



Don't wait, check the date!

Replace smoke alarms every 10 years

October 6, 2016

Edmonton Fire Rescue Services and the Office of the Fire Commissioner are asking Albertans to check the expiry date on their smoke alarm and to replace smoke alarms every 10 years. The reminder comes during Fire Prevention Week, October 9-15, 2016.

"Smoke alarms save lives and provide Albertans with a better chance of exiting the home quickly in the event of an emergency- but only if they are heard," said Edmonton Fire Chief Ken Block. "Edmonton Fire Rescue Services is encouraging Albertans to ensure working smoke alarms are a part of their residential emergency safety plan by checking the date and replacing expired smoke alarms."

"Alberta's Office of the Fire Commissioner recommends smoke alarms be replaced at least every 10 years, but because the public is generally unaware of this requirement, many homes have smoke alarms past their expiration date, putting people at increased risk," said Spence Sample, Acting Fire Commissioner. "Our office is proud to support Fire Prevention Week and this year's theme Don't Wait - Check the Date!"

To find out how old your smoke alarm is and its expiration date, look on the back of the alarm where the date of manufacture is marked. The smoke alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date (not the date of purchase). Edmonton Fire Rescue Services is also reminding citizens that smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and batteries should be replaced once a year or when they begin to chirp, signaling that they're running low.

"We know fire can be deadly and devastating," said Dean Reeve, Senior Vice President and General Manager, ATCO Gas Distribution. "That's why, at ATCO, we're pleased to work with fire departments across Alberta by participating in Alberta Fire Prevention Week and supporting the Fire Prevention Week Children's Program. Fire prevention can, and should be, a part of our everyday lives. We can do this by checking the expiry date on our smoke alarms as well as carbon monoxide alarms – let's be safe. Don't wait, check the date."

Elementary students from across Alberta will complete the "Fire Safety Starts with You" activity book during Fire Prevention Week, learning important life-saving steps they can take to protect themselves, their families and their homes from fire. The Government of Alberta's Office of the Fire Commissioner and ATCO distributed more than 300,000 activity books across the province this year.

For more information:

Fire Prevention Week
edmonton.ca/firepreventionweek/

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