

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed October 7, 2023

Fire Prevention Week 2023

Summary

The City of Nanaimo Fire Rescue is participating in Fire Prevention Week Oct. 8-14, 2023. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is "Cooking safety starts with you. Pay attention to fire prevention." which works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safer when cooking.

The Fire Rescue is hosting an Open House in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week, on Oct. 26, 2023 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at 666 Fitzwilliam Street. In addition, a poster contest will take place and is open to all students from kindergarten to grade 12 and more details can be found on our website.

Some important tips for safe cooking practices include:

- Always keep a close eye on what you're cooking. For foods with longer cook times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.
- Clear the cooking area of combustible items and keep anything that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Create a "kid and pet free zone" of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Stay in the kitchen, use a timer, and avoid distractions that remove your focus from what's on the stove.

If you have a fire:

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1

For more information visit the Fire & Rescue page on www.nanaimo.ca.

Strategic Link: Social, Health and Public Safety Challenges

Key Points

- This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign is "Cooking safety starts with you. Pay attention to fire prevention." which works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safer when cooking.
- The City of Nanaimo Fire Department is hosting an Open House in support of this year's Fire Prevention Week, on Oct. 26, 2023 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at 666 Fitzwilliam Street.
- The annual Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest is open to all students from kindergarten to grade 12 and more details can be found on our website.
- The City of Nanaimo has declared October as Emergency Preparedness Month, which includes Fire Prevention Week.

Quotes

"Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths. The good news is you can prevent most cooking fires and burns and help keep your family safer with some simple but effective tips."

Tim Doyle
Fire Chief
Nanaimo Fire Rescue

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