



# PEACE RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT COUNTY of NORTHERN LIGHTS FIRE SERVICES

P.O. Box 6600  
Peace River, AB T8S 1S4  
Ph: (780) 624-2993



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **From Phones to Power Tools: The Peace River and County of Northern Lights Fire Departments Urge Residents to Know the Risks of Lithium-Ion Batteries this Fire Prevention Week**

*The theme for Fire Prevention Week™, October 5–11, 2025, is “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.”*

September 18, 2025 – The Peace River and County of Northern Lights Fire Departments are teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW) for more than 100 years — to promote this year’s FPW campaign, “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home.” It highlights how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely.

Most of the electronics we use in our homes every day — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries. In fact, most everything that’s rechargeable uses this type of battery. If not used correctly or if damaged, lithium-ion batteries can overheat, start a fire, or even explode. To reduce these risks, look around your home — it’s important to know which devices are powered by them. “Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they’re just about everywhere,” said Tim Harris, Fire Chief. “This year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign helps people understand the importance of using these batteries correctly to prevent fires in the home and to follow the **Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely** approach”

### **Buy only listed products.**

- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets important safety standards.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

### **Charge devices safely.**



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- Always use the cables that came with the product to charge it. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer.
  - If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
  - Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
  - Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.

### **Recycle batteries responsibly.**

- Don't throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them.

The Peace River and County of Northern Lights Fire Departments encourage all residents to be aware of their devices, follow the Buy, Charge, and Recycle Safely approach, and support this year's FPW theme, "Charge into Fire Safety™."

Peace River Fire Department has seen a decrease in the number of calls so far this year at 319 to date (Sep 18) compared with 520 at this time last year.

Calls include:

- Alarm Calls – 111
- Structure Fires – 11
- Exterior Fires (wildland fires and others) – 43
- Vehicle Fires – 5
- Hazmat Responses – 12
- Medical Responses – 67
- Motor Vehicle Collisions – 40
- Technical Rescues – 14
- Miscellaneous - 16

"Generally, call volume has been down over last year though we have still had some major structure fires that have resulted in the loss of homes and businesses," said Chief Harris. Included in the call numbers are mutual aid responses for fires, motor vehicle collisions, and other incidents in the County of Northern Lights, MD 135, and Northern Sunrise County. Firefighters assisted with a wildfire in the County of Grande Prairie in May and also provided



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structural protection to the Twin Lakes Lodge north of Manning which included setting up sprinkler systems on buildings to provide protection from a nearby wildfire.

Chief Harris also said “The calls for fire alarms are partly due to the increasing number of monitored residential smoke alarms being installed, and I would like to remind residents to keep their contact information up to date with their monitoring companies so that false alarms from cooking or showers etc. can be cancelled before a response is required”.

Call volume for the County of Northern Lights Departments is on par with last year with 73 calls to date compared with 72 at this time last year.

Calls include:

- Alarm Calls – 19
- Structure Fires – 3
- Exterior Fires (wildland fires and others) – 14
- Vehicle Fires – 4
- Hazmat Responses – 1
- Medical Responses – 14
- Motor Vehicle Collisions – 15
- Technical Rescues – 2
- Miscellaneous - 1

As for Peace River, calls include responses to the surrounding region including Peace River, MD of Peace 135, and Northern Sunrise County. County Firefighters also responded to the County of Grande Prairie fire in May and for structural protection to the Twin Lakes Lodge.

The Peace River and County of Northern Lights Fire Departments have 38 members in total, located at two halls in Peace River and two in the County of Northern Lights in Weberville and Dixonville. “We are always looking for new recruits to assist the departments in serving the community’s needs” added Chief Harris, “anyone interested in applying or looking for more information can contact the Fire Department at 780-624-2993”. Whilst the minimum age to respond to incidents is 18 years, the Departments also operate a Junior Firefighter program for youth aged 16 to 17 years.



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To promote Fire Safety at this time of year, The Peace River Fire Department and the County of Northern Lights Fire Services will also be holding an Open House at Fire Hall #1 in downtown Peace River (10018 100 Ave) on October 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The event will include a free Pancake Breakfast, Truck and Equipment Displays, Fire Extinguisher practice, a Vehicle Extrication Demonstration, Grease Fire Demonstration, an Interactive Hazard House and Sparky the Fire Dog as well as Fire Safety information.

For more information about Fire Prevention programs and activities in Peace River and the County of Northern Lights, visit our websites at; [www.peaceriver.ca](http://www.peaceriver.ca) or [www.countyofnorthernlights.com](http://www.countyofnorthernlights.com) or on Facebook at; facebook.com/peaceriverab or facebook.com/countyofnorthernlights. For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and smoke alarms, visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org). For fire safety fun for kids, visit [sparky.org](http://sparky.org).