

Fire Prevention Week is a good time to prepare

You and your family are fast asleep when the smoke alarm sounds. Do you know what to do?

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8 to 14, and it's the perfect time for Caledon Fire and Emergency Services to remind all households to develop a home escape plan together and practise it. A plan includes working smoke alarms on every level of the home, in every bedroom and near all sleeping areas. It also includes two ways out of every room, usually a door and a window, with a clear path to an outside meeting place (like a tree, light pole, or mailbox) ? a safe distance from the home.

?In a typical home fire, you may have as little as a few minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds,? Fire Chief Darryl Bailey observed. ?That's why home escape planning is so critical in a fire situation. It ensures that everyone in the household knows how to use that small window of time wisely. This pre-planning is what everyone will draw upon to snap into action and escape as quickly as possible in the event of a fire.?

Home escape planning is one of the most basic, but fundamental, elements of home fire safety and can make the difference between life and death in a fire.

Consider these additional tips and recommendations for developing and practising a home escape plan:

? Draw a map of your home with all members of your household, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.

? Practise your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practise using different ways out.

? Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

? Make sure the number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.

? Close doors behind you as you leave ? this may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.

? Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.

?Where's Sparky?? contest

To keep fire safety top of mind, Caledon Fire and Emergency Services will be hosting a number of open houses at various fire stations, along with an online contest ? ?Where's Sparky?? ? during Fire Prevention Week. ?Where's Sparky?? will test Caledon residents to correctly name Sparky's location and be entered in a draw to win prizes.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week activities in Caledon and the ?Where's Sparky? contest, visit www.caledon/fire Open Houses

Open houses are scheduled for October to recognize Fire Prevention Week. Residents are invited to attend and enjoy a complimentary pancake breakfast while learning more about general fire safety, making a home escape plan and house trailer safety. They will be Oct. 7 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Bolton station at 28 Ann St.; Oct. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Valleywood station at 2 Snelcrest Dr.; Oct. 14 from 7 to 11 a.m. at the Alton station at 19630 Main St.; and Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Palgrave station at 17177 Regional Road 50.