

THE WCR LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project is made possible through funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia.

Canada



WelcomeBC



The fire department investigates the fire
PHOTO - NICK PROCAYLO, PNG , VANCOUVER SUN

Hero rescues family from fire 📖

Trevor Yellowbird is a hero. Trevor and his sister, Robin, saved three people from a house fire.

Trevor lived in a basement suite. Robin was visiting. Robin smelled smoke about 3 a.m.

Gurbux Dhanjal was Yellowbird's landlady. She lived upstairs with her daughter, father and mother.

The fire started upstairs. Yellowbird broke down the door.

"I ran back in and up the stairs and dragged my landlady out. I didn't even think about it. It was just the right thing to do."

He saved his landlady and her father. He pulled them out of the house.

He was not able to save Dhanjal's mother.

"I tried. I tried to get her, but I couldn't," he said.

Dhanjal's daughter was still in the house. Robin Yellowbird and her son, Kelly, put a mattress under a window.

Dhanjal's daughter jumped out of the window. She landed on the mattress. She broke her ankle.

Deputy Fire Chief Dan Barnscher said, "He made at least two attempts to pull people out... There is little doubt that he is a hero."

Firefighters found four smoke detectors in the house. None of them worked.

Trevor Yellowbird was a hero once before.

Yellowbird rescued people from a fire 20 years ago.

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Trevor Yellowbird's sister, Robin, woke the family.
PHOTO - GERRY KAHRMANN, VANCOUVER SUN

He and a friend walked by a house in Edmonton. The house was on fire.

They ran in and grabbed a young mother and two children. Yellowbird was 19 years old.

Trevor Yellowbird is a carpenter. He is a member of the Pigeon Lake Indian Band in Alberta.

He and his two-year-old son, Jacob, moved to BC. They stayed at a family shelter in New Westminster for a week.

He moved into the basement suite only a few weeks before the fire.

After the fire, they moved back into the shelter in New Westminster. They lost everything.

The Yellowbirds moved to BC to start a new life. "It's far from home, but a place to start again, a new world," says Trevor.

Adapted from *The Vancouver Sun*

Links

Go to *The Westcoast Reader* website for links to more information and videos.

www.thewestcoastreader.com

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This can be a family activity. Ask your children to help you. It is important that all members of your family learn about fire safety.

Getting started

Where are the smoke detectors in your home?

1. Find all of the smoke detectors in your home.
2. Send everyone looking for the smoke detectors.
3. Look on the ceiling in hallways, bedrooms and the kitchen.

Check that each is working.

1. You will need a ladder to reach the ceiling.
2. Press the button and listen for the loud sound.
3. Go to another room and be sure you can still hear the sound.
4. Do this for each smoke detector.

If it does not make the sound, fix it.

1. Check the batteries. Replace dead batteries.
2. You may need to replace the smoke alarm. You can buy them at any hardware store.

Maintaining smoke detectors

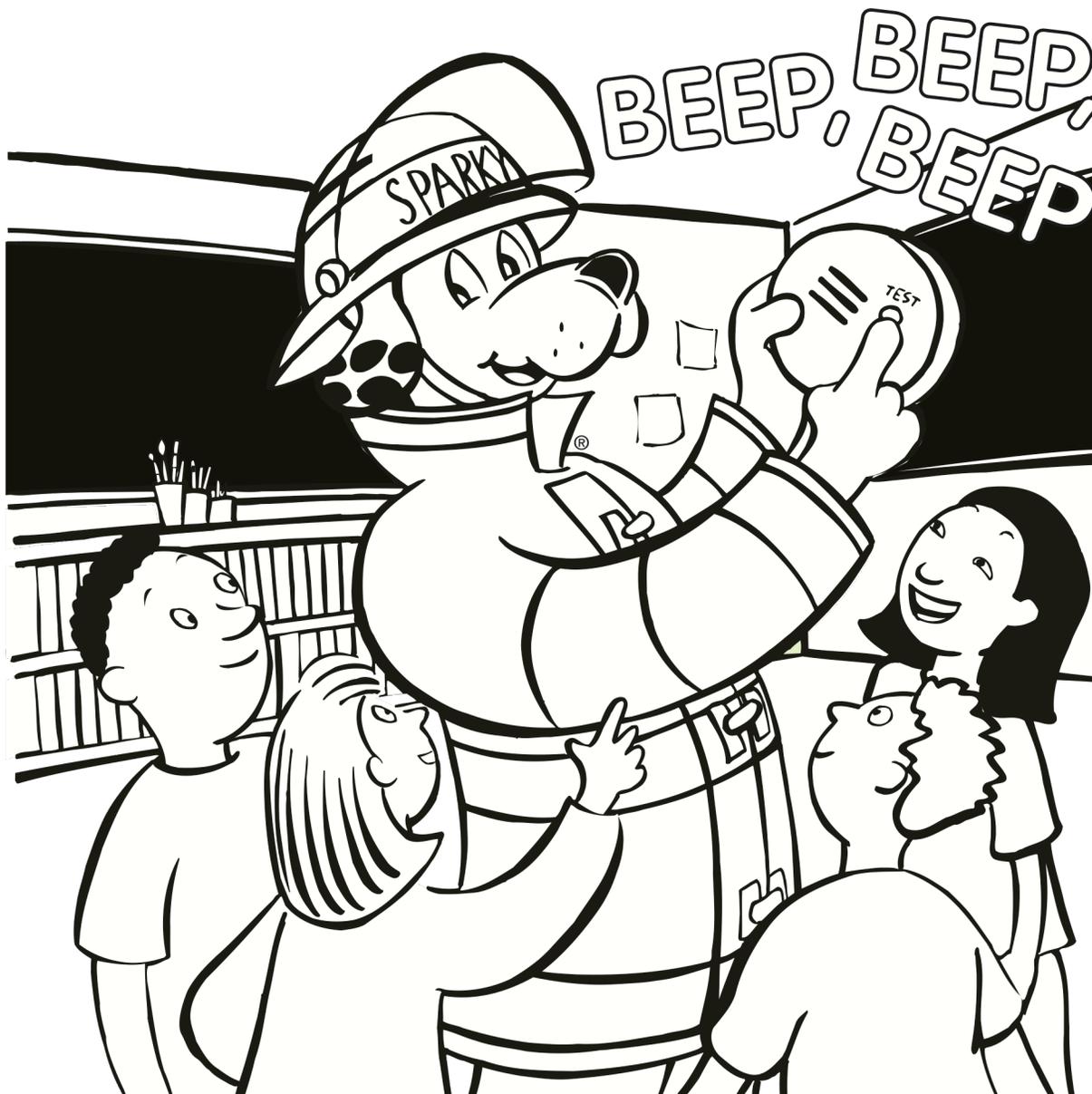
Check your smoke alarms once a month. Ask one of your children to be in charge of the calendar. The calendar is on the next page.

1. Colour or decorate your calendar.
2. Put it in an important place in your home.
3. Check each smoke alarm together.
4. Tear off the tab for that month from your calendar.

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Name _____ Date _____

Hang this sheet in an important place in your home. Remember to have a grown-up test your smoke alarms once a month. Tear off the correct month when the test is finished!



January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November