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For Immediate Release

## Safety and Prevention Key Messages from Cambridge Fire Department

Cambridge, Ontario. November 24, 2011...Whether you are living in your own home or renting, public education staff at the Cambridge Fire Department (CFD) want to remind you of a few important things to keep your family safe.

"Develop an escape plan and practice it regularly with your family," says Deputy Fire Chief Doug Tennant.

When it comes to fire escape plans, the following are criteria to consider:

- Sit down with your family and develop a home escape plan, and practice it regularly
- Identify two ways to get out of every room because if a door is blocked by fire and smoke, you need an alternative way out
- Have a meeting place identified for your family to regroup in the event of an emergency. This also helps firefighters know that everyone is out safely

"Another important point," says Damond Jamieson, a Captain in the Public Education division, "never re-enter a building when a fire or emergency situation has arisen."

CFD asks that you be proactive and check your smoke alarms to ensure they are working. According to fire officials, some 80 percent of fire related fatalities happen because the smoke alarm is not functioning and many of these fires occur at night when the occupants of the home are sleeping.

"It's law in Ontario to have a smoke alarm on every level of your home," reminds Jamieson. Tips include:

- Follow the manufacturers' instructions when installing a smoke alarm
- Test your smoke alarms once a month
- Replace batteries once per year
- Replace your smoke alarms every 10 years or when you find them malfunctioning

"Remember that it's your landlord's responsibility to provide a working smoke alarm for you if you are renting," adds Deputy Tennant. He suggests occupants still need to test and monitor their smoke detector once a month and any

problems that arise should be brought to the attention of the landlord for quick action to get a working smoke alarm in place.

For more information visit [www.cambridge.ca/fire\\_department](http://www.cambridge.ca/fire_department) or contact the public education team at (519) 621-6001 ext. 2220.

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