

October 7, 2016

---

### **Every smoke alarm has an expiration date: What's yours?**

The Campbell River Fire Department urges all residents to know how old their smoke alarms are, and to replace them every 10 years.

Do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like most people, you're probably not so sure.

A recent survey conducted by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) revealed that only a small percentage of people know how old their smoke alarms are, or how often they need to be replaced. That lack of awareness is a concern for the Campbell River Fire Department and NFPA, along with fire departments throughout the country, because smoke alarms don't last forever.

*"Time and again, I've seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in a home fire, but I've also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren't working properly,"* says fire chief Ian Baikie. *"That's why we're making a concerted effort to educate Campbell River residents about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and that they do have a life limit."*

NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*®, requires smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk.

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, NFPA is promoting this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait - Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years," to better educate the public about the critical importance of knowing how old their smoke alarms are and replacing them once they're 10 years old. Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15, 2016.

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, simply look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date (*not* the date of purchase). The Campbell River Fire Department also says smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and that batteries should be replaced once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they're running low.

Out-of-date smoke alarms can be recycled at the Island Return It depot at 1580-F Willow St, Campbell River.

For more information on smoke alarms and this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Don't Wait: Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years", visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

###

Contact: Ian Baikie, Fire Chief

250-286-6266