



984 Gorham Street, Newmarket, ON L3Y 1L8
Administration: 905-895-9222
Emergency: 9-1-1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CYFS educates residents with *Stay Fire Smart* campaign

Fire crews to conduct home visits in Newmarket and Aurora this summer

NEWMARKET, Ontario, June 1, 2016 – Central York Fire Services (CYFS) is proud to launch their fourth annual *Stay Fire Smart* campaign. Fire crews will visit neighbourhoods in Newmarket and Aurora during the summer months to educate residents on home escape plans and to remind them that it is the law to have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in homes.

Fire crews will travel door-to-door handing out information packages, engaging with residents about how to best be prepared in case of a fire and provide them with the option of receiving a free home inspection. Firefighters will stress the importance of developing and practising a [home escape plan](#), having a [72-hour emergency kit](#) and ensuring that working [smoke alarms](#) are on every storey and outside of all sleeping areas of a residence.

“The *Stay Fire Smart* campaign is a unique public service for residents of Newmarket and Aurora who require additional assistance with home escape plans and the maintenance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms,” says CYFS Fire Chief Ian Laing. “Our goal is to increase fire safety awareness by reaching out to each household with important fire safety and prevention messages, and the opportunity to get assistance with smoke and carbon monoxide alarm installations. It is a rewarding program that will benefit our fire crews and our residents.”

The *Stay Fire Smart* campaign began in the summer of 2013 with the goal of visiting every home in Newmarket and Aurora over a five year period. This year will be the fourth consecutive year of the campaign.

In addition to the fire crews, designated Smoke Alarm Students will visit homes upon request to check batteries, replace smoke alarms and answer questions for residents who may require assistance. Smoke Alarm Students can be contacted by calling **905-895-9222** and will be out in the community throughout the summer beginning June 20, 2016.

Some of the important messages the fire crews will be delivering to the public include:

Home escape planning:

- **Develop and practise** your home escape plan with every person in your household
- **Choose a common meeting place** outside, a safe distance from your home, to make sure everyone is accounted for
- **Get out and stay out.** Never re-enter a burning building, call **9-1-1** from a cell phone or a neighbour's phone

Smoke alarm safety:

- **Ensure smoke alarms are installed** on every storey and outside of all sleeping areas in the home—it's the law
- **Change the batteries** in each smoke alarm once a year or whenever the low battery warning sounds
- **Test smoke alarms monthly** to ensure the batteries are still good and the alarm is working

Central York Fire Services is a consolidated fire department that provides fire protection to the Towns of Newmarket and Aurora. For more information on Central York Fire Services, please visit www.cyfs.ca.

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