



Press Release

EVERY SECOND CAN MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH Province-wide Community Fire Drill Scheduled Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Port Coquitlam, B.C. – October 2, 2009... During Fire Prevention Week, Port Coquitlam Fire and Emergency Services encourages Port Coquitlam residents to participate in a province-wide Community Fire Escape Drill to take place on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 6:30 pm.

If a fire occurs in your home, can your family get out safely? Do they know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds? Since every second can mean the difference between life and death, all British Columbia residents need to prepare and practice their escape in the event of a fire.

“Statistics reveal that most fires in the home could have been prevented,” noted Port Coquitlam Fire Chief, Steve Gamble. “The Community Fire Drill highlights the importance of simple preventative measures – such as checking your smoke alarms – that will save lives.”

Through the Community Fire Drill, Port Coquitlam Fire & Emergency Services hope to raise awareness and to reinforce the importance of working smoke alarms and practicing an escape plan. Each resident must be aware of the sound, care and maintenance of smoke alarms and the importance of preparing and practicing as escape should the alarm sound. Working smoke alarms save lives.

To participate in the Community Fire Drill on Wednesday on Oct. 7, test your smoke alarm at 6:30 pm and then practice your escape plan to gather at your meeting place. By practicing a fire drill at home, you will ensure that your family knows what to do in the event of a fire.

There are five important components to a successful fire drill:

1. ***Review your escape route.*** For more information on creating a Fire Escape Plan, go to www.safeathome.ca/drill for checklists and downloadable floor plans.
2. ***Test your smoke alarms.*** Remember only a working smoke alarm saves lives!
3. ***Practice your escape plan.***
4. ***Gather at your meeting place.***
5. ***Know two ways out of every room.***

For more information on fire safety, go to www.portcoquitlam.ca/fire or call Port Coquitlam Fire & Emergency Services at 604-927-5466.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kerry A. Stubbert
Deputy Fire Chief
Fire Protective Services and Public Education
Port Coquitlam Fire & Emergency Services
City of Port Coquitlam
Tel 604.927.5464
Email stubberrtk@portcoquitlam.ca
www.portcoquitlam.ca