



FOR RELEASE  
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## **National Fire Prevention Week launched in Yukon**

WHITEHORSE—Fire prevention, two ways out, regular testing of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and annual maintenance of home heating systems are among the local themes being highlighted during National Fire Prevention Week, underway in Yukon from October 7 to 13.

Community Services Minister Elaine Taylor, Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation Scott Kent and Whitehorse Mayor Bev Buckway were joined by Fire Marshal Dennis Berry and City of Whitehorse Fire Chief and vice president of the Association of Yukon Fire Chiefs Clive Sparks to pay tribute to the men and women of Yukon's fire services and to raise awareness of home fire safety at today's event at the Public Safety Building in Whitehorse.

"The men and women of Yukon's fire services do a tremendous job every day to safeguard our homes and communities," Taylor said. "National Fire Prevention Week is an opportunity to highlight this important work and the collective responsibility we all share when it comes to safeguarding our families, homes and communities."

Approximately 250 carbon monoxide detectors will be distributed to food banks in Whitehorse, Dawson City and Watson Lake; to Yukon Housing Corporation community offices outside Whitehorse; and to rural fire halls in communities not served by Yukon Housing offices.

"Carbon monoxide detectors are a critical part of safety planning for family and home," Kent said. "In addition to ensuring the detectors are in good working order, it is important to have your home heating systems serviced as we head into the winter months."

"The city encourages all residents to have a home emergency escape plan and to practise it to ensure that they and their families are safe in the event of a fire," Mayor Bev Buckway said. "Please make sure to test and service your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors so they can give you and your family enough time to escape your home in the event of a fire or other emergency."

Reminders to Yukoners from the Yukon Fire Marshal include:

- planning for two escape routes from every room in a dwelling;
- practise fire drills at home with your family;
- test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace the batteries on a regular basis;
- ensure that wood stove chimneys are cleaned annually; and
- have home heating systems serviced by a professional each year.

Fire Prevention Week is recognized every October across Canada. For more information, visit [www.community.gov.yk.ca](http://www.community.gov.yk.ca).

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