



VANCOUVER FIRE RESCUE SERVICES
Community Safety & Risk Reduction Division
Fire Prevention, Investigations, and Public Education

March 19, 2020

On behalf of Vancouver Fire Rescue Services, we would like to share the following message with all occupants.

We are busy, now more than ever, while trying to flatten the curve of COVID-19. We ask that everyone is practicing social distance as much as possible, one to two meters apart, staying home whenever possible and working from home if able to.

63% of fires in the City of Vancouver are accidental. The number one cause of a fire in the home occurs in the kitchen, while the number one cause of a fire fatality occurs from smoking.

While spending more time at home, the risk of fire increases. Here are some steps to help lower the risk in your own home.

- Test your smoke and CO alarms monthly by pressing the button in the middle, change the batteries twice a year
- Take precautions while cooking: never leave a stove unattended, never store anything on the stove, keep all combustibles away from the stove
- Never put water on a cooking fire: turn off the heat source and put a tight fitting lid on top to reduce oxygen
- Check electrical outlets and use only one plug per outlet
- Extinguish cigarettes in a safe manner, never place butts in garden planters

It is times like these that we need to come together to protect our senior residents.

- Reduce tripping hazards by being aware of uneven surfaces, indoors and outdoors
- Consider using rugs that have rubber, non-skid backing. Smooth out wrinkles and folds in carpets.
- Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors
- Take your time by getting out of chairs slowly and gain your balance before walking.
- Avoid visiting seniors in person, reach out to them by phone. Ask how you can help by delivering groceries or picking up prescriptions.

We are all in this together.

**** We Save Lives and Build Safer Communities through Fire Prevention Inspections, Education and Partnerships ****

600 – 575 W 8th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Z 0C4

Tel: 3-1-1, Outside Vancouver 604.873.7000
Fax: 604.873.7872 Website: vancouver.ca/fire