

M The Ontario Fire Service Messenger

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Fire Service Pipes and Drums

Inside:

**Cigarette fires up
19% in U.S.**

**Ontario's first
CBRN response**

**Is fire safety a priority
for Canadians?**



The Ontario Fire Service Messenger

Published in the interest of fire protection and fire prevention in Ontario.

Comments, suggestions, questions and articles are welcome. Please send them to the attention of:

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Chris Slosser, Messenger Editor



This is the third issue of the *Messenger* since I arrived at the OFM last February. In that time, I have been struck by the tremendous skill and dedication of Ontario's fire service. Each issue, we try to highlight this skill by shedding light on some of the unique, creative work members of the fire service have done in the name of fire prevention and public education in their communities. As you will see, this issue is no exception.

There is a very good reason why this work is highlighted every issue: public education is hard work. It's difficult finding new ways to engage the public so people will be compelled to consider fire and life safety in their every day activities. Influencing the way people behave is a daunting task.

But the many examples I've discovered among the fire service, and my experience in previous work settings, suggest that a systematic approach is the best way this daunting task can be achieved.

Prior to my arrival at the OFM, I worked in research and public education at Toronto's Daily Bread Food Bank. Every year, the food bank coordinates a survey of food bank clients across the Greater Toronto Area to determine the issues leading to food bank use. The survey results are used to develop a variety of public education and media materials that raise public awareness about ways to alleviate hunger and the need for food banks. The food bank also researches how best to disseminate public awareness messages, and from whom the public is most likely to receive (and accept) these messages (i.e. a politician, a food bank worker, or a food bank client).

Similarly, the OFM's public education and media relations department analyzes research data collected from the fire service across the province to develop public education materials concerning fire and life safety. The data provide focus to the public education messages, pointing to the issues and actions that present the greatest fire threats and that require increased public awareness if such fires are to be prevented.

Research, then, provides direction to public education messages by highlighting the issues that must be focused on. Research roots these messages in the most important fire and life safety issues facing a community, and provides the hard evidence that makes the messages credible.

This kind of systematic approach makes public education messages relevant and effective. In my first eight months with the OFM, I have discovered countless stories of this effectiveness. The *Messenger* is an opportunity to share such stories so that the fire service can adapt and implement successful programs in communities across the province. I look forward to hearing about and highlighting your successful efforts for fire and life safety.

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CBRN response in the north. The first CBRN response in Ontario took place northwest of Thunder Bay in June.



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Canadian National Vehicle Rescue Challenge.

Teams from across the country competed in the first Canadian National Vehicle Rescue Challenge, held in Wasaga Beach. Ten teams advanced to next year's international competition in Florida.



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Management training. Andrew Walczak (left) and Danny Bourne are the first degree graduates from the Public Administration and Governance program offered by Ryerson University, the OFM, and the OAFIC.



Update ONTARIO

News from around the province

First CBRN response takes place in north

The first activation of the provincial-municipal partnership for hazardous materials/chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear (CBRN) response in Ontario occurred on Highway 17, north of Shabakwa Corners, approximately 100 km northwest of Thunder Bay on June 23.

At approximately 3 a.m. a tractor-trailer caught fire when the wheel bearings in the trailer seized and started to burn. The driver of the

truck quickly disconnected the tractor while the fire spread through the trailer.

The Shebandowan Fire Department was the first to respond to the incident. Firefighters discovered that the trailer was carrying a mixed load marked "dangerous". It was later determined that the contents were toxic products.

Fire Chief Kevin Spracklin of Shebandowan contacted the Thunder Bay district zone 1 mutual aid

fire coordinator. Mutual aid assistance was provided by firefighters from the Kaministiquia Fire Department. The local OPP dangerous goods officer arrived on scene and provided valuable advice and assistance to the local fire service. CANUTEC was contacted for additional information on how to deal with the emergency. Meanwhile, the OPP blocked traffic in both directions of the highway, and closed the nearby junction to Highway 11. The OPP also evacuated the few residential houses in the area.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) and the OFM were contacted at approximately 6 a.m. and advised of the situation. A request was made that the OFM respond with additional hose, breathing air cylinders and a ground monitor stored at its Thunder Bay office. The

See Agency on page 25



The background of the picture on the left provides an indication of the traffic back up created by the fire as traffic was blocked for kilometres. Below is what was left of the trailer after the fire. (Pictures courtesy of the Thunder Bay Fire Department)



The Messenger needs your news

If you have an item you would like to see published in Update Ontario, please send it to: The Editor, The Ontario Fire Service Messenger, Office of the Fire Marshal, Place Nouveau Building,

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Tel: 416-325-3120, fax: 416-325-3162 or email
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Fire safety not priority for Canadians: study

FROM NEWS CANADA

More than one in 10 Canadians have experienced a fire in their home, but a new study reveals many still think it won't happen to them.

A national study commissioned by Duracell and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC)

reveals that 48 percent of Canadians feel they have almost no chance of being in a house fire.

The study also found that while 64 percent of Canadians claimed to have a fire escape plan in place, 63 percent of those Canadians actually failed to practice their escape plan even once (up from 55 per cent from last year).

"People don't seem to be overly concerned with the risk of home fires and that is quite alarming to us," said Ken Kelly, president, CAFC. "Every home is at risk of experiencing a fire of some kind, so taking the proper precautions and being prepared to react is crucial."

According to the CAFC, one of the most crucial precautions is having a working smoke alarm. Only 28 percent of Canadians surveyed had replaced the batteries in their alarm twice, as recommended by the CAFC. A staggering 19 percent admitted to never having replaced the batteries - up eight percent from last year.

'Patio Chef' lighters are potential fire hazard

Health Canada is advising Canadians to stop using "Patio Chef" brand refillable utility lighters. The lighters pose potential fire, injury and burn hazards because they may be affected by combustion problems.

In certain instances, the lighters produce a shower of burning fuel which separates from the main flame. Moreover, the flame can increase suddenly to an excessive height of 14 cm (5.5 inches). These lighters can also leak gas when exposed to heat.

The lighter is approximately 27

cm (11 inches) long with a red handle and a shiny metal igniter shaft. The lighter has a black plastic trigger and a black on/off switch which carries a yellow label on the handle that indicates a warning. Printed on the back of the package are the words: "Imported by/Importé par S.R. Potten Ltd., Montreal, Quebec, Canada". The lighters bear identification numbers 014009 and 014010.

From 2002 to 2004, these lighters were sold by retail stores in Canada, including (but not limited to): Zellers, Matco Ravary, Jean Coutu,

Hart, Bargain Giant, Fredericton Co-Op and Rona. People who have the Patio Chef refillable utility lighters are advised to stop using them immediately and to dispose of them in accordance with local requirements.

For further information, or to report a lighter-related incident, contact the Health Canada Product Safety Office in Toronto at 416-973-4705 or Tor_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Reprinted from a Health Canada media release dated July 20, 2004.

Smoke alarm inspection program a lifesaver in Welland

Welland firefighters credit their annual residential smoke alarm inspection program for saving two lives on July 14.

Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service personnel responded to a kitchen fire in Welland. Recently-installed smoke alarms awakened the two residents inside the townhouse.

"It could have been much worse, tragic," Welland firefighter Mike

McNaughton said. "The program works."

"A month before we were in that unit on a smoke alarm blitz," he said. "We installed two smoke alarms while we were there. We believe it saved the lives of those two people."

Reprinted from The Standard newspaper in St. Catharines.



Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle gives his opening remarks at the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council meeting on September 10 at the Ontario Fire College.

Cigarette fires up 19% in U.S.

The number of fires in the United States caused by lighted tobacco products – almost always cigarettes – increased by a stunning 19 percent in the most recent year studied, according to research by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association). But laws requiring that cigarettes be designed to stop burning when not actively smoked could sharply reduce this destruction.

Cigarettes are the leading cause of fatal fires in Canada and the United States. In Ontario, smokers' materials (including lighted tobacco products but not matches and lighters) led to one out of six fire deaths between 1998 and 2003, more than any other cause of fire. Yet, despite the American trend, the number of fires caused by cigarettes in Ontario is decreasing.

Contrary to the popular image, NFPA's study shows that most victims of smoking-material fires in the U.S. did not fall asleep smoking. Many are not even smokers. Rather, these fires typically started when

someone abandoned or improperly disposed of smoking materials.

Most victims were in the room where the fire started, and most had some condition that limited their ability to get out. Often they were asleep, but a significant number were impaired by drugs or alcohol, or their mobility was reduced by disability or old age. In the U.S., people older than 64 are more likely to die in smokers' material fires than younger people, even though they are less likely to smoke.

The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs reported for the period 1995-99 that at least 14,030 fires in Canada were started by smokers' materials. These fires killed 356 people, injured 1,615 and cost more than \$200 million in property damage.

Cigarette fires are preventable. A cigarette must be touching something combustible to produce a fire. Cutting down the burning time of cigarettes will prevent fires.

Health Canada has proposed legislation that would require

tobacco manufacturers to meet an ignition propensity standard for all cigarettes manufactured or imported for sale in Canada. Ignition propensity is a measure of the ability of an ignition source to ignite an object. The proposed legislation follows the federal government's passing of Bill C-260 on March 31, which designates cigarettes as a dangerous product under the Hazardous Products Act.

Currently, the state of New York is the only jurisdiction in the world with legislation that mandates the ignition propensity of cigarettes. Starting June 28, cigarettes sold in New York must be self-extinguishing, and all cigarette brands must be tested to make sure they self-extinguish at least 75 percent of the time.

Excerpts of this article are reprinted from a media release distributed by the NFPA on July 16. For more information, visit the NFPA Web site at www.nfpa.org.

Soccer team gets kick out of safety

Every year, the Barrie Fire-fighter Association sponsors a girls soccer team in Barrie. The team has become the fire prevention ambassadors of the league. After every goal they score, they practice stop, drop and roll, and at the end of each game they hand out fire safety information to the opposing team while shaking hands.

The picture above was taken at



the year-end barbecue at Station 4. Barrie fire prevention officer and team coach Shane Edwards, assistant coach Maria Edwards and Sparky pose with the team.

Correction

An article in the May-August 2004 edition of the Messenger about V.I.P. Photo Memorials, a unique service providing commemorative service honour portraits and monumental ceramic memorials of fire-fighters' years of service, contained incorrect information. V.I.P. Photo Memorials produces monumental ceramic memorials, not monuments. The \$59 price indicated in the article was the *introductory* price for the commemorative service honour portraits, not the monumental ceramic memorial. Pricing varies depending on the size and product requested.

We apologize for the incorrect information in the article.

Miniature house has big lessons

The Miniature Enthusiasts of Kingston have constructed a unique public education tool for Kingston Fire and Rescue: a miniature hazard house.

The house is a miniature model home built to scale, containing 51 fire and safety hazards in the replica kitchen, living room, bedroom, bathroom, and garage/basement.

"It's incredibly realistic," said Wendy Hartwick, fire prevention officer with Kingston, and includes everything you would find in a home, from hand-made area rugs to upholstered furniture.

"We've put a number of hazards in each of the rooms," Hartwick said. "The kitchen has things like unattended pots cooking on the stove and a fork in the toaster. In the bathroom there's a radio sitting on the side of the bathtub, the bedroom has candles too close to curtains and a space heater next to combustibles, and in the living room there's a burning cigarette left unattended."

Hartwick said that the hazard house is used for a variety of audiences – from presentations to kids in schools and to the elderly in seniors' residences, to displays in shopping malls.

"It's a great way to start conversations about fire and safety in the home," Hartwick said. "With kids, we get them to identify what the hazards are and what should be done about them. No matter who we show the house to, they always say they've done some of the same things in their home, and we talk about making sure they don't happen again."

The idea for the hazard house came after Hartwick and her col-

leagues saw a similar safety house the Miniature Enthusiasts of Kingston had constructed for an organization that works with people with physical and mental challenges.

Hartwick said they approached the Enthusiasts with the idea for the hazard house in March 2003, and by Fire Prevention Week in October of that year, the house was complete. Seventeen Enthusiasts contributed a total of 1,000 hours to construct the house and donated all the materials.

"They have also put out

a challenge to other miniature enthusiasts in other communities to contact their local fire departments and construct their own hazard house," Hartwick said.

For more information, contact Wendy Hartwick at whartwick@city.kingston.on.ca.



The miniature hazard house contains 51 fire and safety hazards for viewers to identify. (Picture courtesy of Wendy Hartwick)

Kitchener FPO wins award

Jim Kolb, fire prevention officer with the Kitchener Fire Department, was presented with the inaugural Sister Aloysia Zimmer Award for his work implementing the Older and Wiser seniors fire safety program in the city.

The award honours an individual who has worked in Kitchener to support senior independence and improve their quality of life. It was presented by the seniors' organization RAISE (Responsive Assistance in Supporting the Elderly), which the late Sister Aloysia founded.

Attempting to provide fire safety education to seniors who cannot get out to community meetings, Jim has established connections with

local organizations, like RAISE, that work in seniors' homes.

"Seniors who are not active do not get out to meetings to hear [fire safety messages]," Jim said. "I knew I had to get to the people where the wheels touch the road – to sit down with organizations like RAISE who are already out there in seniors' homes."

It is estimated that 1,100 elderly people have been reached through this initiative.

Jim joined the Kitchener Fire Department in 1974 and is set to retire in December.

Excerpts of this story were taken from an article that appeared in The Record newspaper on June 16, 2004.



Kitchener FPO Jim Kolb

10 teams headed to international competition

The Wasaga Beach Fire Department hosted the first Canadian National Vehicle Rescue Challenge from June 20-27, 2004. Twenty-six teams representing fire departments from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nova Scotia participated in a variety of competitions testing their auto extrication skills. Overall winners were: Mississauga (first place); Hamilton (second place); and Elizabethtown-Kitley (third place).

The week-long event included learning symposiums on topics ranging from new vehicle technology to clandestine drug labs, and the effects on the rescue efforts of first responders. Ten teams qualified for the 2005 International Extrication Competition to be held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida from August 8 – 14, 2005. These teams include: Ajax, Brampton, Burlington, Elizabethtown-Kitley, Halifax, Hamilton, Ladysmith, Mississauga, Niagara Falls, and St. Clair.

For more information on challenges in your area and the international challenge, visit www.terccanada.org and www.terc.org.



Firefighters from across the country competed in the first Canadian National Vehicle Rescue Challenge in Wasaga Beach in June. Pictured above, the Mississauga team displays its skills. Below, on the left, is the Burlington team in action, and below, right, is the team from Niagara Falls. (Pictures courtesy of Ken Niceliu, Burlington Fire Department)



Questions & Answers: Fatal Fires and Fire Loss

- Q.1 In 2002, what was the total dollar value loss of property, structure and vehicle fires in Ontario? a. \$8,962,124 b. \$317,275,358 c. \$41,561,887 d. \$367,799,369
- Q.2 In 2003, what was the leading cause of preventable, fatal fires in Ontario?
a. smoking materials (not including matches and lighters) c. heating equipment
b. cooking related d. matches and lighters
- Q.3 What percentage of fatal fires were a result of this leading cause?
a. 20.2% b. 11.7% c. 5.3% d. 13.8%
- Q.4 In 2003, what percentage of fire fatalities were male?
a. 60.1% b. 37.9% c. 56.3%

Answers on page 29

Sprinkler saves Brampton bakery

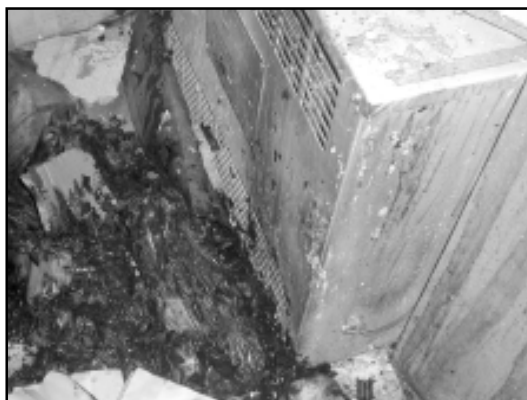
BY MICHAEL ROESS,
FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER,
BRAMPTON FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

At 02:20hrs on August 24 Brampton Fire and Emergency Services responded to a waterflow alarm at a bakery in Brampton. Upon arrival the crews discovered that the plaza unit was filled with smoke visible through the glass doors. Forcible entry was required. It was determined that there had been a fire in an electrical closet located at the back of the unit. At 02:23 the fire was officially classified as out, thanks to the automatic fire sprinkler head located inside the closet, directly over the fire. Firefighters were not required to apply any extinguishment of any type on this

fire and assisted only in the securing of the premises and the cleanup.

The cause of the fire was determined to be flattened cardboard boxes that had been piled up next to an electrical transformer, igniting during the night. The sprinkler activated when the ceiling temperature reached 74°C (165°F) and applied water directly on to the fire. It is estimated that the sprinkler flowed only for about four minutes until discovered by the fire crews.

The bakery's owner was relieved to hear that his business of eight years was saved by the sprinkler system.



The cause of the fire was flattened cardboard boxes piled next to an electrical transformer. The sprinkler activated when the ceiling temperature reached 74°C. (Picture courtesy of Michael Roess)

Firefighter choir sings for charity

They started out in 1998, going door-to-door every winter season singing carols to Sudbury residents to raise money for a local telethon.

But the events of September 11, 2001 changed all that. "After September 11, I wanted to turn our singing group into a professional choir," Leo Frappier said. "We wanted to do more to help more people by becoming more organized, more professional, and getting out there more."

So in January, 2002, the Sudbury Firefighter Choir was officially launched. At that time there were 12 men in the choir. Today, there are 25 male and female members, all of whom are firefighters in Greater Sudbury.

"Our only restriction is that you must be an active firefighter to be a member," Frappier, public safety officer with the Greater Sudbury Fire Services, said. "We're the only choir in Canada that has only firefighters as members. Only our director is not a firefighter. He's a

professional music teacher."

Frappier said the choir performs over 40 times a year, and all of the money raised goes to charities. Over the past years the choir has raised more than \$80,000.

The choir has performed at a variety of venues, including the Fire College, at fire chief's conferences, and for the Governor-General. Frappier, the choir's director of operations, said he is trying to book the group for the anniversary ceremony of September 11 taking place at the site of the World Trade Centre in New York in 2005.

Frappier said his current challenge is trying to increase the choir's profile to get booked for more performances. He said the choir is planning to have a CD for release in November and he's hopeful that



The Sudbury Firefighter Choir started out caroling door-to-door. It now performs over 40 times per year. (Picture courtesy of Leo Frappier)

they will be able to perform on Canadian singer-songwriter Rita MacNeil's annual televised holiday special.

"We're just having a lot of fun right now," Frappier said, "and it's great to be able to have fun and raise money for great causes."

For more information about the Sudbury Firefighter Choir, contact Leo Frappier at 705-688-7704 or at leo.frappier@greatersudbury.ca.

Hard work, community spirit builds new training centre

Firefighters and emergency responders in the Blyth area, located about an hour north of London, have a new emergency services training centre thanks to overwhelming community support and the hard work of the firefighters at the Blyth and District Fire Department.

The 4.5-acre training facility was a project initiated and completed by the department's firefighters themselves. It includes training facilities for farm machinery rescue, fire and flashover, trench collapse rescue, auto extrication, silo and grain bin rescue, confined space rescue, propane emergencies and electrical emergencies.

"This is so much bigger than we first intended," David Sparling, captain with the Blyth and District Fire Department, said. "Originally, we thought of constructing something that would cover about 0.75 acres. This is so much more."

Sparling, who was the project co-ordinator for the centre's construction, said the department's firefighters started talking about building a training centre in the fall of 2002. "We try to make it to the Fire College for update courses as much as possible," Sparling said, "but often our schedules don't fit with when the College is offering courses, or for other reasons we just can't get there."

"So we had to come up with a way to bring the training here," Sparling continued, "and in January 2003 we voted unanimously to build the centre."

At that time, the firefighters were looking for a fairly simple facility that would allow for training updates in just a few, most-needed areas, including farm machinery rescue and propane emergencies. But the more they talked to the community, the more they realized they could expand their plan.

"When local businesses heard that we hadn't had an update course in farm machinery rescue for a few years, it became very clear to them that they needed to support this project," Sparling said. "From there, it took on a life of its own." Sparling said the firefighters just kept getting

offers of support from area businesses and residents. So the project kept expanding.

Sparling estimates that the facility is worth more than \$600,000. The land, machinery, building supplies, and \$200,000 in cash were donated by local businesses. The 22 firefighters from the Blyth department built the facility themselves, putting in more than 120 hours each over the course of the year it took to construct the facility.

Sparling said they didn't plan on finishing the facility until 2006, but with such community support they are well ahead of schedule. "We are sincerely humbled by the community response to this project," Sparling said. Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle and Blyth Chief Paul Josling officially opened the centre at a ceremony on July 30.

With 22 firefighters in their department, Sparling said they know they can't keep the training centre in regular use on their own. "We've opened the doors to anyone who's interested."

The department has received requests for courses from local industry safety response teams, from auto parts plant teams, and from a number of mutual aid associations in surrounding municipalities and counties. "We've already got courses booked well into 2005," Sparling said.



Blyth's new training facility was constructed in just one year by the department's firefighters. Pictured on the top left, Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle (left) presents Blyth Chief Paul Josling with a plaque during the facility's official opening on July 30. On the bottom left Captain David Sparling (right) gives Fire Marshal Moyle and Chief Josling a tour of the facility. (Pictures courtesy of Dianne Josling)

New TAPP-C manuals coming

BY JANICE JOHNSTONE,
OFM PROGRAM SPECIALIST

In 1990, an innovative program was introduced in Toronto to address the ever-increasing problem of juvenile firesetting. TAPP-C offered assessment, treatment and fire safety education for young fire-setters and their families through a unique partnership between fire service and mental health professionals. Fourteen years later, TAPP-C is the intervention program of choice among Ontario fire departments and is also being used in several other provinces.

The evolution of TAPP-C continues this year with the introduction of three new manuals: a Clinician's Manual for mental health professionals; a Community Manual to assist new and existing sites with the implementation and management of their TAPP-C programs; and a Fire Service Educator's Manual, to replace the existing Firefighter's Guidelines.

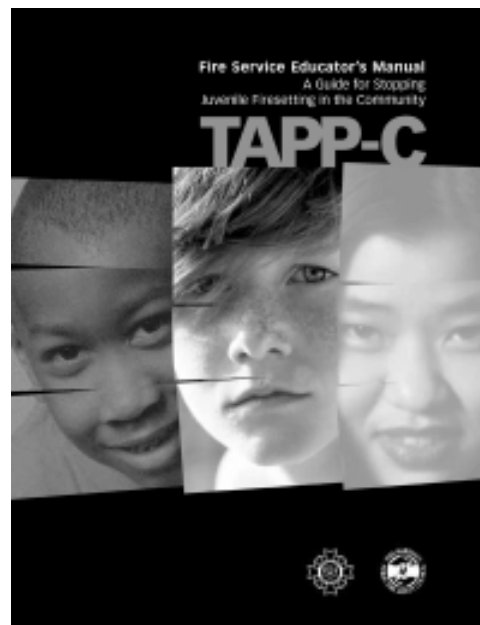
Launched at the Public Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference

in Pembroke, the Fire Service Educator's Manual is designed around the fire safety tenets of *prevention, detection and escape*. The manual contains many new teaching tools and materials that reflect current educational practices.

Video Vignettes

For children aged 9 to 12, short video scenarios, or *vignettes*, offer an active learning opportunity designed to encourage the child to reach correct conclusions in his or her own words. Each of the three vignettes has a "bad" scenario, with people demonstrating poor fire safety behaviours, followed by a "good" scenario, showing the same people demonstrating positive fire safety behaviours. The manual contains a guide for the educator to lead the child and caregiver in discussions about each scene.

Video vignettes are used in many fields as a popular method of



educating both children and adults.

No Time to Spare

For many educators, the hardest group to reach and teach is teens, aged 13 to 17. For this age level, TAPP-C uses the video *No Time to Spare* as a tool to generate ideas and promote discussion.

Every TAPP-C Fire Service Educator's Manual comes with a CD containing the forms, exercises, quizzes and hand-outs the educator will require for each session. Also included with the manual is a VHS tape containing the vignettes and the video *No Time to Spare*.

Watch for a communiqué containing more information about the TAPP-C Fire Service Educator's Manual in the very near future.



Video vignettes, to be used in conjunction with the TAPP-C program, have been produced to demonstrate positive fire safety behaviours. Above and left are pictures of the filming of the vignettes.

Cross border terrorist response simulation

BY TRAVIS MOFFATT,
PREVENTION/INFORMATION TECHNICIAN, FIRE
MANAGEMENT - NORTHWEST REGION, OMNR

In early 2004, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) participated in a terrorist response exercise driven by the United States Department of Homeland Security. The simulation was organized to test and improve Canadian and American response to emergency situations, and the coordination of emergency operations between the two countries.

The event was held in International Falls, Minnesota with 147 participants from 38 different Canadian and American agencies. The simulation scenarios involved terrorists making coordinated attacks on a number of facilities in the border region of Fort Frances and International Falls that included health and wildfire emergencies occurring simultaneously.

The following are the events of the simulation.

Reports of two wildfires were received: one in the United States and the other in Canada. Both wildfires were reportedly within close proximity of the border, approximately 20 kilometres west of International Falls and Fort Frances. The wildfires were quickly spreading out of control. Canadian and American forest firefighters were dispatched to their respective fires. Incident command posts were established on both sides of the border to manage the wildfire response.

What wasn't known at the time was that the wildfires were started by terrorists as a diversion to move resources away from the next target. Just as these reports began coming in, a van was speeding

towards the U.S. customs building in International Falls. A large window in the customs building was shot out with a shotgun and a pipe bomb was thrown from the van through the window and into the building. The vehicle then proceeded to speed across the international bridge towards the Canadian border. The van slammed into the Canadian Border Inspection Station.

As this was happening, forest firefighting crews from both countries were arriving at the scene of their respective fires. Ontario Fire-Ranger crews reported multiple gunshots being fired in the area, and shots ended up hitting the fire crew vehicles. The crews were quickly pulled back to a safe area as police worked to secure the site. The OPP commandeered a MNR helicopter to provide aerial sup-

port, and helped ensure the area was secure and safe for fire suppression to resume.

Fifteen minutes later there was an explosion at the Ranier railway bridge just east of the town of Fort Frances. The groundshaking explosion ended up blowing two railcars full of a highly noxious and toxic chemical into the Rainy River.

In such a complex event, life or death decisions must be made instantly. The OMNR found the simulation extremely useful. The event gave staff the opportunity to test municipal agreements, local emergency response organizations, plans and procedures, and international border air operations. The simulation also assessed the integration of respective incident command systems, and situational response to terrorist actions. For many agencies it was their first simulated incident of this magnitude.

Following the simulation, participants agreed that more training exercises are required in order to have the incident management teams work together and form an emergency operations centre.

Standards for stove top burners

The OFM is working closely with the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and industry leaders to develop a standard that is intended to increase the safety of stove top burners and reduce cooking fires. Pictured is the committee that will be making recommendations to CSA regarding the standard.

From the left: Brian Murphy, Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada; Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Crawford; Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle; Peter Marcucci,



Electrical Safety Authority; Ed Gulbinas, OFM; Daniel Langlois, CSA; Ken Elsey, Canadian Appliance Manufacturers Association; and Chief Terry Allen, Cambridge Fire Department.

ONTARIO FIRE WATCH: Fatal Fire Summary

The OFM compiles statistics on all fatal fires that occur in Ontario. These statistics can assist the fire service to determine fire trends, plan fire prevention initiatives and target public education activities. Due to the methods and criteria used in reporting fire deaths, statistics are subject to change.

June 2004: 4 fatal fires resulting in 4 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	3	1	4
65 and over	0	0	0
Total	3	1	4

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental	0 0001-0800 2
Undetermined	0 0801-1600 1
Under Investigation	3 1601-1800 1
Incendiary	1 1801-0000 0

Locations of fatal fires: Hamilton (1); Milton (1); Mississippi Mills (1); Powassan (1).

July 2004: 3 fatal fires resulting in 3 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	1	1	2
65 and over	1	0	1
Total	2	1	3

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental	2 0001-0800 2
Undetermined	0 0801-1600 1
Under Investigation	1 1601-1800 0
Incendiary	0 1801-0000 0

Locations of fatal fires: Guelph (1); Halton Hills (1); North Perth (1).

August 2004: 2 fatal fires resulting in 2 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	2	0	2
65 and over	0	0	0
Total	2	0	2

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental	0 0001-0800 1
Undetermined	0 0801-1600 0
Under Investigation	2 1601-1800 1
Incendiary	0 1801-0000 0

Locations of fatal fires: Kincardine-Bruce-Tiverton (1); Meaford (1).

FFPS realignment takes shape

BY CAROL-LYNN CHAMBERS, OFM OPERATIONS MANAGER

The OFM's Field Fire Protection Services (FFPS) section was created in 2002 as a result of a corporate restructuring. The section is now undergoing a realignment – changes to its structure and workflow – to better meet its mandate under the FPPA and to optimize resources to serve clients most effectively and efficiently.

FFPS supports the OFM mission of contributing to a safe environment from fire and other public safety hazards, by providing advice and assistance to municipalities, with an increasing focus on monitoring. These services are intended to assist municipalities in optimizing their fire protection service levels based on local needs and circumstances.

The main features of this realignment process, which will take shape over the coming year, include: closer working relationships between managers and front line staff, realignment of geographical areas of re-

sponsibility, increased clarity of staff roles and responsibilities within a flexible team-based delivery model, and overall improved communications. The ultimate goal is to achieve a seamless and consistent delivery of services and programs to our clients.

Specifically, management of the Northern Fire Protection Program (NFPP) will be relocated to the Thunder Bay office with a dedicated position to coordinate the NFPP activities. The Monitoring and Evaluation unit will be blended into each region, permitting a seamless approach to managing situations ranging from normal advice and assistance to potential serious threats to public safety.

Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal Tony Mintoff points out that, "Like most organizations, change is inevitable in the OFM to ensure that we continue to accomplish our goals and fulfill our responsibilities in a changing external environment. We will continue to move towards a stable and sustainable structure and service delivery model for the foreseeable future."

In the shorter term, clients can continue to rely on existing contacts and resources within FFPS for assistance. You are encouraged to contact your local fire protection adviser or the nearest OFM regional office for more information as required. Information updates will be provided to our stakeholders as the realignment progresses.

Pipes and drums reflect talent, dedication of fire service

BY GARY FORD,
PIPE MAJOR, ONTARIO FIRE SERVICE PIPES
AND DRUMS AND CAPTAIN, OSHAWA FIRE
SERVICE

Volunteering comes in many forms. For firefighters with a love of pipes and drums, the Ontario Fire Service Pipes and Drums provides the perfect outlet for their passion for music and commitment to volunteerism.

Since its inception, the goal of the band has been to represent the fire service musically in the best manner possible. Careful execution and selection of music distinguishes the group as a quality pipe and drum band, and it performs in many competitions to hone its professional sound and appearance.

In 2003, the band won first place at the Orillia Highland Games. The following year, at the same Games, it was judged the best band on parade out of 27 bands. It also won 1st place for musical performance

at the Games. Pipe Major Gary Ford and Pipe Instructor Pat Reid both won solo competition awards in their categories. Drummers Dan Bist and Mike Tuzyk won awards for their drumming skills, as did bass drummer Dave Heron.

In June 2004 the band represented the fire service at the Hamilton International Tattoo at Copp's Coliseum in Hamilton. This year's Tattoo was dedicated to emergency response organizations and featured displays and scenarios related to fire, police and ambulance services. The band was part of a massed band unit which performed at the afternoon and evening shows.

The success at these events is indicative of the dedication of the band's members and the committed efforts of Pipe Major Gary Ford, Pipe Sergeant Mike Authier, Instructors Pat Reid and Dan Bist and band Manager Bill McWhinnie.

The band is based at the Ontario Fire College and every Wednesday evening uses the historic W.J. Scott Hall for training sessions. Some of its 21 members are local to Gravenhurst, while others travel considerable distances to



The Ontario Fire Service and Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums marched as one at the first Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Ottawa on September 12. (Picture courtesy of Edmond Hetu)

fulfill the band commitments. The band members' dedication and commitment truly is an example of the spirit of the fire service pooling their talent and resources to reach a positive result.

The band is endeavouring to bring fire service bands together to be available for times of grieving or celebration. Currently, it has a mutual relationship with the Toronto Fire Services band: both bands play a large selection of the same music and settings so that they can come together to play as one during special ceremonies and significant events. At the same time, both maintain their individual identities.

The two bands came together for such an occasion at the first Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on September 12. The bands' ranks swelled to 35 musicians to generate a professional sound and volume to fittingly represent and honour the fire service.

More information about the Ontario Fire Service Pipes and Drums can be found at www.gravenhurstfire.com.



The Ontario Fire Service and Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums pose on Parliament Hill at the first Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Ottawa on September 12. (Picture courtesy of Edmond Hetu)

Educating teens:

Involve teenagers so they own the message

This is the second in a series of articles appearing in the next several issues. The series provides information and useful ideas to help develop effective public education programs targeting specific segments in the community. This article focuses on strategies that can help reach teenagers.

The OFM too frequently receives reports about teenagers who have been injured in fire incidents resulting from carelessness or a lack of knowledge about fire safety. These reports highlight the need for effective education programs targeting teens.

"Teenagers are the hardest age group to teach fire and life safety messages to because they think they are invincible," said Bev Gilbert, OFM manager of public education and media relations. "They think they can do anything and nothing can hurt them."

Gilbert said that teenagers will best receive fire safety messages if the messages are engaging, entertaining and relevant to them. "An educator has to use teaching strategies and tools that are meaningful to the learners."

The more relevant strategies and programs are to teenagers, the more likely they are to become actively involved in the educational process. And the more involved they are, the more they will feel the messages are theirs, or that they 'own' a program's activities and its messages. Whenever learners feel a message is theirs, there is a very

good chance that message will stick with them.

However, if teens feel too removed from the educational process because of strategies that don't encourage them to participate (for example, if they are always lectured to without any meaningful interaction) or because a program doesn't address issues that are relevant to them, they will feel alienated or disengaged from the message, and are likely to lose the lessons being taught.

If teens feel too removed from the educational process they will lose the messages that are being taught.

Allowing teenagers to play a creative role in the educational process - for example, in developing and acting out a fire safety skit, designing a poster, participating in a safety fair, or doing internet research - helps to develop ownership. Teenagers will feel that the message is theirs because they developed it and shared it with others. As a result, that message will stay with them.

Moreover, teens will be more receptive to safety messages that

are upbeat, rather than those that focus on the negative. "No one wants to hear what they shouldn't do," Gilbert said. "Educators should be careful not to preach. Saying 'Don't do this' is a negative message that sounds like preaching."

Instead, try to engage teens in activities that lead them to conclusions about fire safety on their own. For example, develop and explain to teens a fire-related scenario in which unsafe decisions were made. Then encourage them to talk about alternative, safe decisions and actions that could have been taken instead. "Kids are more likely to remember a message if they say it," Gilbert said.

Like other age groups, teens are most receptive to messages coming from their peers, who can best relate to their interests and the issues important to them. If possible, try to identify teen leaders who can help develop and deliver fire safety messages to other teens.

Gilbert suggests that educators in the fire service talk to school teachers in their community about how best to engage teenagers and the best techniques and strategies to use. "Get teachers involved with you. Ask them for ideas and get them to help you evaluate your teaching session."

Thanks to Carrie Hayward from SMARTRISK for information for this article.

OFM News Update

Loretta Chandler left her position as senior policy analyst at the OFM to join the Regional Municipality of York as emergency management coordinator effective September 15, 2004.

Larry Cocco began June 14 as a fire investigator. He joins the OFM from the Co-operators General Insurance in Sudbury where he worked for nine years. He has volunteered as an Auxiliary Staff Sergeant with the Greater Sudbury Police Service since 1992.

Mario Delorme began working in Fire Investigations and Evaluation on September 13 as a fire investigator in the Ottawa region. He was previously with the Kingston City Police Department as a detective sergeant.

Theresa Frank, pictured, administrative officer for Field and Fire Protection Services, recently visited the OFM's Toronto offices with her twin



sons, Luke and Adam. Theresa is currently on maternity leave.

Maud Geddes left the OFM on August 5. Maud worked in the London office since the office first opened in April 1990.

Doug Horn began June 14 as a fire investigator. Doug has approximately 24 years of police experience, with the last 19 years at the York Regional Police where he was the lead investigator and case manager for arson and fire investigations.

Trudi Jones began October 18 as an information analyst with DATS, Corporate Services.

Amanda Kusick started July 19 as the OFM's test bank operator. Amanda comes from the private sector and has worked in the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Labour.

Martha Murphy joined the OFM on August 30 as the librarian for the Fire

Sciences Library. Prior to joining the OFM, Martha was the librarian for the IBM Toronto software lab in Markham.

Bruce Paterson began in the Fire Investigations and Evaluation section on August 30 as an engineer. Bruce was with Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada as a program manager in the fire alarm and securities systems group prior to joining the OFM.

Al Suleman has accepted a one-year secondment with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as manager of Code Interpretation, Registration and Training effective September 13. Al joined the OFM in 1988 and had been acting unit manager in Fire Safety Standards for several years.

Brad Welyki began working as the district stockroom warehouse clerk at the Thunder Bay office on August 30. Brad comes to the OFM from the Ministry of Transportation where he worked maintaining a warehouse for that ministry.

Jays Day salutes safety



July 9 was Toronto Blue Jays Fire Safety Day at the SkyDome in Toronto. The day was in recognition of the dedicated fire prevention work done by the fire service and by sponsors and or-

ganizations committed to the ongoing promotion of fire and life safety messages.

An on-field presentation was made to partners supporting the Spring into Summer...Spring into

Safety and the Fire Prevention Week campaigns. Pictured (from left) are Blue Jay Josh Phelps; Doug Tennant, Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs; Chief Bill Stewart, Toronto Fire Service; Dr. James Young, Commissioner of Emergency Management; Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle; Doug Geralde, CSA; Jeff Higgins, Direct Energy; Bev Gilbert, OFM; Manny Sousa, Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc.; Danielle Zima, Energizer Canada; Jim Rotz, Pyrene Corporation; Sharleen Mascoll, State Farm; Dave Lisle, Technical Standards & Safety Authority; Sparky; and Ron Jones, Toronto Fire Services.

New ideas key to Risk Watch success

Program has to appeal to teachers so they will be more receptive to it and enthusiastic about implementing it.

Risk Watch, an injury prevention curriculum for school teachers of preschool through grade 8, was first test piloted in Ontario in the Leeds-Grenville region in 1997-98. Today, approximately 40 Risk Watch coalitions are working in communities across the province.

The North Bay coalition, called Risk Watch in Action North Bay, has been successful in disseminating the program throughout its region. Risk Watch first came to that area in 2000, with five schools participating. Since then, 21 more schools have been added, and there are now five Risk Watch coalitions overseeing the programs in the region.

According to Fran Laframboise, a Public Health Nurse with the North Bay and District Public Health Unit and a member of all five Risk Watch coalitions in the area, new ideas have been the key to the growth of the program in the area.

"We're always trying to come up with something – new ideas – to sustain the program," Laframboise said. "The work doesn't stop when the program has been implemented in a school. We try to come up with new resources and techniques that teachers can use so the program maintains the interest of students and teachers."

"One of the ways we do this is by constantly asking teachers in the schools what they need to make the

program better or easier to use," Laframboise continued, "then we go from there. But it's not easy; it's been a lot of work." The commitment and support of community partners has been key to the success of this program.

The Risk Watch coalitions, Laframboise said, also hold training sessions for new teachers and new schools who are participating, but she said that the extent to which the

The commitment and support of community partners has been vital to the success of this program.

program is implemented often depends on how receptive individual teachers are to the program, and how enthusiastic they are about implementing it.

"This is why we try to make the program as attractive to them as possible," Laframboise said.

Laframboise said three coalitions recently launched a challenge for 7/8 students to produce media ads about safety issues. Four schools participated and 26 different messages were aired. Another initiative was a writing competition for grades 5/6. Stories were written by students from five schools presenting Risk Watch hazards and solutions. The names of the winning students appeared in local newspapers. Such competitions have helped to build interest and

excitement in the program.

"It's important that the various coalitions in the area work together to coordinate activities and share ideas and resources whenever possible," Laframboise said. "We're fortunate to have a few people who are common threads – they are members of Risk Watch coalitions and also work at school boards in the area. So they can help access schools."

Last year the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council contracted SMARTRISK to "Canadianize" and transcreate the Risk Watch program. The SMARTRISK team has reworked the curriculum to include the latest statistics, injury prevention information, resources and educational approaches relevant to Canada.

The team worked with teachers to develop a new approach to the lesson plans which now emphasize critical thinking and provide more challenging activities. They can be integrated easily by teachers with other subjects such as science, math and language arts. In keeping with Canadian educational ap-

proaches, additions to the lesson plans include encouraging students to reflect on prior learning, and student assessment suggestions for teachers. Efforts have also been made in the Canadian version to add references to ice, farm, rural and rail safety issues, as well as information on popular activities that involve risk, such as skateboarding and operating ATVs.

The SMARTRISK team has completed the English revision of Risk Watch and has sent the material to the French translators. Translation is expected to be completed by January 2005. The next step is the graphic design of the materials.

The new Canadianized version is expected to be available for use in schools by September 2005.

Climbing the Ladder: Education & Training

The objective of **Climbing the Ladder** is to keep you informed and up to date on issues related to education and training within the Ontario fire service, and to adequately address your questions and concerns. If there is a particular issue you want covered, send the topic to the Editor of the Messenger and it will be passed on to the appropriate person in the OFM Academic Standards and Evaluation section.

Management training program sees first degree graduates

We are excited to congratulate Danny Bourne and Andrew Walczak from the Toronto Fire Services as the first two graduates of the degree program of The Public Administration and Governance Program for Fire Service Professionals. The program, which is jointly administered by Ryerson University, the Office of the Fire Marshal, and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, is an excellent opportunity for members of the fire service to further develop their management skills as public servants. Both Danny and Andrew graduated with honours.

Graduating with Danny and Andrew were Tim Beckett (Advanced Certificate), Ken Bone (Certificate), Mick Caldwell (Certificate), William Chesney (Certificate), Larry Coplen (Certificate), Steven Hemsworth (Certificate), Gary Lagerquist (Certificate), Shawn LePage (Certificate), and Ted Morrison (Certificate).

We would like to extend our congratulations to all graduates of the program, and express how proud we are of your accomplishments. We are excited to be involved in such a valuable partnership with Ryerson University. — Bernard Moyle, Ontario Fire Marshal and Rob Browning, President of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

The following article was written by Danny Bourne, captain with the Toronto Fire Services. In addition to completing his bachelor's degree in the Public Administration and Governance Program in four years, he received the Kerr Gold Medal and Scholarship for Ryerson's Faculty of Arts.

At one time, all that was required of a chief fire officer was a sound knowledge of operational techniques and a flair for managing people. These characteristics were generally acquired

through hands-on experience gained by rising through the ranks of the department.

In today's fire service, those that aspire to management positions are expected to possess a more diverse

set of skills. Increasingly complex relationships between various levels of government, rising public expectations that demand greater effectiveness and efficiency, and an ever-growing body of legislation that affects human and labour relations place new and more onerous demands upon public service managers. The Public Administration and Governance Program for Fire Service Professionals, jointly administered by Ryerson University, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs and the Office of the Fire Marshal, is a course of post-secondary study designed to help meet these challenges. The program features a curriculum intended to impart the practical and theoretical knowledge required to effectively manage a modern public service.

Unlike many other university programs, Ryerson's School of Politics and Public Administration offers the opportunity to earn certificates as well as a Bachelor of Applied Arts degree. The Level I certificate requires eight one-semester courses and for Level II, a

continued on page 17

continued from page 16

further eight. For students that have at least two years experience working in the public service, the degree can be achieved upon the completion of 33 courses. Each Level I and II course is taught by Ryerson faculty over an intensive one-week period at the Ontario Fire College. There are generally five or six courses spread throughout the year, so it is quite feasible to earn the Level I certificate in about 15 to 18 months.

The core curriculum explores the relationship between government, public administration and society. Specific courses focus on the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Other classes concentrate on topics such as policy development, organizational behaviour, labour relations, financial planning and current issues affecting public administration.

One advantage of these classes is the unique opportunity of being part of a cohort of fire service personnel from all over the province. Fellow students represent all ranks and departments of various sizes. Course material and class discussions assume greater relevancy when filtered through the collective perspective and experience of such a group.

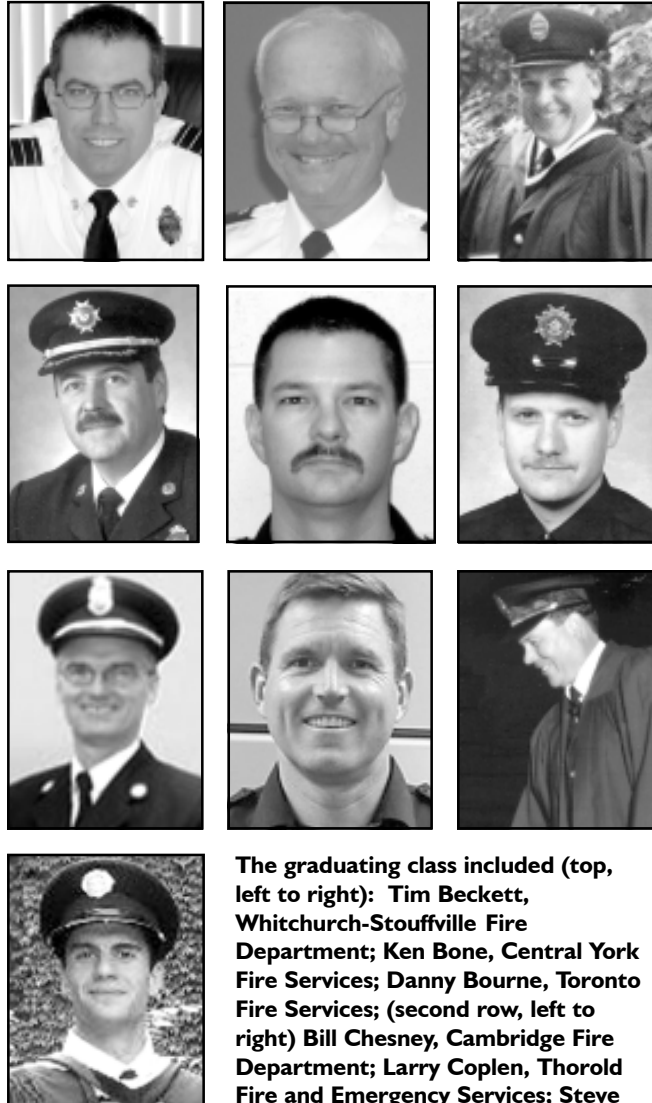
Ryerson faculty have tailored much of the course material to be of particular interest and pertinence to fire department personnel. Many of them possess considerable real-world experience as public administrators, policy advisors and consultants, in addition to their academic credentials. This practical viewpoint helps to ensure that the courses are interesting, valid and current. The instructors have consistently remarked how much they enjoy their time at Gravenhurst, amid the remarkable scenery and enthusiastic, talented fire service students.

In addition to providing the theoretical and practical

knowledge required to improve one's skills as a public administrator, the program also provides a greater appreciation and understanding of the Canadian political landscape. Even if promotion within the fire service is not the student's primary goal, involvement in the program produces a more knowledgeable public servant who better understands his/her role and

purpose as an agent in the delivery of public services. Exposure to the curriculum also helps one become a more informed citizen, better prepared for civic and political participation and engagement.

In addition to the courses offered at the Fire College, students who wish to progress faster can take advantage of other modes of delivery. Several of the Level I and II courses are offered through Ryerson's Distance Education section. For those that live within commuting distance, day and night classes are also available on Ryerson's downtown Toronto campus. Students can also apply to have previously completed community college and university courses considered for accreditation in the program. Similarly, specific courses offered at a closer community college or university can be considered for equivalency by Ryerson's Curriculum Advising Office. By utilizing all of the above-mentioned modes of learning, and taking classes in each of the four annually scheduled semesters, it is possible to complete the entire degree program in four years.



The graduating class included (top, left to right): Tim Beckett, Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Department; Ken Bone, Central York Fire Services; Danny Bourne, Toronto Fire Services; (second row, left to right) Bill Chesney, Cambridge Fire Department; Larry Coplen, Thorold Fire and Emergency Services; Steve Hemsworth, Southwest Oxford Fire Service; (third row, left to right) Gary Lagerquist, Brampton Fire and Emergency Services; Shawn LePage, Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services; and Ted Morrison, Ajax Fire and Emergency Services; (bottom) Andrew Walczak, Toronto Fire Services. Not pictured, Mick Caldwell, Barrie Fire Department.

For further information, visit Ryerson's Web site at www.ryerson.ca/politics or call Viola Ing at 416-979-5057.

OFM training and education programs meet highest standards

OFM training and education programs receive international attention for their high quality. As the article on page 20 indicates, members of fire services across the world attend courses offered at the Ontario Fire College (OFC). At the same time, members of the Ontario fire service have achieved positions with international organizations, thanks in part to their participation in OFM programs and committees (see the article on page 23).

OFM programs meet the highest standards set by international accreditation bodies, which means that graduates of these programs and courses have received the best training, and have developed the best sets of skills, available at the international level.

As indicated on page 19, many OFM programs are accredited by both the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board).

Accreditation provides a systematic process for evaluating educational programs using an established set of professional criteria that

meet international standards. Accreditation is a voluntarily sought status that is given to an educational institution or program that meets or exceeds these criteria. Accreditation by a recognized accrediting agency serves as a significant indicator that a program is meeting established standards and stated objectives.

Last March, Gary Oliver, Ken Briscoe and Rich Hall, representatives of IFSAC, visited the OFC and the OFM's Toronto office to conduct a comprehensive review of the OFM's ability to deliver six programs/courses, including: the Ontario Firefighter Certification Program; the Company Officer Certification Program; the OFM Fire Investigator Certification Program; the Advanced Fire Cause Determination and Investigation Course; the Public Fire and Life Safety Educators' Certification Program; and the OFM Hazardous Materials - Operations Level Course.

While accreditation acknow-

ledges that programs meet international standards, certification, on the other hand, formally acknowledges that an individual firefighter meets recognized job performance standards, and educational/training and job experience requirements as approved by the OFM and agreed to by the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs.

More information on the accreditation and certification processes is provided on page 19.



The OFM's Gay Saunders demonstrated testing and evaluation methods to Rich Hall, manager of IFSAC, during the IFSAC site-team visit in March.



During the IFSAC site-team visit in March, OFM Public Education and Media Relations Manager Bev Gilbert (left) discussed OFM public education programs with Ken Briscoe, an IFSAC representative from the North Carolina Fire and Rescue Commission.

Fire service certification update

(Statistics as of October 15, 2004)

Firefighter Certification Program

	Departments	Firefighters
Enrolled	188	15,169
	Career Firefighters	Firefighters
Total Certified	1,344	579

Fire Prevention Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Fire Prevention Officers
Enrolled	75	453
Total Certified		50

Company Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Company Officers
Enrolled	42	956
Total Certified		2

Fact Sheet:

Accreditation and Certification

The following provides information on the accreditation process. Self-governing bodies, such as IFSAC and Pro Board, accredit entities, such as the OFM, and their programs.

International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC)

Accreditation is awarded to an entity that grants certification to firefighters. Status is sought voluntarily by an organization that must meet set criteria of the accrediting body, IFSAC.



- Accredits entities and their programs to establish criteria
- Self-governed by peers
- Voluntary participation
- Accredits to NFPA standards and recognized alternate standards
- Program accreditation involves peer team assessment of programs at site:
 - skills and written tests for validity, reliability and conformance to standards; administrative policies and procedures; recommendations made for improvement if necessary; recommendations to Board of Governors for accreditation of programs

National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board)

The OFM also has programs accredited by the Pro Board, which functions under a system similar to IFSAC and only accredits programs to NFPA standards. The following programs have been accredited by the Pro Board:



- Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program to NFPA 1001 Level 1* - If the individual completes an accredited Hazardous Materials - Operations Level course, s/he will receive NFPA 1001 Level 2*
- Advanced Fire Cause Determination and Investigation course to NFPA 1033 Standards
- Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Certification Program to NFPA 1035 Levels 1 and 2

* Pro Board certificates can be requested for any of the Pro Board accredited programs following successful completion of the OFM testing requirements. The OFM Certification Office facilitates the application for these certificates.

Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM)

Certification formally acknowledges that an individual firefighter meets recognized job performance standards; certification is awarded by the Ontario Fire Marshal under the authority of the FPPA.



- OFM is the authority having jurisdiction in the Province of Ontario
- OFM is a voting member of IFSAC and participates in site visits in other jurisdictions
- The following are accredited by IFSAC:
 - Firefighter Certification Program to Ontario Standards; Company Officer Certification Program to Ontario Standards; OFM Fire Investigator Certification Program to OFM Standards; Advanced Fire Cause Determination and Investigation course to NFPA 1033 Standards; Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Certification Program to NFPA 1035 Levels 1 and 2; Hazardous Materials Operations Level course to NFPA 472
- The IFSAC seal is placed on certificates after a candidate successfully completes the entire program/course

Benefits of Program Accreditation

- third party peer review; quality assurance; information sharing; added credibility; adherence to standards

'We've never learned as much as at the OFC'

A delegation of five firefighters from the Israeli fire service attended two courses at the Fire College in August. The following is a summary of their experiences, in their own words.

BY DAVID FAIBISH, YOAV DAMTI, HEZI LEVI,
REUVEN BAR-EL AND DAVID ARBIV,
ISRAELI FIRE SERVICE

Five months ago, the commissioner of the Israeli Fire Service, Shimon Romach, decided to establish a committee to write standards on high-rise fires for the Israeli Fire Service. After a visit with the Ontario Fire Marshal, he also decided to send our committee to the Ontario Fire College in order to gain additional knowledge to assist us with the development of the standards. Our committee consists of five members: **David Faibish**, Deputy Chief with Ramat Gan Fire Department; **Yoav Damti**, Battalion Chief and Fire Investigation Officer with Holon Fire Department; **Hezi Levi**, Training Officer and Spokesperson with Haifa Fire Department; **Reuven Bar-El**, Assistant Chief Fire Prevention Manager with Ayalon Fire Department; and **David Arbiv**, Team Leader with Hazelya Fire Department.

Our committee's mission is to write standards specific to fire in high-rise buildings in order to assist in strategic planning and training for firefighters. The state of Israel is a small geographic area and 30%

of the land is desert. While all new buildings are built to meet current NFPA standards, there are special considerations when building high-rises in the city.

The first course we attended was Pre-Incident Planning and Building Construction with Instructor Bob Pollard. Our first impression of the course was how important it is to develop a relationship and ex-

"I have visited several fire colleges and academies in Europe and attended courses in California. My colleagues have also visited other fire colleges in the United States. But we have not ever learned as much as we have during our stay at the Ontario Fire College." - David Faibish, Deputy Chief with Ramat Gan Fire Department, Israel, and head of the delegation.

change ideas with our Ontario Fire Service colleagues. The professionalism of our instructor helped to facilitate a quick integration to the group. Although all our buildings are cement construction, we were able to learn a great deal from this course and from our fellow students. We respond in Israel with two firefighters on a truck in seven minutes, and we had to explain to other students that we have limited water, manpower and other resources. (For example, during our visit to Niagara Falls, we were amazed to see more water flowing

past in an hour than we have in our entire nation.)

During our first week we also participated in the Flashover Recognition and Survival course. Even for all of us who are experienced firefighters, it was amazing to experience flashover first hand. Over the years we have experienced hundreds of fires, but when training, it is difficult to express to young firefighters the dangers of flashover and the signs that indicate flashover is about to occur. We were impressed with the flashover unit – its simplicity, yet the ability to provide the environment to experience the elements of flashover in a safe and efficient format. This would be beneficial to share with our young firefighters.

In week three, we started the high-rise course (Managing a High-Rise Incident), with Co-ordinator Peter McNeil and Instructor Fred McKay, a captain with Toronto Fire Services. This course was riveting. It is a theoretical and practical course dealing with high-rise strategies and tactics, and we looked at the differences between the NFPA standards that fire prevention officers follow in Israel. The studies opened our eyes to a number of topics that we need to consider when developing our standards.

During our stay, we had several opportunities to deliver our presentation on terrorist activities in

See Delegation on page 21

Counterfeit batteries may be fire hazard

Health Canada is advising Canadians to immediately stop using LG-brand TM-510 cell phone replacement batteries, sold through Verizon Wireless and intended for use in LG-brand cell phones. Some of these products may be counterfeit and may present a fire or burn hazard.

The LG-brand cell phones were sold from April, 2001 through December, 2002 and the batteries were sold from August, 2002 to November, 2003. These products were sold at Verizon Wireless retail

locations in the United States and through their Web site.

The counterfeit batteries are either black or white and the "Verizon Wireless" name may appear on the front of the battery. Below the words "Model/Modelo" or "LG" appear the following manufacturer/date codes: AEMLLL 02220; AEMMHH 02220; AEMLLL 02X25H; and AEMMHH 02725.

The counterfeit TM-510 batteries do not contain a preventative safety device in their circuitry to prevent overcharging. The counterfeit bat-

teries can overheat, posing a fire and burn hazard to users. This danger is further increased when these batteries are charged in a non-LG charger.

There have been 18 reports of incidents involving these counterfeit batteries, including injuries to users and property damage, in the United States. Health Canada is not aware of any incidents in Canada.

Those in possession of any of the batteries listed as potentially counterfeit are urged to immediately stop using the battery and to contact Verizon Wireless at 1-888-351-2121 to arrange for a replacement.

For further information, contact the Health Canada at 416-73-4705 or Tor_Prodsafe@hc-sc.gc.ca.

Reprinted from a Health Canada media release dated July 23, 2004.

Delegation to develop similar training in Israel

continued from page 20

the state of Israel and the role of the first responders, including the fire department.

Fred McKay remarked, "The Israeli students added a dimension of experience and lessons learned the hard way. Their presentation graphically displayed the difficulties they face on a regular basis."

On two of our weekends, we visited the Toronto Fire Services Academy and were impressed with the equipment and facilities. While meeting with Chief Bill Stewart, we discussed the Toronto Fire Services and amalgamation. We also did ride alongs with two shifts in Toronto. We hope to maintain the good relationship that was started between the fire services in Canada and Israel. Thanks to Chief Stewart and the Toronto Fire Services for the opportunity to be a part of their station activities.

The main principle we are taking home is how to develop training in Israel that is similar to what we found in Canada, including the firefighting aspects and the in-



The delegation from the Israeli Fire Service visited the OFM's Toronto office on September 7. Pictured (from the left) are: Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle; David Arbiv; Reuven Bar-El; Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter; David Faibish; Commissioner for Emergency Management Dr. James Young; Yoav Damti; and Hezi Levi.

cident management system.

Prior to our visit, if someone had described to us what to expect, we wouldn't have believed it. The experience was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we soon found that all the experiences we were having made up for the fact that our families were not able to join us.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Ed Godden, manager, Academic Unit, and all of the staff at the Ontario Fire College. Everyone made us feel welcome and comfortable during our visit.

Many gave some of their free time to show us the beauty and sights of the province and we thank you from our hearts. Special thanks to Ed, Ryan, Tom, Peter, Bob, Amy, Judy, and Elaine for making our stay so enjoyable.

We would like to thank the commissioner of the Israeli Fire Department, Shimon Romach, the Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle, and the principal of the Ontario Fire College, Fred McLennan, for making this trip a reality.

Fire Safety Commission Decision

Decision No. 2003A002-141
Date: September 18, 2003

The following is a synopsis of a Fire Safety Commission hearing. More information may be obtained from the Fire Safety Standards section of the OFM, telephone 416-325-3200.

SUBJECT MATTER

The issue before the tribunal was an inspection order served on the owner of a building that was converted from a house to a seniors' residence. The inspection order identified eight items that needed to comply with Part 9 of the Ontario Building Code. These items included improvements to exiting, the installation of a fire alarm system, the provision of a kitchen hood exhaust system, installation of closures with a fire-protection rating and self-closing devices, proper fire separation between garage and residential area, and proper fire separation of a basement storage room.

The owner appealed this decision to the Fire Safety Commission.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES

The building is three storeys in height, has a basement and a total building area of 380 m². It was originally constructed in 1905 as a house providing accommodation for the owner's family and domestic staff. It would be classified as a combustible building under the current Ontario Building Code.

The current owner converted the building into a retirement home for seniors in 2001 and 2002. There are eight resident suites in the building. Five are located on the second floor and three are located on the third floor. Each suite contains a bedroom and a bathroom and is leased from the owner under a separate lease. The housekeeper also lives in the building and is provided with a bedroom in the basement. An elevator was installed to serve all floors, including the basement. Cooking and eating facilities are located on the ground floor.

There are two open staircases in the building: one connecting all floors while the other connects the first and second floors only. Interconnected smoke alarms, self-contained emergency lighting units and fire extinguishers are provided throughout the building. Exit signs are not provided.

The owner has limited the total occupancy of the resident suites to a maximum of eight persons. Conditions of residence include the

residents being ambulatory and not requiring or receiving ongoing care due to age, mental or physical limitations. However, staff assist residents with day-to-day needs upon request. Staff consists of the live-in housekeeper, cooks and cleaners.

REASONS FOR APPEAL

The owner feels that the requirements set out in the inspection order are excessive and inappropriate. He contends that the building should be classified as a boarding, lodging and rooming house and should be required to comply with Section 9.3 of the Ontario Fire Code.

APPELLANT'S POSITION

The owner indicated that every effort was made to comply with code requirements by consulting with local officials prior to modifying the building. The owner also indicated that he is prepared to install a second exit on the third floor, which he believes is the biggest concern under the requirement of Section 9.3 of the Ontario Fire Code. He is also willing to comply with the requirements as summarized in the OFC 9.3 analysis of the inspection report prepared by the commission delegate.

RESPONDENT'S POSITION

The fire chief stated that he wants to make sure that the residents in the building are safe from any fire hazard and identified the following issues, which he believed would have significant impact on the life safety of the occupants:

1. The building lacks a suitable means of egress from the individual residential rooms on each storey for the escape of occupants in the event of fire.
2. The building lacks a suitable fire alarm and detection system necessary to alert the occupants in event of fire.
3. The kitchen lacks suitable exhaust and fire protection equipment.
4. The parking garage is not fire separated from the building.

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First Canadian elected to IAFC's Fire and Life Safety section

Brian Maltby, fire prevention division chief with the Brampton Fire and Emergency Services, is the first Canadian elected to the Board of Directors of the Fire and Life Safety section of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC).

"It's exciting to be able to represent the first Canadian voice on the Board," Maltby said. "With its roots in the United States, the IAFC naturally looks at things with a U.S. perspective," Maltby continued. "I hope to bring a Canadian outlook



Division Chief Brian Maltby

to the table."

For example, Maltby said, Canada has a much better record than the U.S. preventing fires and associated fatalities on college and university campuses. He believes that this is the result of specific actions, such as the introduction and enforcement of retrofit provisions of the Fire Code. He plans to share this kind of Canadian knowledge and experience with the Fire and Life Safety section.

"At the same time, I hope to learn from some of the successes of our American counterparts. For example, they have been much more successful in bringing about residential sprinkler requirements than we have here in Ontario, so I hope to be able to use their experiences to our advantage."

Approximately 450 voting members, primarily from the U.S., elected Maltby to the Board at the IAFC's annual conference in New Orleans in August. "In my election platform, I promised to bring an

international perspective to the Board," Maltby said, "and I guess the people who voted were receptive to what I had to say."

Maltby said the role of the Fire and Life Safety section of the IAFC is to be the eyes and ears of the organization's main Board regarding issues on fire prevention, and to provide leadership on these issues to fire chiefs. One of his responsibilities will be to participate in the development of codes.

"The people [on the Board] are quite impressed by the consensus process I was involved in as Chair of the Fire Marshal's Technical Review Committee for Parts 3, 4 and 5 of the Ontario Fire Code," Maltby said. "It's a process they are less familiar with, so I think that contributed to my election."

Maltby has been a member of the IAFC for two years and has represented the IAFC on the International Code Council Action Committee. His term as a Board member is for three years.

Fire Safety Commission Decision

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COMMISSION'S RULING

The Commission agreed with the intent of the inspection order, with the exception of the need for a kitchen exhaust hood, which is not required according to the testimony presented.

As a result, the Commission ordered that the inspection order be modified as per the following extracts from the Commission Delegate Inspection Report, which provides a clear description for the

required work:

1. The floors would have to be constructed as fire separations and enclosing the stairwells would satisfy the requirement.
2. The third floor would require two exits.
3. The exit stairwells would have to be separated from the rest of the building with 30 minute rated fire separations and lead directly outside. One exit stairwell could incorporate a contiguous corridor.
4. The building would require a

fire alarm system that is provided with smoke detectors on each floor adjacent to each exit stairwell. Interconnected smoke alarms may be used in lieu of these smoke detectors.

A building permit is required and the work shall be completed to the satisfaction of the fire department before June 30, 2004.

REASON

Based on the evidence presented, the tribunal believes that this work is necessary to provide a reasonable level of life safety for the maximum of eight residents plus staff in the building.

Fire departments, Tim Hortons team up for Halloween safety

BY ART PULLAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIRE MARSHAL'S PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY COUNCIL

Thousands of children will be tricking and treating safer this year thanks to glow-in-the-dark trick or treat candy bags bearing safety messages for children and their parents.

Tim Hortons has been making the bags available at their locations throughout Canada in recent years. Through discussions with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council, the company made over 100,000 safety bags available as part of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign kits. The kits, which have grown tremendously in popularity since first being introduced six years ago, provided fire and life

safety materials for participating fire departments to deliver during Fire Prevention Week and throughout the month of October.

"We are pleased to be able to extend this safety campaign on behalf of Tim Hortons," said Bernard Moyle, Ontario Fire Marshal and Council Chair. "Firefighters are well respected within their communities and children take to heart the messages the firefighters deliver in the interest of child safety."

"Tim Hortons is to be commended for their support of the community safety projects," the Fire Marshal continued. "The Halloween safety bags are another example of their commitment to the protection of our youth."

FireCon focuses on the variety of challenges facing the fire service

This year's FireCon was held in Thunder Bay from September 16-19.

Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle opened the conference with a keynote address highlighting the current and future goals and challenges of emergency response that face the fire service.

Following that theme, Sergeant Paul Michtics from the OPP made a presentation on recent trends in terrorism and multi-agency response and Raymond Holland presented on vehicle rescue and challenges facing the fire service resulting from new vehicle technology.

"Once again, FireCon provided great information and updates to the fire service on a variety of topics," Fire Marshal Moyle said. "These conferences are a great chance to network with colleagues across the province and to share knowledge and experiences to improve the fire service."



Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle presented Jeff Pope (right) from the Terrace Bay Emergency Services with his Public Fire and Life Safety Educators' Program certificate at FireCon. Terrace Bay Chief Ken Benoit is also pictured. (Picture courtesy of Gerry Armstrong)

Conference attendees also heard a presentation by Rick Peotto, Thunder Bay fire chief, Kevin Spracklin, fire chief of the Shebandowan Fire Department, and Barry McKinnon, the OFM's chief of emergency management and response, about the province's first CBRN response in June.

NFPA calls for ban of fireworks

Thousands of fires are started and thousands of people are injured by fireworks each year in North America.

As a result, on July 1 the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in the U.S. called for a ban on fireworks, urging the public to treat fireworks, including sparklers, as suitable only for use by trained professionals.

Children suffer the vast majority of fireworks injuries, which typically harm the eyes, head or hands. In Canada, over two-thirds of the injuries resulting from fireworks involved children aged 5 to 14 years.

While sparklers are often considered harmless fun, they are potentially hazardous as well. Sparklers can burn twice as hot as a typical kitchen oven (they can burn at 650° C or 1,200° F) and can ignite clothing.

Currently, Canada allows fireworks in two categories: display and family or consumer. A permit is needed to set off display fireworks, which are to be fired only by experienced, licensed adults.

Many municipalities have established bylaws pertaining to handling and discharging family fireworks and fire departments are empowered to enforce these bylaws. The public is encouraged to check with local fire departments about regulations in their area.

For more information, visit www.safety-council.org/news/sc/2003/pyrotechnic.html and www.nfpa.org/Research/NFPAFactSheets/Fireworks/fireworks.asp.

Agency cooperation key to response

continued from page 2

Thunder Bay Fire Department was advised at about 7 a.m. that it might be necessary to activate its hazardous materials response team under the terms and conditions of the provincial/municipal partnership for hazardous materials/CBRN response.

Participation in the incident management system continued to grow throughout the incident as officials from Shebandowan and Kaministiquia Fire Departments, the OFM, EMO, the Ministry of the Environment and the OPP developed the strategy and tactics in the command post to deal with the emergency. As more information became available a decision was made to discontinue the direct application of water on the fire and adopted a defensive approach. It was learned that the application of water could cause another toxic substance to be formed. There were also concerns about potential damage to the environment from the runoff.

As traffic began to back up, however, and the fire continued to burn, it was decided that additional resources should be contacted to assist with the emergency through the use of specialized response equipment and persons provided with additional training.

"Transport trucks were backed up for many, many miles," said

Spracklin. "Traffic moving east and west across Canada was affected."

At 10:20 a.m. the OFM was advised through Fire Coordinator Rick Peotto, who by now was also on the scene and participating at the command post, that a formal request was being made for assistance from the Thunder Bay Fire Department under the terms of the provincial hazardous materials/CBRN response system. Necessary contacts were made with EMO and the office of the Commissioner of Emergency Management, Dr. James Young. Approval for eight members of Thunder Bay's Hazardous Materials/CBRN Level 2 Response Team to respond was given at 10:40 a.m. The team assembled and arrived on the scene at about 12:45 p.m.

Meanwhile, the command team was informed of a blood shipment headed for the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital that was stuck in the back up of traffic.

"We arranged to have an MNR helicopter pick-up the shipment and deliver it to the hospital," Peotto said. "So there was a lot of cooperation from many different agencies."

Over the next two hours, the Level 2 Response Team continued reconnaissance of the area immediately surrounding the trailer with the assistance of air monitoring equipment it brought to the scene. An incident action plan was developed

which involved the tactics of building a dyke to control water run off and prevent it from entering the water system.

After the confinement efforts were in place, two members of the Level 2 Response Team donned Level A personal protective equipment and began attacking the fire using 1,000 gallons of compressed class A foam. Following the first attack, one lane of traffic on Highway 17 was reopened to allow traffic to pass. At approximately 5 p.m., and again at about 6:30 p.m., the highway was closed and more foam was applied to ensure the fire was fully extinguished. By 7:30 p.m. the clean up of the scene was complete.

"I was very pleased with the response," Peotto said. "It was a real-life opportunity to see what things we did well and what needs improvement."

"The commitment of municipalities to work with the province to establish a response system really paid off," said Barry McKinnon, chief of Emergency Management and Response for the OFM. "By working together the fire was safely extinguished and the interruption to the public and commercial traffic was significantly reduced."

Special thanks to Rick Peotto and Barry McKinnon for their assistance with this article.

Company Officer Certification Program's first graduates

Grant Love, from the North Bay Fire Department, and David Cunliffe, from the Town of the Blue Mountains Fire Department, are the first two graduates from the OFM's Company Officer Certification Program. The two received their certificates at a ceremony at the Fire College on September 24. Pictured are (left to right) North Bay Fire Chief Ted McCullough, Grant Love, Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle, David Cunliffe, and the Town of the Blue Mountains Fire



Chief Ron Doherty. (Picture courtesy of the Ontario Fire College)

New in the OFM Library

The Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre provides current fire resources to support the Office of the Fire Marshal as well as fire departments, emergency services and fire related industries. The collection consists of 9,000+ books, standards, statute law, reports, journals and over 1,300 audio-visual resources representing fire safety, disaster and emergency planning, fire science and technology, fire investigation and more. Check out our new book and audio-video titles.

New Books



Confined Space Entry and Emergency Response by D. Alan Versey and Lisa Craft McCormick. (2002)

Crew Resource Management for the Fire Service by Randy Okray and Thomas Lubnau. (2004)

Field Guide for Fire Investigators by Richard L.P. Custer. Quincy, National Fire Protection Association. (2003)

Fire Alarm Signaling Systems by Richard W. Bukowski and Wayne D. Moore. National Fire Protection Association. (2003)

Firefighter Rescue and Survival by Richard Kolomay and Robert Hoff. (2003)

Forensic Investigation of Clandestine Laboratories by Donnell R. Christian. (2004)

Hazardous Materials Air Monitoring And Detection Devices by Chris Hawley. (2002)

Terrorism and Oil by Neal Adams. (2003)

User's Manual for NFPA 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigation (2003)

New Videos

Fire Prevention and Safety in Industrial Facilities (2003)

The program examines the common causes of industrial fires and how to prevent them. It covers the concept of flashpoint, classes of fire and fire extinguishers, outlines proper procedures for handling flammable materials, evacuation procedures and first aid measures.

Fire Prevention in the Office (2003)

The program examines what causes fires in office environments. It reviews steps that can be taken to help prevent fires and discusses what employees should do in the event of a fire emergency.

The Smoke Alarm Show (2004)

This program depicts two small children assigned to write a report about a smoke alarm who find themselves swept inside the alarm where they encounter a number of colourful characters. It is geared towards elementary school children, grades 3-6.



Survival! Managing the Fireground Mayday! (2000)

This program details the necessary training and preparation required for the fireground commander in the event of a lost/trapped or downed firefighter. It emphasizes critical lessons learned from previous incidents of the past.

The Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre is located at the head office of the OFM, 5775 Yonge St., 7th Floor, Toronto. We welcome visitors to come to the library and borrow from our collection. We will also courier material directly to clients. Hours are Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:15pm. Visit our Web site by clicking on Resource at www.ofm.gov.on.ca or call 416-325-3235/3236 (Library) or 416-325-3121 (AV).



Preparation courses for inspector qualification exams offered

BY MARY PRENCIPE, OFM FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER AND JANA GILLIS, OMFPOA

On July 25, 2003, the *Building Code Statute Law Amendment Act, 2002* (Bill 124) was proclaimed and Ontario Regulation 305/03, which amends O. Reg. 403/97 (Building Code), was filed to implement Ontario's building regulatory reforms. Many of the amendments to the Act came into force on September 1, 2003. However, the remaining provisions, including mandatory qualifications for building officials, will take effect July 1, 2005.

Fire service members that are appointed as building officials for the purpose of conducting plan reviews or inspections dealing with fire suppression, fire detection, firefighting, and fire safety will have to complete examinations on both the technical aspects of the Building Code (Fire Protection) and the administrative elements (General Legal/Process) by July 1, 2005.

To assist practitioners in preparing for the examinations, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) has developed self-study manuals that review

material relevant to the examination syllabi. Optional courses designed to cover the contents of the self-study manuals in a classroom setting led by certified facilitators are also available. It should be noted that these courses do not provide an in-depth technical review of the Building Code. Instead, they are intended to assist in the study process by reviewing material relevant to the examinations. The courses are offered through a number of MMAH authorized delivery agencies, including the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association (OMFPOA).

The OMFPOA is currently offering two exam preparation courses: Fire Protection and General/Legal Process. A schedule listing dates when the two courses will be offered at the Ontario Fire College is on page 28. The OMFPOA is also planning to offer the courses at other locations throughout the province.

Once registered to take one of the courses, the student will receive the appropriate self-study manual. Fire service members interested in enrolling in the courses are encouraged to apply early as MMAH

recommends a significant amount of self-study and preparation prior to attending the course.

Persons who choose not to take the courses may purchase the self-study manuals through Orderline (www.orderline.com; telephone: 1-888-361-0003).

Students in both courses will require the most recent version of the *Building Code Act, 1992* (BCA) and Ontario Building Code (OBC). Students in the General/Legal Process course will benefit greatly by also obtaining a copy of the 2005 amendments to the BCA and OBC in consolidated format, which is available from Orderline.

For further information on registration, please contact Jana Gillis (OMFPOA) at (905) 684-4311, ext. 4322 or visit the following Web sites: www.ofm.gov.on.ca, www.omfpoa.com.

For additional information about the Ontario Building Code Inspector Qualification program, please refer to the MMAH Web site at www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca or contact Fire Safety Standards, Office of the Fire Marshal at (416) 325-3100.

Partners pull together for Fire Prevention Week

The fire safety community has once again pulled together to make Fire Prevention Week a success.

Sponsors of this year's campaign included Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc., Energizer

Canada, State Farm Insurance, Direct Energy, Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Garrison at Canadian Tire, Pyrene Corporation - Kidde, and Via Rail.

"Fire Prevention Week is an extremely important opportunity to

get messages about fire and life safety out to the public," said Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle. "The fire service across the province wouldn't be able to spread these vital safety messages through their local communities without the tremendous support of our sponsors."

The sponsors' financial support allowed for the production and promotion of Fire Prevention Week materials distributed across the province.



The Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association Inc.
2352 Arnold Crescent, Burlington, Ontario L7P 4G3
FAX: 905.685.4690

**APPLICATION TO ATTEND ONTARIO BUILDING CODE COURSES AT
 ONTARIO FIRE COLLEGE**

- COMPLETE AND FAX THIS APPLICATION TO 905-685-4690.
- MAIL YOUR PAYMENT, WITH A COPY OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM, TO O.M.F.P.O.A., 2352 ARNOLD CRES., BURLINGTON, ON L7P 4G3. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE CUT-OFF DATE INDICATED BELOW WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- O.M.F.P.O.A. WILL CONFIRM THE STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION BY COMPLETING THE BOTTOM SECTION OF THE APPLICATION AND FAXING BACK TO PARTICIPANT.
- ONCE PAYMENT IS RECEIVED, COURSE MATERIALS WILL BE SENT TO THE ADDRESS INDICATED ON THE APPLICATION FORM.
- IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL JANA GILLIS AT 905-684-4311, EXT. 4322.

Name: _____ Employer: _____ Job Title: _____

Employer Address: _____ Postal Code: _____ Fax #: (____) _____

Bus. #: (____) _____ Home #: (____) _____ Email: _____

PLEASE CHECK	COURSE NAME	COURSE DATE	PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY
☐	Fire Protection	Dec. 13 - 17/04	Nov. 30/04
☐	Interpretation/Application on the Ont. Building Code Act	Jan. 10 - 13/05	Dec. 24/04
☐	Fire Protection	Jan. 17 - 21/05	Jan. 2/05
☐	Fire Protection	Jan. 24 - 28/05	Jan. 9/05
☐	Interpretation/Application on the Ont. Building Code Act	Feb. 14 - 17/05	Jan. 30/05
☐	Fire Protection	Feb. 28 - Mar. 4/05	Feb. 13/05
☐	Fire Protection	Mar. 7 - 11/05	Feb. 20/05
☐	Fire Protection	Mar. 14 - 18/05	Feb. 28/05

of years of Building Code experience: _____ # of Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing courses completed: _____

List of courses successfully completed: _____

Is your department an OMFPOA member? Yes: _____ No: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Course Fee - Member OMFPOA: \$250.00

Non-member: \$300.00

_____ Cheque enclosed _____ Cheque is being forwarded from the Treasury/Accounting department

Please make cheque payable to the O.M.F.P.O.A., 2352 ARNOLD CRES., BURLINGTON, ON L7P 4G3.

Remember to include a copy of your application form with the cheque.

COURSE MATERIAL - It is mandatory that you acquire the course material prior to the course start date. Manuals will not be sent until payment has been received.

INCIDENTALS - Participants attending these classes at the Ontario Fire College will be provided with meals and accommodation at no extra cost. Accommodation will be provided beginning with the night before your class start date and meals will begin with breakfast on the first morning of your class. Participants will not be reimbursed for travel costs.

CANCELLATIONS - OMFPOA will refund up to 70% of the course registration fee provided the request is received in writing 14 days prior to the first day of the course and no course materials have been sent. No refund or credit will be given for cancellations received less than 14 days prior to the first day of class or in the case of no shows. The executive reserves the right to issue a credit that may be applied to a future course where the cancellation is received within 14 days of the first day of class. The executive reserves the right to cancel a course if registration is too low.

APPLICATION STATUS - (to be completed by OMFPOA and faxed to participant)

_____ Confirmed - applicant is conditionally accepted on course pending receipt of payment.

_____ If payment is not received by cut-off date, applicant will be rejected at that time.

_____ Rejected - course is full

Fire Service Calendar 2004

November 3-5	Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference, "Naturally Wonderful"	Pembroke
November 15-17	Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs' Midterm Meeting and Training Seminars	Huntsville
November 17-18	International Joint Operations Command Conference 2004 "Setting the Standard for Combating the Global Threat"	Toronto
November 22-25	Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, Legislative Conference	Toronto
December 6-9	Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs' Executive Development Seminars	Ontario Fire College

Community partners make SummerSmart a success

Industry leaders, government and the fire service came together this summer to distribute summer safety information across the province as part of this year's SummerSmart safety campaign.

"We're so pleased to be able to work with these community leaders to get safety messages out across the province," said Bernard Moyle, Ontario Fire Marshal. "Their commitment to public safety is an example to all of us. Our hats go off to them."

Pictured below are the partners: (back, left to right): Peter Hana, State Farm Insurance; Tanya Faulds, Direct Energy; Danielle Zima, Energizer Canada; Jim Rotz, Pyrene Corporation; Robert Falconi, CSA; Michael Bache, Garrison at Canadian Tire; (front, left to right) Terry Boyko, Toronto Fire Services; Monte Kwinter, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services; Ted Dance, TSSA; and Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle.

SummerSmart was a campaign to distribute safety materials on barbecue, cottage, campfire and fuel safety. These materials were distributed via a number of communication channels including a Web site: www.safetyinfo.ca, downloadable safety lesson plans for Ontario teachers and safety kits distributed to approximately 900 communities via fire stations.



Answers: Fatal Fires and Fire Loss

From page 6

- A.1 d. \$367,799,369
- A.2 a. smoking materials (not including matches and lighters)
- A.3 d. 13.8%
- A.4 a. 60.1%

A small town with a big history of fire protection

The Blyth and District Fire Department has a long history as a leader in fire safety

Their first “truck” was a Renald horse-drawn, steam powered pump with two hand-held hose reels that cost \$2,150. That was in 1888 – 116 years ago – when the town of Blyth established its first fire brigade.

Today, the community of 1,000 people located about an hour north of London is a centre for the area’s fire protection. The Blyth and District Fire Department recently opened a new emergency services training centre for firefighters and emergency responders throughout the region (see story on page 8).

“We’ve got a history of being aggressive about promoting fire safety in the region,” Blyth’s Chief Paul Josling said. “We’ve always had great support from the municipality and the community.”

That support extends back to the late 1800s when Blyth’s first permanent fire hall was built in 1888. By 1906, the village had installed municipal water lines for fire protection, and six years later, at a cost of \$5,000, water mains and hydrants were installed that allowed firefighters to connect hose to the hydrants to fight fires.

The department’s first motorized truck was purchased in 1941, and a second truck was purchased in 1953. That year, the department became the Blyth and District Fire Department to serve surrounding townships.

Since then, the department has been a leader in fire protection throughout the area. In 1967, it became the first fire department in Huron County to use a water tanker for rural fires. Five years later, it was the first to use foam for fire suppression and the first to use two-way radios.

In 1978, Blyth was the first department in Huron County to use pagers to alert firefighters of a call. Most recently, in 1998, Blyth was the first with an external automatic defibrillator, and four years later was the first to complete hazardous materials awareness training.

“Our firefighters have always taken great initiative” to implement the latest technology or techniques in fire and life safety, Josling said. He said there’s always been great importance placed on moving forward to ensure the safety of the communities in the region.

Josling said it’s the sense of duty and commitment to the community has been at the heart of this initiative. And the municipality, local business associations and private citizens have always been there to provide strong support for the department’s work.



The Blyth and District Fire Department has a long history as a regional leader in fire protection and prevention. At the top is the Blyth fire hall circa 1901. Bottom left is Blyth’s first motorized truck, a 1925 REO Speedwagon-Bickle, purchased in 1941. Bottom right is Blyth’s first new motorized truck, which was bought in 1953.

M The Ontario Fire Service **Messenger**

Volume 13, Number 3

www.ofm.gov.on.ca

September/October 2004

Standard Incident and Casualty Reporting Explanatory Guide

This guide has been compiled to assist fire departments in filing Incident Reports with the Office of the Fire Marshal.

The guide is intended to provide an overview of incident reporting. A full reporting manual is available that details each section of the Standard Incident and Casualty Reports. Users may also contact the Office of the Fire Marshal to obtain additional information or clarification.

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Legislative Authority for Collecting Information

Under clauses 9(2)(f) and 9(2)(g) of the THE FIRE PROTECTION AND PREVENTION ACT, 1997 it is the duty of the Fire Marshal to keep a record of all fires reported, to develop and maintain statistical records, and to conduct studies in respect of fire protection services.

Also:

11.(1) The following persons are assistants to the Fire Marshal and shall follow the Fire Marshal's directions in carrying out this Act,

- (a) the fire chief of every fire department;
- (b) the clerk of every municipality that does not have a fire department;

(c) any member of a fire prevention bureau established by a municipality; and

(d) every person designated by the Fire Marshal as an assistant to the Fire Marshal.

Duty to report

(2) The assistants to the Fire Marshal shall report to the Fire Marshal all fires and other matters related to fire protection services as may be specified by the Fire Marshal.

Submitting report

(3) A report under subsection (2) shall be made in the form and manner and within the time period specified by the Fire Marshal.

Purpose of Incident Reporting

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) collects data on fire incidents, injuries and deaths through the provincial fire loss reporting system and OFM Investigations. This information is used for statistical and research purposes.

The OFM has computer databases dating back to 1983 and research on this data has provided a comprehensive view of trends in fire losses. Historical analysis of fire loss data in Ontario has

resulted in the identification of common fire scenarios, properties and persons at risk.

This information is valuable for the development of fire prevention programs, public education and community risk assessment.

All provision of data is subject to the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

Standard Incident Report and Casualty Forms

Incident reporting is a method of tracking fire, explosion and other emergency responses made by Ontario fire departments. A standard reporting system is the only way of gathering consistent data that permits community level and historical tracking. A manual is available to ensure a common understanding of reporting criteria.

Municipal fire department personnel record data for each call using the Standard Incident Report

and Casualty forms or an electronic equivalent. The forms or electronic data are forwarded to the OFM. Here the data is compiled on a province-wide basis.

A Standard Incident Report (paper or electronic) is required for every response made by a fire department on both fire calls and non-fire calls. A Casualty Report is required for all civilian injuries in fire incidents only, and for fire fighters injured in fire, non-fire calls and other duties.

Timelines for Filing Standard Incident and Casualty Reports

Incident reporting should be done on a quarterly basis (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec) in the month immediately following the end of the quarter

(Apr, Jul, Oct, Jan). Reports may be filed more often – monthly or weekly.

Process for Filing Standard Incident and Casualty Reports

Mail **hardcopy forms** to:

The Office of the Fire Marshal Statistics
Section
7th Floor
5775 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M2M 4J1
Telephone: (416) 325-3100
Facsimile: (416) 325-3146

Multiple reports issued should be submitted together (i.e. Standard Incident Report with corresponding Casualty Reports should be stapled together; Standard Incident Reports for exposure fires should be filed with the Standard Incident Report for the originating fire).

Fire departments should retain a copy of the form.

Electronic data transfer files should be sent to:
jus.g.msg.pubsd.ofm.data@jus.gov.on.ca

Electronic data files must meet data filing specifications (available from the OFM). The OFM does not accept e-mailed copies of the Standard Incident Report forms.

The attention line of the e-mail should have the municipality name and OFM ID code.

The e-mail should include information on the period covered by the attached data files and a contact name.

Filing by Internet:

The OFM provides direct filing over the Internet. Fire departments must contact the OFM for a user account and password. Contact Janis.Walton@jus.gov.on.ca.

Process for Revising Reports Already Filed

When a reporting error is made or when updated information becomes available, a revised hardcopy report must be submitted by fax. Using the fire department copy, the fire department should clearly

indicate which codes are changed, clearly label the report at the top with the word REVISION and fax to the OFM at (416) 325-3146.

OFM Process for Data Verification with Fire Departments

The OFM uses applications for processing data that checks to ensure the codes are valid.

In processing hardcopy reports, missing data fields are coded as "not reported". Missing device records are recorded as "not reported". Reports filed electronically with invalid codes or missing records (casualty or device) data are rejected by the application and returned to the fire department by e-mail for revision and re-filing by fax.

All reports showing a loss of \$500,000 or greater are faxed or e-mailed back to the fire department for confirmation at the time of data entry. The fire department should promptly provide confirmation or revision by fax.

All reports indicating an injury that have no accompanying Casualty Report are faxed or e-mailed back to the fire department with a request

for the missing form or a revision to the injury number on the Incident Report. If a report is not filed, the number of injuries is revised to 0 (or the sum of Casualty Reports filed for the incident). For non-fire incidents, only fire fighter Casualty Reports are required. Civilian injuries in non-fire calls are not recorded, the Casualty Report is not input and the injury number is revised to 0.

All forms are input as soon as they are received.

Electronic data files are processed within a week of receiving the file. Confirmation of electronic processing is e-mailed to the fire department as part of the data processing procedure. This e-mail includes a report by month of the number of records processed (fire call, non-fire call) by month and a request for confirmation of all losses \$500,000 or more. Reports with invalid codes or incomplete

reports that have been rejected by the data processing system are also sent with this confirmation e-mail. These Incident Reports should be printed and returned by fax with the revisions clearly indicated.

In January a review of the data for the previous year is started and reports are sent to the chief of the fire department requesting their review and confirmation of the data. This final year-end review

is necessary to ensure that the OFM has received all reports, that the reports have been processed correctly, and that any revisions necessary are filed and recorded.

OFM contact information is provided with the review package, and follow up phone calls are made by the OFM if a fire department does not reply to verify the data.

Fire Loss Statistics

Although fire departments report fires on an individual occurrence basis, identifying meaningful trends across years can only be done by statistical analysis. Some fire departments have data systems in place for this type of analysis, but do not have the provincial data for comparison. Other fire departments rely on the OFM to provide this type of analysis.

The OFM provides provincial and municipal reports on:

- a) fire loss by occupancy classification to assist municipalities in better understanding fire incidence and loss by type of occupancy – residential, industrial, commercial, etc.
- b) fire loss by key factors such as cause, ignition source, area of origin, object first ignited. These reports can be customized to provide the information for all fires or for selected property types, ignition sources, causes, etc. These reports assist fire departments in identifying the top causes/ignition sources of fire in the community.

c) fire injury and fatality statistics. Fire deaths and injuries are important components of risk assessment. Most municipalities do not experience fire fatalities on a regular basis, so local records and statistics do not always permit an effective analysis of potential risk. The use of provincial comparators is an effective means of relating, on a per capita basis, relevant death and injury statistics compared to the provincial average and target risk groups.

d) smoke alarm operation in residential structures that can be compared to the provincial average and tracked over time.

The OFM website provides provincial graphs showing trends over time and identifying key issues in fire scenarios.

Additional data available from the database includes:

- a) no loss fire summaries;
- b) all response summaries;
- c) response time;
- d) responding personnel.

OFM Statistical Services Contacts

The OFM Data, Applications and Technical Support unit processes the data and provides reports upon request. We respond to calls by the next business day, and can provide reports promptly by e-mail, fax or mail.

Call (416) 325 3100, and ask for Statistical

Services, or e-mail:

amina.ahmed@jus.gov.on.ca
 angela.john@jus.gov.on.ca
 janis.walton@jus.gov.on.ca
 alison.wilson@jus.gov.on.ca (Coordinator,
 Statistical Services).

Commonly Asked Questions

Question: What is the definition of a fire?

Answer: For OFM reporting purposes, a fire is defined as:

Any instance of destructive and **uncontrolled** burning, including explosion, of combustible solids, liquids or gases.

Explanatory Notes

1. For the purposes of this definition:
 - “Uncontrolled” means persons and/or property are endangered by the burning.
 - “Burning” means the process of self-perpetuating combustion, with or without an open flame. This definition includes smouldering.
 - “Explosion” means violent bursting caused by the ignition/burning of a combustible gas, a combustible dust, or a flammable vapour mixture.
2. This definition **excludes** the following events except where they cause fire or occur as a consequence of fire:
 - Explosion of munitions or other detonating material.
 - Explosion/rupture of vessels due to internal overpressure.
 - Lightning or electrical discharge.
 - Overheat conditions.
3. Reportable fires:
 - Include any uncontrolled fire that comes to the attention of the fire department, whether discovered while in progress or after extinguishment.
 - Exclude any fire occurring on Indian Reserves, federal property, Department of National Defence property, or Ministry of Natural Resources land, unless the fire department has jurisdiction through agreement. Responses to fires on these properties should be classified as assistance to another agency. Fires on these properties are tracked and reported by the respective agency having jurisdiction.

Question: In the case where a fire occurs but does not result in any monetary damage, does this require the entire completion of a Standard Incident Report?

Answer: Yes, it is very important to complete all required sections of the SIR for all fire incidents. Be sure to enter “0” for the dollar loss estimate.

Question: When do I complete a Casualty Report?

Answer: When the fire department responds to a fire/explosion call, any fire related injuries or deaths (civilians or fire fighters) should be reported. The total number of injuries or fatalities should be included on the Standard Incident Report and one Casualty Report completed for each person injured.

For non-fire responses, do not report the number of civilian injuries on the Standard Incident Report, and do not file a Casualty Report. Report only the number of fire fighter injuries or fatalities, and file a Casualty Report for each fire fighter injured.

Please note: The casualty name and address is not required by the Office of the Fire Marshal, although you may want to record it for your own records.

Question: What is the definition of an injury or death?

Answer: For the OFM reporting purposes a fire death is defined as:

A person who dies as a result of injuries sustained during a fire incident.

1. For the purposes of this definition, report death or injuries:
 - directly resulting from fire (e.g. burns, asphyxia, etc.);
 - resulting from secondary complications arising from fire injuries (e.g. pulmonary edema, pneumonia, etc.);
 - injuries sustained while involved in fire control, a rescue attempt or escaping the dangers of a fire;
 - injuries sustained as a result of destruction caused by fire (e.g. roof collapse, projectiles, etc.).

2. For on-duty firefighters, also include death or injury:
 - sustained on route to or returning from a fire scene;
 - heart attack or stroke suffered while involved in fighting a fire.
3. Death as a result of the injuries sustained must occur within one year and one day of the incident.
4. Reportable fire deaths:
 - include suicides by fire;
 - include homicides by fire (i.e. arson fires that result in deaths).
5. Exclusions to fire death reporting:
 - exclude people that die by fire resulting from vehicle accidents;
 - exclude fire deaths occurring on Indian Reserves, federal property, Department of National Defense property and Ministry of Natural Resources land unless the fire department has jurisdiction through agreement. Fire deaths on these properties are tracked and reported by the respective agency having jurisdiction.;
 - exclude deaths from a fire that is otherwise controlled (e.g. death by CO poisoning).

Question: When a vehicle fire occurs following a motor vehicle collision, is it a 01 Fire or a 62 Vehicle accident?

Answer: If there is a fire, it is reported as response type 01 – Fire. There are codes for vehicle collision in cause and ignition source.

Question: What if a person is injured by fire due to the motor vehicle collision?

Answer: If the fire is a result of a vehicle collision, civilian injuries or fatalities are not reported. A fire fighter injury or fatality should be reported. See details on reporting of injuries and deaths.

Question: How long should a fire department retain its copy of a Standard Incident Report?

Answer: The OFM inputs hard copy Standard Incident Reports and transfers electronic data files into a computer database and retains these electronic records permanently.

Hardcopies of non-fire Incident Reports are entered but not retained. Hardcopies of fire Incident Reports are retained for two years.

OFM Investigations fire reports have a schedule for retention and archiving.

Your municipality may have retention schedules that differ from the OFM. The fire department must follow municipal retention schedules.

However, for OFM purposes, fire departments should retain incident records for two years. Also, please make sure that the OFM has received records before shredding.

Question: In an amalgamated municipality with more than one fire department, where more than one of fire department responds to a call, how is an Incident Report filed?

Answer: Over the past number of years amalgamation has “joined” many fire departments into new ones under a new amalgamated municipality. The way Incident Reports are filed does not change – one Incident Report per incident. (The only exception to this rule is where a fire department from another municipality “assists” and an Incident Report is filed by the other fire department using the code 91-Assistance to other fire department in the response type.)

The fire department ID is the OFM number assigned to the municipality that funds the fire department. If a fire department wants to identify a response to an incident by a division within the municipality, a code up to two digits (alphabetical or numeric) may be put into the **sub area boxes** (under S Area) on the

Standard Incident Report. The OFM can then provide call listings broken down by these areas.

However, **only one Incident Report can be filed by a municipality for one incident**, so if more than one department within a single municipality is responding to an incident only one can be identified using the sub area boxes. The total number of personnel on the scene should include all fire personnel attending from all divisions from the municipality.

Question: Is an address only required for fires? Is it necessary for any other types of incidents?

Answer: The OFM does not record addresses for non-fire incidents, however your fire department may require these addresses.

Question: Where can I obtain additional copies of forms, manuals, Standard Codes Lists, envelopes, etc.?

Answer: As with the case of manuals and code sheets, additional copies of the forms may be obtained from the OFM regional offices. For reference, the manual is now on the OFM web site along with the standard code list. (<http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/SIR/default.asp>)

Question: Our department would like to file the Incident Reports electronically. How can we do this?

Answer: Over 70% of Incident Reports are filed by electronic file transfer. As there are many different computer systems, the OFM has developed a set of standards for filing electronically. These standards are fairly simple, but usually require some programming on the part of fire departments. Contact Alison Wilson at alison.wilson@jus.gov.on.ca for more details on these specifications.

The OFM provides the option of filing Standard Incident Reports **by Internet** connection, so that smaller fire departments may file this way without developing special computer applications. Contact Janis Walton at Janis.Walton@jus.gov.on.ca for more information.

Notes: