

October 12, 2012

Smoke Alarm Awareness Day

Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, has proclaimed Friday, October 12, Smoke Alarm Awareness Day in British Columbia, and will present the proclamation to firefighters and health professionals this morning at the Canadian Injury Action Forum.

Smoke Alarm Awareness Day encourages families, schools, workplaces and all British Columbians to take responsibility to protect themselves and those in their care by promoting the use and regular testing of residential smoke alarms in every B.C. home. By being smoke alarm aware, all British Columbians can help ensure they and their families are better protected in their homes from fires.

The City of Campbell River Fire Department is a partner in the British Columbia Smoke Alarm Campaign, which was launched in March 2012 with the goal of ensuring every B.C. home has and maintains a working smoke alarm. The campaign is supported by the Office of the Fire Commissioner, a number of provincial public health organizations and private companies, and almost 50 communities.

Research shows that almost 70 per cent of houses that caught fire did not have a functioning smoke alarm.

Based on two decades of fire-related data, research also predicts that working smoke alarms could reduce annual fire deaths by as much as 32 per cent and save 76 lives across Canada each year.

Shirley Bond, Minister of Justice and Attorney General states: "We are proud to declare today Smoke Alarm Awareness Day in British Columbia. Today's proclamation emphasizes that smoke alarms deserve special attention and builds on the smoke alarm campaign that fire professionals, governments and private-sector partners have been promoting since the spring."

Acting Fire Chief Baikie concurs: "The evidence is clear working smoke alarms save lives."

Learn More:

Information about the smoke alarm campaign is at: www.fcabc.ca

Information about smoke alarms is at: <http://www.workingsmokealarms.ca/index.htm>

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