



Fire Prevention Week is October 9 to 15, 2016

The Fire Prevention Week 2016 theme, "Don't Wait – Check the Date! Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years" focuses on educating you, your family, and community about how often you should change your smoke alarms, and how you can tell how old your smoke alarms are. The program for this year represents the final year of the National Fire Protection Association's three-year effort to educate the public about essential elements of smoke alarm safety.

The history of National Fire Prevention Week has its roots in the great Chicago Fire that occurred on October 8, 1871, and killed some 300 people, left 100,000 homeless and destroyed more than 17,000 structures. The popular story is that a cow knocked over an oil lamp in the O'Leary barn. Although the fire is still undetermined, and it has been established that the O'Leary's were asleep at the time the fire started, the massive fire swiftly took its toll, burning more than 2000 acres in 27 hours.

In Canada, the first national Fire Prevention Day proclamation was issued by the Governor-General in 1919.

From the beginning, it was apparent that a united effort between Canada and the U.S.A. would give the work greater impetus. To this end fire prevention organizations in both countries have always supported a common date at federal, state, provincial, and municipal levels. Fire Prevention week falls in the week that includes October 9.

British Columbia, Alberta, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon fire departments coordinate efforts to reach children in kindergarten through grade 3 during Fire Prevention Week in order to deliver consistent, accurate fire safety messages with information on preventing fires, knowing what to do in case of a fire, smoke alarms and developing home escape plans. Each year the message is tailored to follow the NFPA theme with activity booklets, lesson plans for teachers, fire safety messages to take home and a contest where one child from each region can win an iPad. This year, Fire Prevention Week sponsors will supply a sixth iPad for a child in a First Nations Band Operated School.