

Fire & Life Safety

Provincial Public Education Position Paper

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Issue: Should Locator (Rescue) Decals be used ?

Position:

Locator (Rescue) Decals should **not** be used. Instead, people should purchase and install working smoke alarms and practise home escape plans.

Rationale:

Locator (rescue) decals for children and persons with disabilities are designed to be placed on windows or doors in order to identify areas in a building most likely occupied by persons needing assistance during an emergency. The intended purpose of locator decals is to direct fire fighters to search these areas first.

However, locator decals may give the occupants of a home a false sense of security. Smoke inhalation is a major cause of fire fatalities and may occur in minutes, even before the fire department arrives. People should purchase and install working smoke alarms and practise home escape plans, rather than rely on locator decals for a sense of safety.

Fire departments have operational guidelines for fire suppression and search and rescue. Fire fighters are trained to systematically search for those inside a burning building. They have been trained to look for children and persons with disabilities.

Locator decals could identify for an intruder an easy entry into a home occupied by people least capable of offering resistance.

Occupants may not be in the part of the house identified by the locator decal when a fire occurs.

When families move, their locator decal is often left behind on a window or door of the home. The new occupants may not have the same family structure.

Purpose of Public Education Position Papers:

In order to provide for the consistent delivery of fire and life safety education in the Province of British Columbia, the BC Public Fire & Life Safety Education Advisory Committee through the Public Education Strategic Plan has identified the need for the development of Public Education Position Papers. While it is not mandatory for individual agencies who deliver fire and life safety educational programs to follow these position papers, it is hoped that these positions will be supported throughout British Columbia, in order to achieve consistency in the delivery of fire and life safety education.

Fire & Life Safety Public Education Position Papers are published by the Office of the Fire Commissioner in conjunction with the BC Public Fire & Life Safety Education Advisory Committee.

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