



## Media Release

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### **Making plans, practicing safety: VFRS marks Fire Prevention Week™ 2019**

Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years — to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. Plan and Practise Your Escape!"

The campaign works to educate everyone about the small but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

In Canada, most fire deaths occur in the home, where people believe they are most safe. Canadian fire departments respond to roughly 25,600 structure fires per year. In 2015, structure fires caused more than 1,400 injuries and almost 200 deaths.\*

"These numbers show that home fires continue to pose a significant threat to safety," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "In a typical home fire, you may have as little as one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Escape planning and practise can help you make the most of the time you have, giving everyone enough time to get out.

While NFPA and VFRS are focusing on home fires, these messages apply to virtually any location.

"Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go," said Chief David Lind. "No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the alarm system sounds, take it seriously and exit the building immediately."

To help you build an escape plan, or to learn valuable fire prevention and safety tips, visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org).

(\* Fire data for 2012-2016 was obtained from 10 of the 13 provincial and territorial offices of the fire marshal/fire commissioner; 2015 is the most recent year for which injury/fatality data is available.)