

Focus on **FIRE PREVENTION**



Recognizing:

- Broadview Fire Department
- Fort Qu'Appelle Fire Department
- Grenfell Fire Department
- Lipton Fire Department
- Melville Fire Department
- Whitewood Fire Department

Fire Prevention Week

October 6-12, 2019



Publishers of The Melville Advance,
Fort Qu'Appelle Times and
Whitewood and Grenfell Herald Sun

How and why you should regularly check your smoke detectors

Each floor of your home, including the basement, should be equipped with a smoke detector. It's also a good idea to put a smoke detector in every room. However, the most important thing of all is regularly checking that they work properly.

HOW TO INSPECT SMOKE DETECTORS

Once a month, press the "test" button on each of your smoke detectors. If you don't hear anything, replace the battery immediately.



In addition, you should confirm whether your detectors can actually detect the presence of smoke. Once a year, blow out a candle under them. If they don't go off, then they need to be replaced as soon as possible.

SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

The best way to prevent casualties in the case of a fire is to have functioning smoke detectors. Here's why.

- Most fire-related casualties occur overnight. A smoke detector's alarm allows occupants to wake up and evacuate in time.
- Smoke inhalation is the leading cause of fire-related death. Smoke spreads quickly, and occupants have on average two minutes to evacuate before smoke inhalation becomes life threatening. Smoke detectors allow you to react before it's too late.

The bottom line is that well-functioning smoke detectors are the best way to keep you and your family safe.

Tips for preventing electrical fires in your home

Electrical fires are all too common. Here are some tips to prevent this type of disaster from occurring in your home.

- **Unplug heat-producing appliances.** Toasters, blow dryers, irons, kettles and any other heat generating tools should be unplugged when not in use. If they malfunction or are accidentally turned on, they can overheat and catch fire.
- **Only use extension cords temporarily.** Nothing should be left plugged into an extension

cord permanently. If necessary, have a professional electrician install more outlets in your home.

- **Get your electrical system updated.** Modern wiring reduces the possibility that an electrical fire will start. It may also save you money on your insurance policy.
- **Check electrical cords before plugging them in.** Cords that are frayed, cracked or loose aren't safe. Get wires repaired before plugging them in.

FIRE Prevention WEEK

October 6-12, 2019

Not every hero wears a cape.
PLAN and PRACTISE your ESCAPE!

What to do if there's a fire in your kitchen

More house fires start in the kitchen than in any other room. Of these, most are caused by grease. Here's what to do if a fire breaks out while you're cooking.

If the fire is contained and it isn't spreading quickly, you can extinguish it. The first step is to eliminate the heat source. If it's possible to do so without injuring yourself, turn off the oven or stove.

Next, you need to deprive the fire of oxygen. In the case of an oven fire, leave the door closed and wait for the fire to extinguish itself. If it's in a pan, smother it with a lid or baking sheet. To do this safely, hold the cover in front of you like a shield and cover the pot from front to back. Don't throw the lid on the fire, as you risk spreading the flames around.

If you don't have a cover, baking soda can be used to smother the flames. However, you'll likely need more

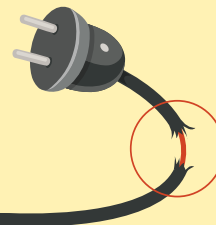


than the small box you keep in your fridge. You can also use a fire extinguisher, as long as it's rated B, which designates that it's safe to use on grease fires. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.

If the fire is burning too hotly to be smothered or it begins to spread fast, evacuate the house and call the fire department immediately.

- **Don't remove the third prong on a power cord.** The third prong protects your home from electrical malfunctions. If your home only has two-prong outlets, call an electrician to get them updated.

Above all, be familiar with the signs of electrical problems. This includes burn marks or discoloration around sockets, switches or fixtures; appliances and cords that feel hot to the touch; and breakers that regularly trip.



Be a fire prevention hero: plan your escape route

October 6 to 12 is Fire Prevention Week. Each year, Fire Prevention Canada endorses the National Fire Protection Association's chosen theme. This year it's *Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practise Your Escape!* This campaign is designed to educate people about the small but important steps they can take to stay safe in the event of a fire.

ENSURE SMOKE ALARMS WORK

The first step in escaping a fire is being alerted to it. There should be smoke alarms on each level of your house and one in each bedroom. Test your alarms monthly to make sure they work.

MAKE AN EVACUATION PLAN

If a building is burning, you may only have two minutes to evacuate the premises once the fire alarm sounds. Planning your escape route and practising it with everyone who lives in your home could save lives. Here's how to create an evacuation plan with your family.

- Draw the layout of your home and identify two ways out of each room.
- Ensure that evacuation routes remain clear at all times and that all family members can access them.



- Pick two meeting places: one just outside your home and another that's further afoot but still in the vicinity. This is where your family will gather in case of a fire.
- Make sure everyone knows how to call 911 or emergency services from a cellphone or a neighbour's phone.

Having an evacuation plan can mean the difference between life and death. This year, be a fire prevention hero and work with your family to create a fire safety plan. For more information about fire safety and Fire Prevention Week, visit fpw.org.

6 fire safety tips for homeowners living near wooded areas

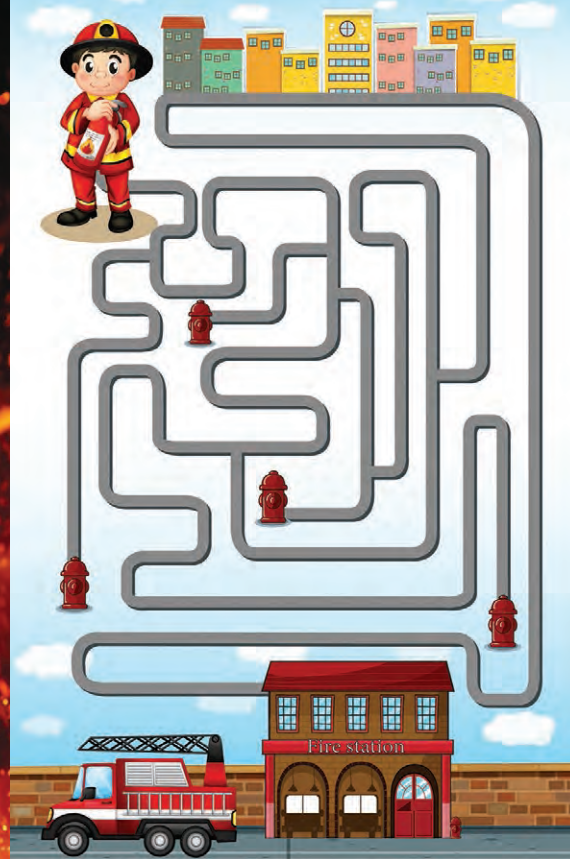
If you live near a forest or wooded area, you should take extra precautions to protect your home and family from fires. In addition to having functioning smoke detectors and an evacuation plan, here's what you should do.

1. Always confirm whether there's a fire ban in your region *before* lighting a bonfire.
2. Privilege fire-resistant construction materials such as metal, brick and stucco for building structures on your property.
3. Remove all flammable vegetation and materials (including firewood) that are within a 10-metre radius of your home. This will reduce the risk of a fire spreading from the forest to your home and vice versa. Additionally, fences and propane tanks should be kept away from the home and other buildings on the property.
4. As much as possible, privilege tree species that have a low degree of flammability such as birch, maple, poplar and aspen. Additionally, make sure their crowns don't touch, as this will reduce the risk of flames jumping from one tree to the next.
5. Try to collect as much rainwater as possible. You can install collection drums under your gutters and add small bodies of water to your landscaping.
6. Keep tools that could help fight a fire on hand such as long water hoses. It's also a good idea to have a ladder that's long enough to access your roof.

If you follow these safety tips, you may be able to prevent a fire from striking. At the very least, you'll be better prepared in case one does occur.



Help the firefighter find the right path to the fire station.



Fire Prevention Week

Establish a home fire safety plan



People rely on fire and smoke detectors to help keep them safe in their homes. Though fire and smoke alarms are effective, a firm fire safety plan that will keep everyone calm should a fire occur could make the difference between life and death. To the south of Canada, in the US, more than 3,500 Americans die each year in fires, while roughly 18,300 more men, women and children are injured each year. Cooking accounts for the greatest percentage of residential fires, followed by arson. Dryer vent fires are also a big concern. FEMA says that smoke, rather than the fire's flames, is responsible for 75 percent of all deaths by fire.

In addition to physical injury and material damage, fires can cause a host of problems. Psychological distress, monetary damages and loss of pets may come with fires. Loss of irreplaceable personal items is also a concern. Although fires can be devastating, they're also highly preventable, and smoke alarms and a home fire safety plan are two precautionary measures everyone should take.

Creating an evacuation plan doesn't have to be complicated. Such a plan can be established in a few minutes and then reinforced through practice every so often to keep everyone fresh on what to do.

- Begin by assessing the layout of the home. Figure out the two best exits from the home.
- If your home doesn't have two doors, invest in a fire ladder so that one of the windows can be a point of exit.
- Know how to gain access to the exits, including the best path to take to avoid injury. It's a good idea to consider a few different scenarios. A kitchen adjacent to the upstairs staircase may become engulfed in flames and make exit by way of staircase impossible. Just because you have doors to the outside doesn't mean they'll present the best type of exit.
- Sketch out the layout of the home and the escape plan. Smoke can make it difficult to know up from down. Be sure everyone can reach the exits even if vision is obstructed. Try it with your eyes closed.
- Check fire alarms routinely, and change batteries at least every year.
- Make sure windows can be easily opened if they are an exit point.
- Make note of who will be helping children or the elderly out of the home.
- Establish a place where the family will meet outdoors. This area should be far enough away from the home so that everyone will be safe from smoke, flames and falling debris. Fires may ignite fuel explosions, so be sure the meeting spot is a good deal away.
- Children should be instructed to run to the meeting spot immediately without waiting behind for anyone to catch up. No one should reenter the home after arriving at the meeting spot.
- Do a few practice runs so that everyone will be accustomed to getting out quickly.
- While in most cases it is better to escape and let the fire department extinguish a fire, in the event of a small fire, occupants may be able to stanch it with a personal fire extinguisher. Follow the acronym PASS to properly put out the fire.
 - **PULL** the pin in the extinguisher.
 - **AIM** the nozzle or hose at the base of the flames.
 - **SQUEEZE** the trigger.
 - **SWEEP** the foam across the fire base; do not just aim in one place.

Fire safety is very important. In conjunction with smoke alarms, a fire safety plan can help everyone get out alive.

Melville Fire Department



Allan Callfas
Captian - 26 Years



Rafael Cambay
Firefighter - 1st Year



Parker Ellert
Firefighter - 7 Years



Damian Goebel
Firefighter - 5 Years



Neal Goebel
Lieutenant - 17 Years



Larry Hanaback
Captian - 32 Years



Doug Hanley
Firefighter - 31 Years



Joanie Lebrun
Firefighter - 1st Year



Norm Konechny
Deputy Chief - 50 Years



Keith MacDonald
Firefighter - 10 Years

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Melville Fire Department



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Firefighter - 3 Years



Tyrone Mogenson
Fire Chief - 29 Years



Lynnette Nordli
Firefighter - 1st Year



Travis Paturel
Firefighter - 10 Years



Lorne Pfeifer
Lieutenant - 30 Years



James Shaw
Lieutenant - 22 Years



Jordan Sinclair
Firefighter - 8 Years



J. Scott Slinn
Lieutenant - 9 Years



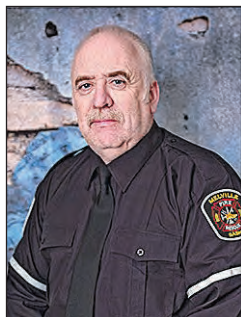
Tyler Stewart
Firefighter - 8 Years



Ben Swanson
Firefighter - 2 Years



Don Wenet
Captian - 28 Years



Scott Weston
Firefighter - 31 Years



Jay Wood
Lieutenant - 7 Years



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Fort Qu'Appelle Fire Department



Claude Beaulieu
Captian - 26 Years



Les Boehme
Deputy Chief - 26 Years



Josh Boehme
Captian - 15 Years



Dave Carter
Firefighter - 26 Years



Even Cechanowicz
Firefighter - 8 Years



Shad Gulbranson
Firefighter - 8 Years



Kevin Guraluick
Firefighter - 10 Years



Jared Hinton
Firefighter - 9 Years



Garret Horsman
Firefighter - 6 Years



Calvin Horsman
Captian - 34 Years



Kevin Kulaway
Firefighter - 15 Years



Gerard Lagace
Firefighter - 18 Years



Jordan Lagace
Firefighter - 7 Years



Jason Polischuk
Firefighter - 15 Years



David Sabirsh
Chief - 30 Years



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Fort Qu'Appelle Fire Department



Owen Smith
Firefighter - 10 Years



Kenton Solvey
Firefighter - 10 Years



James Taylor
Firefighter - 10 Years



Robert Thompson
Firefighter - 2 Year



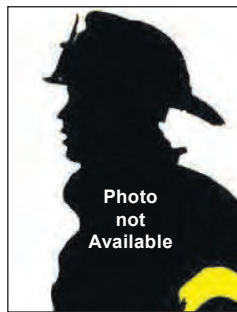
Doug Walsh
Firefighter - 9 Years



Alistair Whittington
Firefighter - 3 Years



Riley Strong
Firefighter - 1 Year



Ron Yuzicappi
Firefighter - 1 Year



Lyndon Smith
Firefighter - 1 Year



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FIRE



Be Aware & Prepared.

Take time during **Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12**, to check smoke alarms, review safety tips and create a fire escape plan for your home.



109 Fire-related deaths annually
1,105 Residential fire injuries annually

Source: Statistics Canada 2014 data

Cooking Leading cause of home fire injuries
Smoking Leading cause of home fire deaths

Source: Canadian Firefighter, based on information by the public safety division of Alberta Municipal Affairs analysis of data from seven Canadian provinces and one territory.



Prepare & Protect

1. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, as well as inside and outside of every sleeping area.
2. Create and practice a fire escape plan.
3. Sleep with your door closed.
4. Go to canada.ca and use search keywords "fire prevention" or visit nfpa.org for detailed fire prevention tips and fire escape plan guidelines.

TOP 5 CAUSES of home fires



Cooking 20% of fires

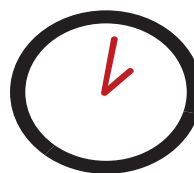
Heating equipment 12% of fires

Arson 11% of fires

Electrical 8% of fires

Smoking 7% of fires

Source: Canadian Firefighter, based on information by the public safety division of Alberta Municipal Affairs analysis of data from seven Canadian provinces and one territory.



2 Minutes

The time it takes for a fire to become life-threatening

5 Minutes

The time it takes for a residence to become engulfed in flames

Ready.gov U.S. Department of Homeland Security



315 °C

The temperature a room on fire can reach at eye level

Ready.gov U.S. Department of Homeland Security

How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

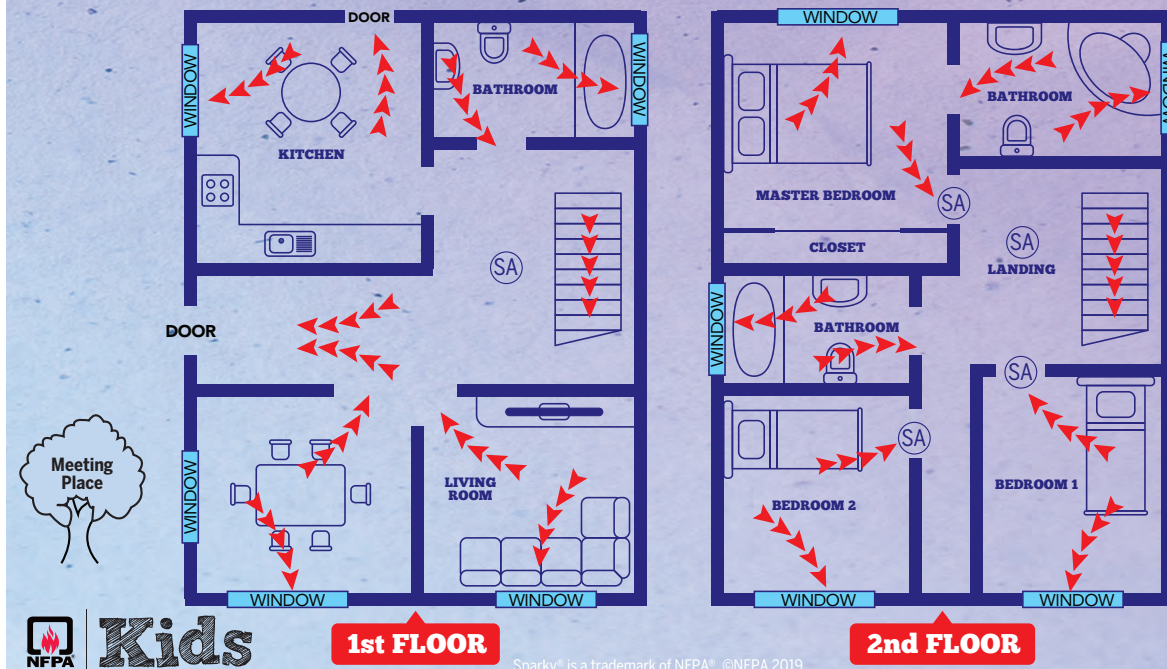
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Visit Sparky.org for more activities!

- ☐ Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- ☐ Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- ☐ All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- ☐ Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- ☐ Pick a meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- ☐ Make sure your house or building number can be seen from the street.
- ☐ Talk about your plan with everyone in your home.
- ☐ Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.
- ☐ Practice your home fire drill!
- ☐ Make your own home fire escape plan using the grid provided on page 2.

Sample Escape Plan



Kids

1st FLOOR

2nd FLOOR

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How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



A black and white illustration of a fireman in a helmet and coat walking alongside a diverse family. The family includes a woman carrying a baby, a man, and several children. They are walking on a city street with buildings in the background. The fireman is on the left, and the family is on the right. The text 'Visit Sparky for more activities' is in the bottom right corner.

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all **doors** and **windows**.
- Mark **two ways out** of each room.
- Mark all of the **smoke alarms** with (SA). Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family **meeting place** outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, **practice** your plan at least **twice a year**!

[illegible]

PLAN 19

Lipton Fire Department



Daboo Alalibo
Firefighter - 1st Year



Stephen Enser
Firefighter - 3 Years



Bruce Goff
Fire Chief- 35 Years



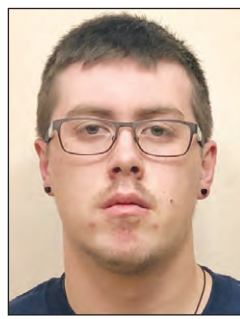
James Graham
Firefighter - 3 Years



Zack Hilliar
Firefighter - 3 Years



Craig Huber
Firefighter - 24 Years



Jacob Lepine
Firefighter - 1 Year



Connor Lisowik
Firefighter - 3 Years



Stan Norrish
Firefighter - 14 Years



Rob Schoonbaert
Firefighter - 14 Years



Carter Senft
Firefighter - 3 Years



Alex Stachyshyn
Firefighter - 7 Years



Brett Tomolak
Firefighter - 4 Years



Chad Tomolak
Firefighter - 3 Years



Ron Tomolak
Safety Officer - 17 Years

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"IT'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK!"
This year I'm teaching everyone about the importance of planning and practicing your home fire escape plan. But I can't do it alone, I need your help. Work with your family and complete the fire escape checklist."



✓ **Fire Escape Checklist**

- ☐ Do you have working smoke alarms in your home?
- ☐ Is there a smoke alarm in every sleeping room and outside each sleeping area?
- ☐ Is there a smoke alarm on each level of the home, including the basement?
- ☐ Do you test your smoke alarms at least once a month? (Have a grown-up push the test button to check if the batteries work.)
- ☐ Do you know the sound of your smoke alarms?
- ☐ How old are your smoke alarms? (If they're more than 10 years old, you need new ones.)
- ☐ Does your family have a home fire escape plan?
- ☐ Do you know two ways out of each room in your home?
- ☐ Do you know what to do when you hear your smoke alarm? (Get out and stay out.)
- ☐ Are all the exits in your home clear of trash and toys?
- ☐ Has your family picked a meeting place outside the home where everyone can go when they've escaped a fire?
- ☐ Does everyone at home know how to call the fire department once they are outside?
- ☐ Do you and all family members practice your escape plan at least twice a year?

For more
information visit
firepreventionweek.org
sparky.org

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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

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FIRE SAFETY

Are your fire escapes accessible?

In the event of a house fire, smoke can invade your home in less than three minutes. It's therefore vital that everyone evacuate the premises quickly. Will your emergency exits allow for this to happen?

To avoid hindering your quick departure to safety, make certain that the doors and windows that serve as emergency exits are unobstructed at all times. Put away all items strewn around them (shoes, backpacks, toys, etc.) and be sure not to block emergency exits with furniture or large objects. Also, in winter, carefully remove snow from all doors, balconies, windows and terraces after every snowfall. Make sure your house number sign is kept clear as well.

Additionally, you should regularly ascertain that windows intended as evacuation points effortlessly open (that they don't get stuck due to ice or rust, for instance). And if you have young children, also make sure these exits are easy for them to reach and open.

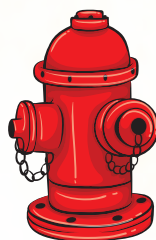
Finally, don't forget to identify all possible hitches in your evacuation plan. Ideally, set up a strategy that allows for two different paths to get out of each room in your house.



To guarantee the safety of you and your loved ones, make sure emergency exits remain unobstructed at all times.



Help this heroic firefighter put out the fire.



ANSWER:



TOP WAYS TO PREVENT FIRES AT HOME

House fires can stem from negligence, mechanical mishaps or electrical failures. Need some specific advice on how to protect your home? Room by room, this graph shows you the fire-safety habits and protocols you should adopt.

BATHROOM

- Make sure all electrical outlets have an integrated circuit breaker.

GARAGE

- Store flammable products (paint, solvent, etc.) in approved containers and far from heat sources.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm near the garage door and on each floor of your home.

LIVING ROOM

- Always keep an eye on lit candles.
- Only plug appliances that use small amounts of electricity (lamps, TVs, etc.) into multiple-outlet adapters and power strips.

ATTIC

- Don't store fuel or flammable materials in the attic.

CHIMNEY

- Have your chimney swept at least once a year.

BEDROOM

- Never smoke in bed.
- Install a fire alarm in every room and check the batteries once a month. Batteries should be changed every year.

KITCHEN

- Never leave food cooking unsupervised.
- When unplugging electrical appliances (toaster, kettle, etc.), do so by pulling on the plug, not on the cable.

STAIRS

- To ensure a speedy evacuation, make sure doors, windows and stairs are always kept clear.

BASEMENT

- Have a professional look at your heating system every year.
- Remove the lint in the dryer filter after each use.

Name _____ Date _____

Hang this sheet in an important place in your home. Remember to have a grown-up test your smoke alarms once a month. Tear off the correct month when the test is finished!

~ For more fun visit sparky.org. ~



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FIRE
PREVENTION
WEEK™

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

Broadview Fire Department



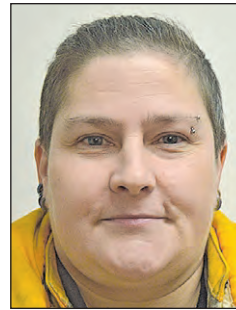
Brent Bagshaw
Firefighter



Wes Bangsund
Firefighter



Darcy Bugg
Firefighter



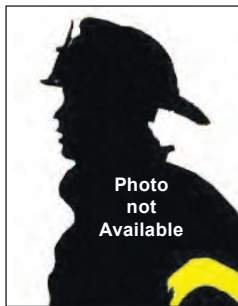
Danette Fowlie
Fire Safety Officer



Kinnen Frieze
Firefighter



Scott Goertzen
Firefighter



Derek Goodbrand
Firefighter



Ron Holloway
Firefighter



Sheldon Kemp
Firefighter



Shawn Markwart
Deputy Fire Chief



Steven Markwart
Firefighter



Darren Ottenbreit
Firefighter



James Outhwaite
Firefighter



Zach Phillips
Fire Chief



Kelly Quibell
Firefighter



Jacob Vanwesteinde
Firefighter



Jesse Velestuk
Firefighter



Chad Wyatt
Firefighter



Grenfell Fire Department



Ken Dobra
Firefighter



Dustin Dyke
Firefighter



Ron Emke
Safety Officer



Ken Hamnett
Assistant Fire Chief



Clay Kardash
Firefighter



Mike Kardash
Deputy Chief



Michael Krecsy
Firefighter



Blaine MacDonald
Safety Officer



Darren Manovich
Firefighter



Colin Musschoot
Firefighter



Brent Neuls
Assistant Fire Chief



Rick Ortt
Firefighter



Jeremy Scheirer
Firefighter



Greg Smith
Assistant Fire Chief



Stacy Manovich
Firefighter



Dwayne Stone
Fire Chief



Whitewood Fire Department



Dean Armstrong
Firefighter - 5 Years



Chris Ashfield
Deputy Chief - 21 Years



Chandler Bachtold
Lieutenant - 7 Years



Bernard Brûlé
Fire Chief - 28 Years



Braden Brûlé
Lieutenant - 8 Years



Roidyn Chupa
Firefighter - 2 Years



Corey Cowan
Firefighter - 1 Year



Dustin Dick
Firefighter - 2 Years



Johnny Gilchuk
Firefighter - 1 Year



Jordan Giroux
Firefighter - 3 Years



Sage Iatridis
Firefighter - 1st Year



Murray MacPherson
Captain - 19 Years



Ken Matsalla
Deputy Chief - 19 Years



Shane Thompson
Firefighter - 1 Year



Cody Topinka
Firefighter - 8 Years



Trevor Topinka
Captain - 23 Years



Braden Velestuk
Firefighter - 8 Years



Brian Waynert
Deputy Chief - 19 Years



Ashley Williamson
Firefighter - 1 Year



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Fire Safety Checklist for Caregivers of Older Adults

Older adults are more likely to die in home fires because they may move slower or have trouble hearing the smoke alarm. Make sure the people you know are prepared and safe.



Put a check in front of each statement that is true for your home.

Smoke Alarms



- ☐ Smoke alarms are on every level of the home.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are inside and outside sleeping areas.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are tested each month.
- ☐ Smoke alarm batteries are changed as needed.
- ☐ Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.
- ☐ People can hear smoke alarms from any room. If not, consider one with a different sound or one that comes with a bed shaker or strobe light.

Escape Plan



- ☐ There is a fire escape plan that shows two ways out of every room.
- ☐ Exits are always clear and not blocked with furniture or other items.
- ☐ Everyone knows where the safe meeting place is outside the home.
- ☐ The escape plan works for everyone, including people who use a wheelchair, a hearing aid, or glasses.
- ☐ There is a phone near the bed to call a local emergency number in case of a fire.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are located on each level of the home.
- ☐ Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

Home Safety

for People with Disabilities

There's no place like home. It is a place to relax, share laughs with family, and enjoy home cooked meals. But did you know that the majority of fire deaths occur in the home? Help everyone in the home stay safe from fire.



Home Fire Sprinklers

Home fire sprinklers protect lives by keeping fires small. Sprinklers allows people more time to escape in a fire. When choosing an apartment or home, look for one that has home fire sprinklers.

Smoke Alarms

- » Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- » Test your smoke alarm at least once a month by pushing the test button. If you can't reach the alarm, ask for help.
- » For added safety, interconnect the smoke alarms. If one sounds, they all sound. This gives more time to escape.
- » Smoke alarms with sealed (long-life) batteries work for up to 10 years. They can be helpful for people who find it hard to change batteries.
- » Smoke alarms expire. Replace them every 10 years.

People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

- » Smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- » Strobe lights flash when the smoke alarm sounds. The lights warn people of a possible fire.
- » When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape.
- » When people who are hard of hearing are asleep, a loud, mixed, low-pitched sound alert device can wake them. A pillow or bed shaker may be helpful. These devices are triggered by the sound of the smoke alarm.



Escape Planning

Include everyone in home escape planning. Each person should have input about the best ways to escape. Home fire drills are important. Everyone in the home must participate in them. Keep a phone by your bed in case you can't escape and need to call for help.

Talk with someone from the fire department

about your escape plan. Ask them **review your plan**. Ask if your fire department keeps a directory of people who may need extra help. If you have a **service animal**, agree on a plan to keep the animal with you during an emergency.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Not Every Hero Wears a Cape

Plan and Practise Your Escape!

Fire departments across Canada are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years — to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practise Your Escape!" The campaign works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

In Canada, most fire deaths occur in the home, where people believe they are most safe. Canadian fire departments respond to roughly 25,600 structure fires per year. In 2015, structure fires caused more than 1,400 injuries

and almost 200 deaths.*

"These numbers show that home fires continue to pose a significant threat to safety," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practise can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out."

While NFPA and local fire departments are focusing on home fires, these messages apply to virtually any location.

"Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go," said Whitewood Fire Chief

Bernard Brûlé. "No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately."

A number of the local area fire departments are hosting a series of events in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practise Your Escape!", including school visits, barbecues and open houses.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week programs and activities in your community, please contact your local fire department.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and home escape planning, visit www.fpw.org.

* Fire data for 2012-2016 was obtained from 10 of the 13 provincial and territorial offices of the fire marshal/fire commissioner; 2015 is the most recent year for which injury/fatality data is available.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Look. Listen. Learn.
Be aware — fire can happen ANYWHERE.

October 6 to 12, 2019

Portable fire extinguishers: making the right choice

Used to douse the flames of a burgeoning fire, a portable fire extinguisher is a valuable piece of safety equipment that you should have on hand at home. Do you need to buy or replace one? If so, be sure to look for a fire extinguisher that has the following four features:

1. It has a seal from a recognized organization such as the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC).
2. It can put out A, B and C type fires. In other words, it puts out fires from combustible materials (wood, paper, cloth, etc.), flammable gases or liquids (oil, gas, grease, etc.) and electrical equipment (wiring, electrical panel, etc.).
3. It has a minimum 2A 10B C rating, which means it can put out a 2 ft³ paper or wood fire (2A) and a 10 ft³ gas or oil fire (10B). The letter C means that the extinguishing agent does not conduct electricity.
4. It's lightweight and easy to use, since the extinguisher won't be of any use if it's too heavy for you to wield.

Furthermore, check whether it's refillable or has a limited lifespan.

Once you get home, install the fire extinguisher near an exit, but at a good distance from possible fire sources (oven, heater, etc.). Most importantly, learn to use it and be ready to act in case of an emergency.

If your fire extinguisher was made before 1985, be sure to replace it ASAP.



When choosing a fire extinguisher for your home, make sure you can easily pick it up and use it.



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