



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 8 – 14, 2017

Nelson, BC - Nelson Fire & Rescue Services along with Sparky, Panago Pizza and Maglio Building Center urge all Nelson residents to take the time to plan two (2) escape routes from your home.

Consider this scenario: It's 2 O'clock in the morning and you and your family are fast asleep when you awake to the smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke. **What do you do?** If you and your family don't have a plan in place, or haven't practiced a plan, it could jeopardize your safety or even prove to be deadly.

In a typical house fire, you could have as little as 1-2 minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. That is why home escape planning is so critical in a fire situation. It ensures that everyone in the household knows how to use that small window of time wisely. "Developing and practicing a home escape plan is like building muscle memory," said Fire Chief Len MacCharles of Nelson Fire Rescue Services (NF&RS). He adds "Pre-planning is what everyone will draw upon to snap into action and escape as quickly as possible in the event of a fire."

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme "**Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!**" works to better educate the public about the critical importance of developing a home escape plan and practicing it. NF&RS is not only encouraging residents to develop their personal escape plans, but also asking people to put thought into what might be needed in the case of an evacuation, as was required in many municipalities when several forest fires grew out of control this summer.

In support of Fire Prevention Week, Chief MacCharles encourages all Nelson households to develop a plan together and practice it. A home escape plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom, and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two (2) ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) that is a safe distance from the home.

NF&RS and the NFPA offer these additional tips and recommendations for developing and practicing a home escape plan:

- Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.
- Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home. Be sure to practice using different ways out of your home.
- Teach children how to escape on their own, in case you are unable to assist them.
- Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easily identified by Emergency personnel on their arrival to your home.
- Close doors behind you as you leave — this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, ***stay outside***. Never go back inside a burning building.

NF&RS has already started promoting their fire safety messages by visiting and assisting some Nelson homeowners with checking their smoke alarms. NF&RS will continue to visit schools throughout the city and is partnering with Panago Pizza and Maglio Building Center to get their message out. During the week of October 8-14th, the Fire Department will go along with one Panago Pizza delivery each night. If the Panago customer can show a working smoke alarm, he or she will win free pizza! Households who do not have a working alarm will be given a new alarm, donated by Maglio Building Center.

To find out more about Fire Prevention Week activities go to <http://www.nelson.ca> or find NF&RS on Facebook. Alternately, please contact the Nelson Fire Hall at (250)352-3103. You can also check out the NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.