



City of Chilliwack Fire Department

Proudly Serving Our Community Since 1906

Family Letter

This Fire Prevention Week, October 5 – 11, 2025, your local fire department and your child's school have teamed up for safety! Your child has been learning about ways to prevent home fires, fire and burn hazards, working smoke alarms and home fire escape planning.

The theme this year is **"Charge into Fire Safety"** This is a reminder that practicing proper battery safety at home is essential.

Most fatal fires occur in residential settings where people feel safest. Fire can spread quickly through your home, leaving only precious minutes to escape. Your ability to get out fast depends on advanced warning from smoke alarms and advanced planning – creating a home fire escape plan. Remember only a fire safety plan that has been practiced, will work. Reduce your family's risk from fire by following the tips below.

Smoke Alarms

- Make sure everyone in your home can recognise the sound of the smoke alarm and knows exactly what to do when it sounds.
- Install working smoke alarms near sleeping areas and on every level of your home. For maximum protection also install smoke alarms in bedrooms.
- Smoke alarms should be tested and maintained in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Alarms should be tested **once a month** by pushing the test button and listening for the alarm.
- For battery operated smoke alarms, replace batteries at least once a year or for extended life batteries, refer to manufacturer's instructions. Batteries should also be replaced when the smoke alarm makes a chirping sound.
- Smoke alarms should be cleaned at least every 6 months by gently vacuuming the exterior.
- Smoke alarms do wear out and should be replaced **at least every 10 years.**
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

Home Fire Escape Plans

- Create a home fire escape plan showing **2 ways out** of every room. Practice your plan with your entire family by having a home fire drill at least twice a year.
- Choose a Family Meeting Place a safe distance away from your home. All family members should be taught to report to the family meeting place after leaving the home.
- One person should then go to a neighbour's house or the nearest phone in a safe location to contact 9-1-1 or your local emergency number.

Thank you for making fire safety your priority in your home!
Chilliwack Fire Department