



NEWS RELEASE – For Immediate Release Tuesday, October 1, 2013

County Kicks Off Fire Prevention Week with Open Houses

The County of Grande Prairie Fire Service will kick off Fire Prevention Week with a free bar-b-que and open house at the Clairmont Fire Hall (located in the Community Services Building) on Sunday, October 6 from 11:30 am – 2:00 pm.

One of the County's fire crews will be on hand for the event, which includes tours of the fire station. There will also be a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog, the official mascot of the National Fire Protection Association.

Visitors can learn some simple tips on kitchen safety for families with children, and how to equip their homes for fire safety.

This year's theme - Prevent Kitchen Fires - aims at the #1 cause of home fires and injuries, and helps people put a lid on dangers and prevent kitchen fires. The overall goal is to stop kitchen fires before they start. This can be accomplished by paying more attention when cooking and practicing simple fire safety behaviors.

That day, and throughout the week, additional open houses will be held in:

Sexsmith Station – Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm (pancake breakfast)

Bezanson Arena – Saturday, October 5 from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm (opening of new skating rink)

LaGlace Station – Tuesday, October 8 from 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm (tour of the firehall)

The County joins fire services from Canada and the United States who are observing National Fire Prevention Week, held October 6 - 12.

For more information, call the County Fire Service at 780-532-9727 or visit our website at www.countygp.ab.ca

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For more information contact:

Ken Atamanchuk

Fire Marshall

Phone: 780-532-9727





FACT SHEET

County of Grande Prairie Fire Prevention Week

Quick Facts About Kitchen Fires from the National Protection Association (NFPA)

- More home fires start in the kitchen than anywhere else.
- In 2011, there were an estimated 156,300 home fires.
- More than 470 deaths, 5,390 injuries and \$1 billion in property damage.
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires.
- Stay alert to avoid stirring up trouble in the kitchen.
- Make sure flammable objects aren't near the stove.
- Be ready to react fast to a cooking fire.

The History of Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire on October 9, 1871 that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres.

The fire changed the way that firefighters and public officials thought about fire safety. The Fire Marshals Association of North America (today known as the International Fire Marshals Association) decided that the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire should be observed in a way that would keep the public informed about the importance of fire prevention.

Fire Prevention Week is observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls.