities are happening during Fire Prevention Week.

RDN-operated fire departments, Nanoose Volunteer Fire Department and Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department, will be hosting the following activities during Fire Prevention Week:

- Nanoose Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting grade three school children at the firehall on October 9 to watch the firefighters do a fire attack and rescue demonstration from the tower.

Get Involved RDN!

- Coombs-Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting an open house on Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Hall #2 located at 3241 Alberni Hwy, Qualicum Beach. There will be an educational display, hot dogs, fire truck tours and a firefighting demonstration.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week, visit nfpa.org/fpw. For fire services in the RDN, visit rdn.bc.ca/fire-services.

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For more information, please contact:

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