

September 30, 2015

Hear the beep where you sleep. Every bedroom needs a working smoke alarm!

Location matters when it comes to your smoke alarm. That's the message behind this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!"

Along with firefighters and safety advocates nationwide, Campbell River is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 4 to 10, to remind local residents about the importance of having working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.

"In a fire, seconds count," says fire chief Ian Baikie. "Half of home fire deaths result from fires at night, between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep. Home smoke alarms can alert people to a fire before it spreads, giving everyone enough time to get out."

According to the latest NFPA research, three out of five fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.

"Working smoke alarms cut the chance of dying in a fire in half," Baikie emphasizes.

Important information about smoke alarms:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home so that when one sounds, they all do.
- Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or sooner if they don't respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound of the smoke alarm and understands what to do when they hear it.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Meet at a pre-determined place.
- Call the fire department from outside the home.

Find out more about smoke alarms and fire prevention information on Saturday, Oct. 3. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., members of the Campbell River Fire Department will be on-hand at Home Depot's Fire Safety Day to answer questions regarding fire safety and distribute fire prevention information. Bring the kids along and try out the toy fire truck building station.

To learn more about smoke alarms and "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!" visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org and www.sparky.org/fpw.

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