

Letter to Parents

This Fire Prevention Week, October 8 to 14, 2017, your local fire department 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 "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!"

Please spend some time with your child to review the "Fire Safety Starts With You" activity booklet they brought home from school.

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 advanced planning – creating a home fire escape plan. Reduce your family's risk from fire by following the tips below.

Home Fire Escape Plans

- Create a home fire escape plan showing two ways out of every room. Practise your plan with your entire family by having a home fire drill at least twice a year.
- Choose a Family Meeting Place a safe distance away from your home. All family members should be taught to report to the family meeting place after leaving the home.
- One person should then go to a neighbour's house or the nearest phone in a safe location to contact 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.
- Visit www.firepreventionweek.org for more information.

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!

Your Local Fire Department