

Media Release

For Immediate Release DATE: October 7, 2024

As Fire Prevention Week approaches, Summerland Fire Department urges residents to make sure their smoke alarms are working

SUMMERLAND – The Summerland Fire Department is teaming up with the <u>National Fire Protection</u> <u>Association® (NFPA®)</u>—the official sponsor of Fire Prevention WeekTM (FPWTM) for more than 100 years—to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week (FPW) campaign, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!TM" The campaign works to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

According to NFPA, smoke alarms reduce the risk of dying in a home fire by more than half (54 percent). Meanwhile, roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

The Summerland Fire Department encourages all residents to actively support the 2024 FPW theme, "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"

Summerland Fire Department offers these key smoke alarm safety tips and guidelines:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of the home.
- Make sure smoke alarms meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms, visit fpw.org.

Quote

"Smoke alarms serve as the first line of defense in a home fire, but they need to be working in order to protect people. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign helps better educate the public about simple but critical steps they can take to make sure their homes have smoke alarms in all the needed locations and that they're working properly."

Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA

"Working smoke alarms can make a life-saving difference in a home fire, giving people the time to get out safely. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is a great way to remind everyone about these messages and to act on them."

- Fire Chief Rob Robinson

-30-

For further information/Media Contact/ContactGraham Statt

Chief Administrative Officer 250-404-4043 gstatt@summerland.ca

