



Working with you to make Surrey safer

free smoke alarms
smoke alarm testing
fire prevention advice
home safety inspections

surrey.ca/city-services/4640.aspx



Through HomeSafe, firefighters educate residents on kitchen fire safety and other topics. Cooking is the largest cause of house fires.

How HomeSafe works

▶ Door-to-door visits and home safety inspections

Firefighters distribute fire prevention information door-to-door in areas identified as having a higher fire risk, while also offering to check for working smoke alarms, install a free battery-powered smoke alarm on the spot, and set up a free home safety inspection. If no one is home, firefighters will leave the information packet at the door. Topics addressed include:

- smoke alarms
- home fire escape plans
- children and fire
- senior fire safety and fall prevention
- kitchen fire safety
- emergency preparedness

▶ Fire-setter intervention

What starts as a youthful curiosity about fire can sometimes lead to a pattern of fire-setting that continues into adulthood. Surrey Fire Service works with Fraser Health, Surrey RCMP and School District 36 to address early fire-play or fire-setting by children and youth before it escalates.

The Fire-setter Intervention Program includes voluntary interviews with the child's parents or guardian, and counselling or education for the child or youth as required.

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A Surrey success story

Surrey's HomeSafe program uses fire and demographic data to target fire hotspots in the community for door-to-door firefighter visits and free smoke alarm installations.

HomeSafe has significantly reduced fires and fire losses since it was launched in 2008, and in 2013 won a prestigious Community Health and Safety Program Excellence Award from the International City/Country Management Association.

The program was initiated following a University of the Fraser Valley study of Surrey fire data, and data collection continues to shape the program today.

HomeSafe stats

- More than 14,400 homes had received HomeSafe visits by fall 2015, constituting 13% of all residential properties in the City at the time.
- There has been a 65% decline in residential fire deaths and injuries in Surrey since the program's launch, and a 47% decline in the rate of residential fires.
- There has been a marked increase in the presence of working smoke alarms. The number of fires involving homes with working smoke alarms increased from 30% before the program started to 59% by the end of 2015.

Young children and seniors are twice as likely to be seriously injured or die in a house fire than any other age group



Is your home safe? Book a free inspection

Surrey residents may request a free home safety inspection that will identify possible fire risks such as lack of working smoke alarms, inappropriate use of extension cords, heating appliances or candles located too close to combustibles, and obvious cooking and smoking hazards. A free battery-powered smoke alarm may also be installed.

Residents will receive educational material and a checklist with recommendations. The checklist items are only suggestions and will not be enforced or result in any liability. See the back cover for booking info.

HomeSafe has been successful in reducing the number of residential fires in Surrey by delivering fire prevention information directly to homes, conducting free home safety inspections, and installing free smoke alarms.

Did you know?

- Single-family homes are the most common building in Surrey to become involved in fires. More than two-thirds of all structure fires in Surrey occur in people's homes.
- The highest percentage of residential fires result from cooking – for example, unattended food or grease fires.
- In more than 40% of residential fires in Surrey, the home did not have a working smoke alarm.
- The death rate per 1,000 fires is 74% greater in homes without a working smoke alarm.
- Young children, seniors, people with disabilities, and First Nations people are more likely to be seriously injured or die in a fire than other population groups.



Get HomeSafe information or book a free home safety inspection from the Fire Prevention Office:

Phone: 604-543-6780

Online form and info: surrey.ca/city-services/4640.aspx