

October 2, 2013

Campbell River Fire Department reminds residents to prevent kitchen fires

As we enter the fall season, the Campbell River Fire Department reminds everyone that Fire Prevention Week 2013 will take place October 6-12 – and urges local citizens to prevent kitchen fires.

According to the latest National Fire Protection Association research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen, more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries such as burns. Because of this alarming statistic, “Prevent Kitchen Fires” is the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2013.

“As in years past, members of the Fire Department will visit all Campbell River elementary schools to deliver life-saving fire safety messages to Grade 3 students using our Fire Safety House,” says Fire Chief Ian Baikie. “Each year, approximately 450 Grade 3 students receive education on fire safety when the firefighters bring the Fire Safety House to their class and teach them how to prevent fires from occurring in the home. They also learn what to do in the event of a fire and how to safely exit the home should a fire occur. This year the firefighters will emphasize kitchen safety using the Fire Safety House’s built in kitchen for an interactive learning experience.”

Highlights of kitchen safety tips, courtesy of the Fire Department:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you when the cooking time is done.
- If you have young children, use the stove’s back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from the stovetop.
- Clean food and grease from burners and stovetops.

“Although we teach fire safety throughout the year, we focus special attention on the month of October. Please do your part to prevent fires in your home,” Baikie adds.

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Contact: Ian Baikie, Fire Chief

250-286-6266