



**Date:** Monday, October 6, 2008, 9:30 am

**Event:** Fire Prevention Week Proclamation

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***Check Against Delivery***

- Good morning.
- This week is national 'Fire Prevention Week'.
- It is a reminder to each of us of the importance of fire safety.
- This year's fire prevention week theme: 'Prevent Home Fires' will focus on teaching British Columbians how to prevent injury or death from the leading causes of house fires: cooking, heating, electrical equipment and smoking materials.
- Between 2004 and 2007, there were 8,300 residential fires reported in B.C. resulting in 611 injuries and tragically, 87 deaths.
- The majority of those blazes started in kitchens on the stove-top.
- It is alarming that so many fires happen in our homes. However, there are any things each of us can do to better protect ourselves and our families from house fires.
- This booklet (*hold up activity booklet*) Fire Safety Starts With You, is a fun and interactive way for children to learn about fire safety and preventing fires in the home.
- The activities in this booklet are targeted at children, but the materials are also designed to engage parents in fire and life safety.
- Families can complete the activities together including testing household smoke detectors, completing the fire safety checklist and developing and practicing a home fire escape plan.
- The B.C. Office of the Fire Commissioner has provided more than 300,000 of the Fire Safety Starts With You activity booklets to fire departments throughout the province. Fire service personnel will distribute these at schools and events in their communities.

- Educational materials like Fire Safety Starts With You and awareness campaigns like Fire Prevention Week play an important part in reducing the risk to our communities and families.
- The Cooper family of 100 Mile House is a perfect example of just how well fire safety education works.
- In January of this year, six year-old Nicole Cooper awoke early in the morning to the sound of fire crackling.
- Because Nicole remembered the lessons she had learned from fire service personnel during fire prevention week 2007, this brave little girl knew exactly what to do.
- She dropped to the ground and crawled below the smoke to her parent's room and woke her mother and sister up.
- Nicole's mother was then able to get her two daughters and herself safely out of the house.
- Thanks to Nicole's quick thinking and bravery she saved her own life and the lives of her mom and sister.
- Nicole's dad who was working out of town at the time of the fire called Nicole, "Our little hero." I couldn't agree more.
- As the minister of Public Safety, I encourage all British Columbians to practice fire safety and prevention not only this week, but throughout the year.
- The results could save your life.
- Thank you