
Information Bulletin

Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service Marks Fire Prevention Week October 7 – 13

ABBOTSFORD, BC: October 5, 2017– The Abbotsford Fire/Rescue Service is 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: “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere”.

The campaign works to educate the public about basic but essential ways to quickly and safely escape a home fire. Data from Statistics Canada show that the number of structure fires declined by 26 per cent between 2005 and 2014. However, residential fires consistently accounted for roughly six of every 10 structural fires during that period. According to Statistics Canada, cooking equipment and smokers’ material caused approximately six of every 10 residential fires.

“Working in the fire service for many years, we know that people often make choices in fire situations that jeopardize their safety or even cost them their lives,” said Don Beer, Fire Chief, Abbotsford Fire Rescue Services. “We need to do a better job of teaching people about the potentially life-saving difference escape planning and practice can make and motivating them to take action.”

This year’s “Look. Listen. Learn highlights three steps people can take to help quickly and safely escape a fire:

- Look for places fire could start
- Listen for the sound of the smoke alarm
- Learn two ways out of every room

“Home fires today can burn faster than ever. Occupants may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Knowing how to use that time wisely takes planning and practice,” adds Beer.

The Abbotsford Fire/Rescue Service is hosting a series of open houses to help educate people about fire safety and give them the opportunity to liaise with their community fire fighters. Open houses are on October 10 from 6 - 8 pm at Fire Hall 3 on Fraser Highway, Fire Hall 4 on Wallace Street, Fire Hall 5 on Merryfield Avenue, Fire Hall 6 on West Railway Avenue and Fire Hall 7 on Old Clayburn Road. Open houses are a free family event.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week in Abbotsford visit www.abbotsford.ca/fpw

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