



Media Release

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For immediate release

RDCK Fire Services Launches Home Safety Program

Nelson, BC: The Fire Chiefs Association of British Columbia is supporting 17 Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Fire Departments in delivering its 2021 Home Safety Program. This program provides free smoke/carbon monoxide alarms and fire safety information for residents, specifically targeting those residents unable to afford alarms.

“Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan,” said Gord Ihlen, RDCK Fire Prevention Officer. “When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so, you can get outside quickly. “

Starting on March 22, 2021, RDCK Fire Department members will be distributing these smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, along with fire safety information, to homes within their service area. If you or someone you know would benefit from this program, please contact your local Fire Department non-emergency phone number for assistance. Contact information for your local Fire Department can be found [here](#).

Tips to ensure the proper working order of your smoke/carbon monoxide alarm:

- Replace the batteries in your smoke/carbon monoxide combination alarm at least one a year or for the extended life of the batteries according to manufacturer’s instructions
- Good reminder – when you change your clock for daylight savings, change the batteries in your alarm
- Smoke, carbon monoxide and combination alarms should be cleaned at least once every six months, by gently vacuuming the exterior
- Smoke/carbon monoxide combination alarms do wear out, and should be replaced at least every ten years
- Residents should test their smoke/carbon monoxide combination alarms at least once per month by pushing the test button and listening for the alarm

Sadly, each year there are fire fatalities in Canada; however, having properly operating smoke/carbon monoxide alarms installed throughout your home will help protect you and your loved ones against fires and gas leaks. In addition to maintaining the alarms in your home, the RDCK Fire Service also stresses the importance of developing a home escape plan and practicing it with your family on a monthly basis.

For more information on Fire Safety, residents are encouraged to visit the Office of The Fire Commissioner website: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/fire-safety/public-education>

REMEMBER: “Smoke Detectors and Exit Drill in the Home...A Plan You Can Live With.”

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit www.rdck.ca.

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