

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For further information, contact:
communications@mapleridge.ca

City Reminds Residents of Cooking Safety During Fire Prevention Week

The City of Maple Ridge Fire and Rescue Services is reminding residents of the importance of cooking safety during Fire Prevention Week, which takes place October 8 to 14.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme 'Cooking Safely Starts With You – Pay Attention to Fire Prevention' raises awareness of simple but important actions everyone can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

Residents are encouraged to stay safe in the kitchen as cooking is the number one cause of home fires. A cooking fire can cause damage and injuries which can easily be prevented.

Residents are provided with three safety reminders to help reduce the risk of cooking fires:

- Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least three feet (one meter) around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

The City takes part in Fire Prevention Week each year by educating the community on the year's theme.

Enter Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest by Oct. 23

Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 can also enter the annual Fire Prevention Week Poster Contest for a chance to win prizes, including an iPad. Poster artwork should bring attention to fire prevention activities. The contest is organized by the Office of the Fire Commission in partnership with the BC Professional Burn Fund, the Fire Prevention Officers Association of BC and the First Nations Emergency Services Society. Entries can be submitted to BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund at 3891 Main St., Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P1 or by email at Prevention@burnfund.org by Oct. 23

For more fire prevention and safety tips, visit mapleridge.ca/430.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week visit www.gov.bc.ca/FirePreventionWeek