

Fire Department sounds the alarm on Fire Prevention Week

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Welland, ON – The City of Welland Fire and Emergency Services is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week (FPW) campaign, ‘Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety’, from Oct. 3 to 9.

For many, the sound of a smoke alarm is distinct, immediately alerting those in the vicinity of an issue. However, there are those who are deaf or hard of hearing, and the Welland FD would like to highlight the options available for those who may not hear a traditional smoke alarm.

“It’s important to learn the different sounds of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. When an alarm makes noise, whether a beeping or chirping sound, do not ignore it,” said Adam Eckhart, fire chief. “Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the alarms and knows how to respond. We encourage those who are deaf or hard of hearing to install devices that will alert you of a fire.”

There are special alarms, that when set off, activate strobe lights to alert people who are deaf or hard of hearing of a possible fire when they are awake. Additionally, when people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker should be used to wake them and alert them to fire conditions so they can escape. This device activates by the sound of a standard smoke alarm.

The fire and emergency services department reminds residents:

- A continuous set of three loud beeps means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.
- A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.
- Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.
- Make sure your smoke and CO alarms meet the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.

City of Welland firefighters will have a booth set up at Rona off Woodlawn Avenue on Oct. 3 and 9, where people can learn more about FPW. Additionally, firefighters will be visiting homes throughout the City to alert residents about fire safety and launching a week-long social media campaign.

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