

# STIRLING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

*October 5-11, 2014*



## *History of Fire Prevention Week*

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the devastating Chicago fire on October 9, 1871 in which more than 250 people died, over 100,000 were left homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

The fire changed the way that firefighters and public officials in North America think about fire prevention and fire safety. The Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association), decided that the anniversary of the Chicago fire should be observed in a way to educate the public about the importance of fire prevention.

*Fire Prevention Week was proclaimed in Canada in 1919 to commemorate the Chicago blaze, as well as a major fire that destroyed the Centre Block of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa on February 3, 1916.*



# STIRLING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

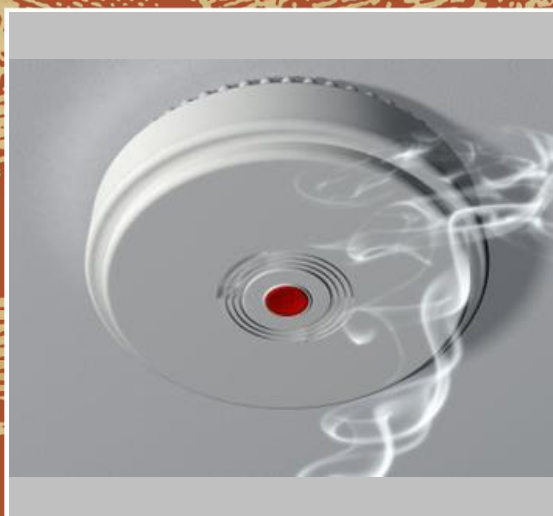
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR: TESTING & CLEANING

Test your smoke alarm monthly and clean it every 6 months. Mark it on your calendar so that you don't forget. Things to remember when testing your smoke alarm:

1. Ensure that power is being transmitted to the alarm and that it will activate in the presence of smoke.
2. Test your smoke alarm by pressing the test button.
3. Even alarms with a pilot light that indicate power is being transmitted, should be tested regularly.
4. Battery-operated smoke alarms will warn you when batteries need replacing. Despite this, make it a habit to change the batteries yearly.
5. When you've been away from home for a few days, check your alarm on your return to ensure it is working properly.
6. Remember, your smoke alarm can't protect you if the batteries have been removed or a plug has been disconnected.
7. The lifespan of a typical smoke alarm is about 10 years, but some models last as little as 5 years.
8. To clean the alarm, open the cover and gently vacuum the interior of it. Frequently, the alarm will sound while the unit is being cleaned.



## Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

### Test Yours Every Month!

Fire Prevention Week  
October 5-11, 2014  
Go to [FPW.org](http://FPW.org)





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## Did You Know?

The National Fire Prevention Association reports that in recent years, fireworks have been one of the leading causes of injuries serious enough to require hospital emergency room treatment. Fireworks can result in severe burns, fractures, or scars or even disfigurement that can last a lifetime. Wooded areas, homes, and even automobiles have become engulfed in flames because of fireworks. A substantial portion of the structure fire property losses due to fireworks typically involves bottle rockets or other fireworks rockets. These rockets can land on rooftops or wedge within certain structures and still retain enough heat to cause a fire.

Partly for these reasons, it is unlawful to discharge or use fireworks within the Village without the written consent of the Chief of Stirling Emergency Services.

Section 12.3 of Bylaw 422 states: "Except without the express, written authorization from the Fire Chief or his designate, no person shall use Fireworks or permit the use of Fireworks on his or her property or property under his or her control within the boundaries of the Village."



## Your best tool for surviving a fire: Smoke alarms save lives but only when they work!

The sound of a smoke alarm can mean the difference between life and death in a fire. Research shows that working smoke alarms cut the chances of dying in a fire nearly in half.

Alarmingly, many smoke alarms in Alberta homes do not work properly due to one simple fact: they are not powered properly.

"Our house fire investigations show that many homes have smoke alarms but they don't activate because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries," says Brian Cornforth, Fire Chief with the City of Lethbridge and President of the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association.

Research from the Office of the Fire Commissioner for Alberta points to other common problems with smoke alarms including not having enough alarms, having alarms that are too old, or having alarms that are not working. Some homes are without smoke alarms altogether.

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A working smoke alarm will beep when smoke is present or when the test button is pressed, has a power source (battery or household electric circuit), is not plugged by dust, cob-webs or paint.

"Many Albertans are not aware that smoke alarms need to be replaced every ten years," says Cornforth. "But they do wear out over time."

In order to keep smoke alarms in good working order, they require some basic maintenance. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly and everyone in the home should know how they sound.

Batteries in battery-operated alarms should be replaced with ten year lithium batteries that don't require annual replacement. "If your alarms chirps, it is warning you that the battery level is low," Cornforth cautions "Replace the battery right away."

Stirling Emergency Services is  
your volunteer fire department  
dedicated to protecting our  
community.

**Looking to learn new skills?**

**Ready to make a commitment  
to serve?**

For more information on joining  
the Fire Department  
Association contact  
Chief Thomas Hodder.

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