

# Only a working smoke alarm can save your life!



## COMMUNITY FOCUSED, COMMUNITY DRIVEN

The **Surrey Fire Fighters Association** has had a proud tradition of serving the community we work and live in since 1957. With the support from the City of Surrey and the Surrey Fire Service, the Association administers the Surrey Fire Fighters' Charitable Society, working to fulfill needs that are not met in our community, with special focus on Surrey's children, youth and families.

The Charitable Society has been changing lives in Surrey since it was founded in 1994. We can proudly say that all of the money donated goes directly to helping Surrey's citizens. Our commitment to our community permeates all aspects of our work and is an integral part of the culture in which we work.

Mission Statement: To provide charitable programs that benefit the citizens of our community and to assist other charities within the community that have similar goals and objectives.



### Our goals and objectives are to:

- Provide relief from poverty
- Assist members of the community that have been affected by traumatic wounds, injuries, or episodes.
- Raise money for medical and health care research
- Provide bursaries for community service
- Sponsor programs that promote staying in school
- Deliver programs that offer positive life experiences and enhance self-esteem.

### What separates us from other charities?

- We are 100% volunteer based;
- Every dollar raised goes back to the community;
- We have a dedicated team of fire fighters who deliver our programs;
- We support over 40 community based programs in Surrey;
- We see the need in our community through our job every single day;
- We aim to be the number one community charity in Surrey;
- We care about Surrey's youth, seniors, families and disadvantaged people.

### Consider GIVING to the Surrey Fire Fighters' Charitable Society.

We offer opportunities for you to donate annually and monthly through our online donations. Click this [LINK](#) to donate online

### We need your support. DONATE TODAY

[www.surreyfirefighters.com](http://www.surreyfirefighters.com)

### Surrey Fire Fighters' Charitable Society

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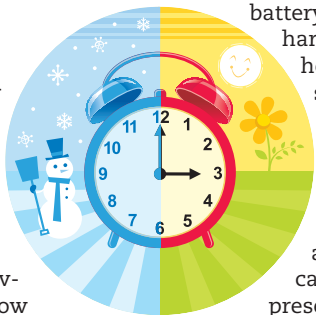
## FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCT. 7-14

# Smoke alarms save lives

## "Fall back" to smart home safety

As most Canadians turn back the clocks on November 4, there are some timely smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) safety tips:

- When you change your clocks, test your smoke alarm.
- You have less than three minutes to escape a fire.
- So when smoke alarms sound, everyone must know what to do and where to go. Having and practising an escape plan is essential.
- Install one smoke alarm on every storey and outside bedrooms. Install inside bedrooms if you sleep with doors closed.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are fully powered. Never take out batteries or remove an alarm from ceiling due to a false alarm.
- If your home has any fuel-burning devices such as a gas furnace, gas water heater, gas appliances, or an attached garage or carport, install at least one CSA-approved carbon monoxide alarm outside all sleeping areas. One per storey is recommended.



• Replace smoke alarms every 10 years, and CO alarms every 7-10 years (depending on manufacturer) whether battery operated or hardwired into your home's electrical system.

Carbon monoxide is colourless, odourless and tasteless. So without a CO alarm, humans cannot detect its presence. Despite the average home having several potential sources of the deadly gas, studies show that nearly 60 per cent of Canadians have not installed a CO alarm. In addition to being impossible to detect, CO also has another nefarious trait. Symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure mimic the flu, without the fever. It is routinely responsible for thousands of clinic and hospital visits each year, and is commonly misdiagnosed. Prolonged or extreme exposure causes nausea, dizziness, confusion, the loss of physical mobility, brain damage and ultimately, death. More home safety resources can be found on the [www.safeathome.ca](http://www.safeathome.ca) web site.



Analysis was undertaken on almost 50,000 fires that occurred in Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario over a 5-year period involving 663 fatalities. The findings demonstrated that the death rate per 1,000 fires in the absence of a present, functioning smoke alarm was 74% greater than when a functioning smoke alarm was present.

## Thanksgiving turkey fires cause for concern at 9-1-1 centre

E-Comm's fire dispatch team is warning families to be mindful of their turkey cooking during Thanksgiving weekend. "A turkey isn't something you typically see on a list of household fire hazards, but we get 9-1-1 calls about ovens going up in flames all the time," says Corey Kelso, E-Comm fire dispatcher. "The result can be devastating if you're not careful every time you have something cooking for an extended period of time."



E-Comm has received some odd calls to 9-1-1 before – including someone wanting to know how long to cook a turkey – but a turkey fire is no joke. In fact, it is a leading cause of spikes in 9-1-1 calls over the holidays.

"A flame in your oven can start easily and escalate quickly," says Kelso. "Oil drippings through a thin tinfoil turkey pan or bits of leftover food residue inside your oven are extremely flammable in a high temperature setting."

# Many fatal fires start at night

Investigations into home fire deaths very often find that a smoke alarm did not sound. It may have been disconnected or not in working order. The batteries may have been dead, or someone may have taken them out. Smoke alone won't necessarily wake you up. In fact, the fumes could put you into an even deeper sleep. Often, victims never wake up. Se-



niors will often need assistance from family members to put safety measures into place. As well, family members are in the best position to reinforce the precautions necessary to help their loved ones prevent or respond to a fire. Focus on these six priorities to help aging family members protect themselves against fire in the home.

- **INSTALL** smoke alarms inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Larger homes may need **ADDITIONAL** smoke alarms to provide enough protection.
- For the best protection, **INTERCONNECT** all smoke alarms so when one sounds they all sound.
- An **IONIZATION** smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires and a **PHOTOELECTRIC** smoke alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires. For the best protection, both types of alarms or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms (also known as dual sensor alarms) are recommended.
- Smoke alarms should be **INSTALLED** away from the kitchen to prevent false alarms. Generally, they should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from a cooking appliance.
- **REPLACE** all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



# Surrey Fire Fighters' Charitable Society

Go online and **Donate today!**

Community Focused,  
Community Driven  
Since 1994

- Every dollar will go back into Surrey
- We are 100% volunteer based
- We serve over 40 community based organizations

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