

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Fire Prevention Week focuses on smoke alarm maintenance**

*Have you checked your smoke alarm lately?*

#### **Summary**

Smoke alarms save lives. But did you know that smoke alarms have an expiration date?

Smoke alarms that are more than 10 years old should be replaced. That is the message Nanaimo Fire Rescue is promoting during this year's Fire Prevention Week. From October 9-15, 2016, fire departments across British Columbia and North America will be working to educate the public about the importance of fire safety, and the importance of having working smoke alarms.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be invited to enter to win the Fire Prevention Week 2016 iPad Contest. The iPad contest is jointly sponsored by the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the BC Fire Chiefs' Association, the Fire Training Officers' Association of BC, the Fire Prevention Officers' Association of BC, Fortis BC and First Nations' Emergency Services Society. A student in each of B.C.'s five fire regions will win one iPad, as well as one student from a First Nations Band Operated School.

*Strategic Link:* Fire Prevention Week supports the City's commitment to Public Safety.

#### **Key Points**

- Each year, Fire Prevention Week highlights an important theme in fire education. This year's theme, "Don't wait—check the date!", focuses on raising awareness that smoke alarms expire and to keep families safe by replacing smoke alarms every ten years.
- To find out how old your 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.

#### **Quotes**

"When you are sleeping, your nose falls asleep too. Home smoke alarms will only work properly if they are tested monthly and replaced every 10 years."

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