

M The Ontario Fire Service **Messenger**

Volume 14, Issue 2
March/April 2005

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Spreading the word about **Fire Safety**



Inside:

**Home inspections'
unique educational
opportunities**

**Master fire planning:
Springwater's
success story**



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:

Chris Slosser, Editor
Office of the Fire Marshal
5775 Yonge Street, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M2M 4J1
Tel: 416-325-3120
Fax: 416-325-3162
chris.slosser@jus.gov.on.ca

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Glenn Murray, Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Public Safety Programs Division, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services



I am proud to accept the challenging role as the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Policy and Public Safety Programs Division and pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. Our division includes the Centre of Forensic Sciences, the provincial coroners system and, of course, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM). The vital public services that our division supports help make Ontario's communities and businesses safe and secure. That is the foundation of our overall quality of life in this province.

The OFM assists Ontario's fire services to provide Ontarians with a world class level of fire safety, prevention and protection. The achievements and reputation of Ontario's firefighters are unsurpassed and I am honoured at the chance to help support your good and important work.

I am excited at the prospect of this task and I am committed to listening to your input and communicating your views. The Fire Marshal has briefed me on the issues facing fire services today, so I am aware that there are challenges ahead. With your support and the continued efforts of the OFM, I am confident that we can advance the cause of fire safety in our province.

I am impressed and humbled by the level of dedication and commitment of Ontario's firefighters. While I do not have your particular professional expertise, I bring to the table my extensive knowledge of how government works. I am committed to placing my skills and abilities at the Fire Marshal's disposal and to using my best efforts to help strategically promote the provincial fire safety agenda.

I look forward to working with the Fire Marshal and his staff and meeting as many of you as possible. I attended the opening of the new facilities at the Ontario Fire College in Gravenhurst on April 20. That event gave me the chance to meet fire service representatives and further enhance my knowledge of the provincial fire service system and the people who make it work. My promise to you is that I will continually expand that knowledge and put it to good use on your behalf.

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Ontario Fire Service Grant. Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter and Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle announced \$30 million in funding for Ontario fire departments on March 22.



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But we have to make
a lot of noise to get
your attention.

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OFM public education initiatives take many forms. The OFM's Public Education and Media Relations section thanks everyone who participated in the development of public education materials. Your input and feedback for previous, and future, programs is appreciated.



13th Annual Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference. This year's conference is set for Nov. 16-18 in Simcoe. Find the registration form on page 17.



Update ONTARIO

News from around the province

Fire services get \$30 million grant

Fire departments across the province have received a total of \$30 million in funding from the provincial government. The aim of the grant is to support improvements in three areas: training; fire operations equipment and firefighter safety; and fire prevention and public education.

Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter announced the Ontario Fire Service Grant on March 22 at the Toronto Fire Academy. The grant is intended to allow local fire departments to spend the money in most needed areas.

"This program responds to a real need among fire services across Ontario," Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle told fire chiefs and fire service representatives from across the province assembled at the March 22 announcement. "It provides fire services with the

flexibility to tailor the funding for local needs so that they may continue to deliver outstanding service to the people of this province."

Small and rural municipalities have a greater funding need because of their lower property and business tax base. Therefore, the per-capita average funding formula for the grant favours smaller over larger communities while still ensuring all communities receive funding. Municipalities of 50,000 people or less have received 71% of the grant funding.

"We recognize that municipalities - particularly in rural areas - require additional support to provide high-quality fire protection," said Minister Kwinter. "That's why we are providing them with this un-

precedented one-time funding."

Fire Marshal Moyle recently sent a letter to fire chiefs and municipalities encouraging fire departments to work with provincial fire coordinators and the OFM to ensure the most effective use of grant funds.

In order to gauge the success of the grant, the OFM is asking that fire departments report on how the funds are spent. In approximately six to eight months a reporting template will be sent to all departments to assist them with the collection of this information.

The collected information will then be presented to the provincial government to indicate how successful this type of grant initiative can be in improving fire protection services in Ontario.



Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Monte Kwinter announced the Ontario Fire Services Grant at the Toronto Fire Academy on March 22 as representatives of fire services across Ontario looked on.

Five killed in fatal fire

A mother, her daughter and three sons perished in a fire in Ottawa on April 5. The woman's husband, son-in-law and grandchild were taken to hospital with serious injuries.

"Again we've had a fire with a large number of fatalities," said Fire

Marshal Bernard Moyle, referring to the West Lincoln fire last November in which eight people died. "This is unacceptable. The fire service needs to do more to educate the public about fire safety. We have to make sure that, at the very least,

people have working smoke alarms in their home." No smoke alarms were found in the residence where the Ottawa fire occurred.

"We have to make fire safety a greater priority for the public if we're going to prevent these kinds of tragedies," Moyle continued.

At the time of writing, the investigation into the cause and circumstances surrounding the Ottawa fire continued.

\$9,500 fine imposed for Code violation

BY BRIAN MALTBY,
DIVISION CHIEF, FIRE PREVENTION,
CHIEF FIRE OFFICIAL,
BRAMPTON FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Two years ago, on February 18, 2003, 21 people were crushed to death while attempting to escape from a Chicago nightclub. Two days later, 100 people perished in a fire in a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

These two major incidents prompted Brampton Fire and Emergency Services to initiate a program in which fire prevention officers attend similar type oc-

cupancies in the evening hours, accompanied by members of Peel Regional Police and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, to assess basic fire safety provisions. Among other things, fire prevention staff check for a working fire alarm system, over crowding and accessible exits.

On March 21, 2004, fire prevention staff attended a local assembly occupancy and found that a required exit door was not operable. In taking a zero tolerance position, the fire prevention officer initiated charges under the Ontario Fire Code.

The ensuing trial ended with a conviction of the owner on February 9, 2005. In the penalty phase of the trial, the defendant's agent proposed that a fine of \$500 be fitting, given that this was the first conviction of the defendant. The City of Brampton prosecutor countered that a fine of \$12,500 was more appropriate, given the significance of the impact that the violation could have on the safety of the patrons and staff of the facility, and in light of the incidents in Chicago and West Warwick two years ago. The court imposed a fine of \$9,500, with the intention that the penalty would serve as a punitive measure to the owner and a general deterrent to other owners of assembly occupancies, thereby sending the message that fire safety violations, including improperly maintained exits, will not be tolerated.

Stratford's emergency plan put to the test

Stratford's Emergency Response Plan was put to the test March 7 after a city resident discovered pink

foamy water coming from the water taps in her home.

After visiting the home, a water foreman determined that a foreign chemical had entered the water system. The city's Emergency Control Group met and issued a water advisory. Media were contacted to spread the advisory through the community and

city staff delivered notices door to door with the assistance of several service clubs.

Five potable water stations were established throughout the city, including two fire stations. On March 8, the water advisory was downgraded to a boil water advisory, and the boil water advisory was lifted on March 9.

The chemical was identified as 2-Butoxyethanol, which is commonly found in industrial and household cleaners. Symptoms could range from skin irritation if exposed to the skin to possible nausea if ingested.

At the time of writing, an investigation into how the chemical entered the water system was ongoing.

Thanks to Stratford Fire Inspector Michael Gornyczki for providing information for this article.



Station 2 firefighters helped distribute bottled water to residents. By the end of the water advisory, Stratford Fire Department members had distributed 8,000 cases of water from two stations. (Picture submitted by Michael Gornyczki)

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,

5775 Yonge Street, 7th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M2M 4J1.

Tel: 416-325-3120, fax: 416-325-3162 or email chris.slosser@jus.gov.on.ca.

Home inspection program credited with averting tragedy

BY GAIL MARTIN,
ELMIRA INDEPENDENT

A fire that consumed a trailer in Martin Grove Village, just south of Elmira, Ontario, could have been much worse. Woolwich township councilor Mark Bauman told council on January 25 that the fire could have claimed the life of the owner had it not been for a township program to provide smoke alarms to homes that do not have them.

Firefighters responded to the electrical fire at 6:25 am on January 24. The fire destroyed the home. The owner of the home, a 60-year-old woman, got out safely.

Bill Cronin, chief fire prevention officer with the Township of Woolwich Fire Department, reported

that this home had been one of 1,161 that had been visited by the fire department last fall.

Cronin said that the visit was part of a five-year plan that will see all households in the township inspected by the fire department. Homes that do not have working smoke alarms can have them installed by volunteer firefighters.

In last year's program, Cronin said that firefighters found 161 homes, or 13.8% of all homes inspected, did not have working smoke alarms. The fire department installed 97 new alarms in 8.4% of the homes inspected, and 83 new batteries in 7.1% of the homes. (This adds up to more than 13.8%, said Cronin, because some homeowners wanted to install an additional

smoke alarm in their home.)

Cronin said that township records show that the home ravaged by the fire on January 24 was one of the homes that received a smoke alarm. The fire department had visited Martin Grove Village because of concerns that trailers might not be adequately equipped with smoke alarms.

"As far as I'm concerned, we've saved a life," Cronin said. "Smoke in a home does not wake you up."

Woolwich firefighters will be visiting homes again this fall in hopes of reaching more individuals that do not have working smoke alarms.

Excerpted from the January 28 issue of the Elmira Independent.

Firefighters, Meals on Wheels dish out fire safety in Cornwall

BY RACHELE LABRECQUE,
STANDARD-FREEHOLDER

Clients of Meals on Wheels Cornwall will now have greater peace of mind while they enjoy their lunches.

Thanks to a \$500 donation by Kraft Foods Ingleside, the non-profit organization has taken the opportunity to have all of its clients' smoke alarms serviced at no cost. With help from the Cornwall Fire Department, all 162 clients of Meals on Wheels Cornwall will have their smoke alarms checked, and batteries will be replaced, or new

alarms will be installed, if necessary.

Andree-Anne Morin, volunteer co-ordinator with Meals on Wheels, said the generous donation will help their clients greatly. "Many of our clients cannot check their smoke detectors regularly because of a disability, or they may be very elderly and have a hard time caring for their home," Morin said. Ensuring the clients have a working smoke alarm will help protect their safety.

"This is a fantastic win-win situation and we are very pleased the fire department is helping us with

this initiative," Morin said. Firefighter Morris Lamer, who has been visiting homes to service alarms, said this is a great opportunity to talk about fire prevention and safety with older people.

"We are pleased to be visiting homes with Meals on Wheels volunteers," Lamer said. "We will take any opportunity to get the message out to educate the public about fire prevention and it's key to check your alarms on a regular basis."

Reprinted from the March 4, 2005 issue of the Standard-Freeholder newspaper in Cornwall.

Calls on closed roads may impact safety, service

Last year, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) became aware of an issue that has a potentially serious impact on service delivery and firefighter safety for firefighters responding to calls in personal vehicles on closed roads.

Subsection 134 (3) of the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) prohibits any person from driving or operating a vehicle on a road that has been closed by the police. This subsection does not apply to road service vehicles, ambulances, fire department vehicles, public utility emergency vehicles, and police vehicles. However it does apply to firefighters who travel on closed roads in their personally owned vehicles to respond to emergency incidents, regardless of whether or not they have a flashing green light.

Last year, the Ontario Provincial Police advised all detachments that

firefighters responding to emergency incidents in personally owned vehicles are not to be allowed on roads that have been closed under the authority of the HTA. Firefighters in personal vehicles found travelling on these closed roads may be charged with an offence.

In response to this issue, the OFM consulted fire service stakeholders and on December 14, 2004, issued a communiqué encouraging fire departments to implement the following recommendations:

- municipal councils should be advised of how the road closure issue may affect response times, response capabilities, firefighter morale and recruitment/retention of firefighters;
- fire officials should ensure that local emergency plans contain procedures for the effective management of long-term road closures;

ures;

- fire officials should meet with the local police service to establish a protocol for early notification of impending road closures;

- fire officials should meet with local and/or regional police, public works officials, and Ministry of Transportation officials to develop formal agreements and protocols to be followed in the event of road closures;

- fire officials should keep in mind the local need for road closures in winter and consider implementing standby staffing of fire stations when notified road closures will occur. Road closures have a negative effect on response times and firefighter turnout, and increase the level of risk for firefighters.

The communiqué was intended to

See Working on page 6

Questions & Answers: Smoke Alarms

Q. Are photoelectric smoke alarms better than ionization smoke alarms for “adjacent to kitchen” installations, to minimize nuisance alarms?

A. Within the fire protection and prevention industry, it is recognized that neither sensor type, photoelectric nor ionization, is universally better at detecting all types of fires. Why? Each sensor operates on a different principle and therefore may respond differently to various conditions.

Ionization sensors may respond slightly faster to flaming fires, whereas photoelectric sensors may respond slightly faster to smouldering fires.

Notwithstanding these differences, to achieve ULC listing, both alarms must be tested to the same standard and meet the same requirements. Since you can’t predict the type of fire that will occur, installing both types of alarms in your home can enhance fire safety.

Nuisance alarms in homes from typical cooking activities are affected by the properties of the aerosol produced and its concentration, the location of an alarm relative to the source, and the airflow that transports smoke to an alarm. You need to know that there are a variety of options available.

The bottom line: It is not possible to say one sensor type is better than the other for reducing nuisance alarms in kitchen installations. Installing a photoelectric smoke alarm instead of an ionization smoke alarm may be one approach to reducing nuisance alarms. Other approaches might be to relocate the existing alarm a short distance away, replace the unit with a new one, or replace it with a unit that has a hush feature.

Working group seeking solutions

continued from page 5

be an interim measure until a long-term solution to the issue could be implemented.

In January 2005, the OFM invited representatives from various fire service and municipal stakeholder groups to provide input in the development of a suitable long-term strategy to address this issue. The OFM's invitation to serve as members of the Closed Road Working Group was accepted by the following organizations: Ministry of Transportation (MTO); Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFIC); Ontario Provincial Police (OPP); Fire Fighters Association of Ontario (FFAO); Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); Municipal Health and Safety Association of Ontario (MHSAO); Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC); and Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Department.

During its first meeting, the working group developed a strategy with a five-pronged approach to address the problem:

- a notification protocol for closed roads;
- an OFM Public Fire Safety Guideline that would include contingency planning considerations for responses on closed roads;
- a sample standard operational guideline (SOG) for the fire service that would deal with firefighter emergency response in personally owned vehicles;
- personal automobile insurance rate protection for firefighters that use personally owned vehicles in the performance of their duties as firefighters; and
- training for firefighters that use personally owned vehicles to re-

spond to emergencies.

It was felt by the working group participants that it was important to attempt to have notification protocols, standard operational guidelines and appropriate training in place before any legislative change was affected to enable fire departments to educate their firefighters appropriately and ensure open lines of communication with local police services regarding responses on closed roads.

The majority of working group members agreed this strategy would be an effective solution to remedy the service delivery and safety implications associated with firefighter response in personally owned vehicles in general, and on closed roads in particular, as long as legislative change remained part of the solution. The legislative change that was deemed necessary by most of the members, including the OFM, was a change to the HTA permitting firefighters to respond on closed roads in personally owned vehicles if necessary for the performance of their duties.

To work out the details involved in implementing several of the components to the overall solution, the working group determined participation from the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), the Ministry of Finance, and the Ontario fire service Section 21 committee would be beneficial to the discussions. Accordingly, representatives from these three organizations were to participate in subsequent working group meetings. The working group members continue to provide input and attend meetings for the purpose of finalizing draft documents.

It is expected that drafts of the closed road notification protocol, Public Fire Safety Guideline for firefighter response in personally owned vehicles, sample SOG on firefighter response in personally owned vehicles, training plans and insurance protection plans will be released in June 2005. These documents will be placed at that time on the OAFIC and OFM web sites for 30 days for comment. All comments received will be taken into consideration by the OFM.

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services continue to work with the Ministry of Transportation to have the Highway Traffic Act amended.

Enquires about the working group, its strategy and/or any reports of incidents involving firefighter response in personally owned vehicles should be directed to Timothy Lee at (705) 725-8740 or at Timothy.G.Lee@jus.gov.on.ca.

Adapted from OFM communiqués no. 2004-29 and no. 2005-07.



Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter and Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle presented awards of appreciation to five individuals and organizations at the semi-annual Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council meeting on April 8. Recipients (pictured) were awarded for their outstanding contributions to the production and dissemination of television public service announcements (PSAs) advocating fire safe cooking. Pictured (left to right) are Minister Kwinter, Susan Hay and Terry Lewis from the Global Television Network; Rebecca Pacheco; Fire Marshal Moyle; Caitlin McIntyre; Debbie Fox of Debbie Fox Creative; and Julie Johnston from SMARTRISK. The PSAs, called *Up in Smoke* and *Cacophony*, are available to download at www.firesafetycouncil.com/english/pubsafet/videofiles.htm.

Master fire plan brings successes to Springwater

September 22, 2003 was a watershed day for fire services in the Township of Springwater, located in Simcoe County. That's the day council passed the township's master fire plan. Since that time there has been a steady improvement in the quality of fire prevention and protection services provided in the region, says Springwater Fire and Emergency Services Fire Chief Tony Van Dam.

A master fire plan is a strategic blueprint for fire protection that addresses all local needs and circumstances based upon costs the community can afford. Springwater developed its master fire plan to meet the following goals/purposes: to develop a systematic, proactive strategy for community fire risk management; to optimize fire protection services based on local needs and circumstances; to develop a community-wide plan based on objective and informed decisions; to develop a template that would ensure the appropriate application of models, tools, guidelines; and to fulfill the requirements of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

During an update to the Springwater Master Fire Plan Committee on Feb. 16, Van Dam outlined a number of activities undertaken as part of the improvement in the municipality. For example, the number of inspections increased from 57 in 2003 to 153 in 2004, and in 2005, one-third of all businesses in the region will be inspected, with the remaining to be inspected in coming years.

Other achievements Van Dam noted included training firefighters received last year and further training planned for 2005; the

hiring of a fire prevention officer in January 2004; increasing numbers of presentations to children in area schools and day cares; and an increased presence at various community festivals and functions at which smoke alarms and batteries are distributed and requests for home inspections are taken.

"Our fire prevention activities have taken a positive step forward," said Van Dam, "and we're seeing a positive effect on the number of emergency calls." Van Dam said that the number of emergency calls declined from 534 in 2003 to 434 in 2004. "We're more diligently out there doing prevention," Van Dam said, "and it's paying off."

Township of Springwater Mayor John Brown believes the improved fire prevention activities are, in large part, thanks to the master fire plan. "Without it, we'd still be sitting here wondering what the next step is," Brown said. "But the master fire plan gives us the framework to set out what activities need to be focused on and it sets goals to work toward."

Currently, the plan consists of 22 recommendations providing concrete measures the fire department can take to address challenges it faces. Chief among the recommendations are an annual review of the community's risk assessment and how to respond to it; fire prevention activities that include inspections of businesses every

three years; public education programs that include a smoke alarm program and an increased presence in area schools; and staff training.

"We've been able to achieve many of the plan's recommendations faster than we originally thought," said Van Dam. "When we were developing the plan, we had a committee made up of council and the public and together we developed the recommendations. We felt it was important to get the community's input upfront so that the plan could be realistic. I recommend that other municipalities doing this have a similar committee. That's what's made this work for us."

Springwater's success hasn't come without some difficulties.



Fire Chief Tony Van Dam (second from the right) provides an update on the master fire plan to Springwater's Master Fire Plan Committee on Feb. 16.

"When we started this process, it was a hard sell to council," Brown said. But he said the committee convinced council that the plan would provide the structure needed to set goals and justify fire prevention and protection activities.

In order to plan for the future, Van Damm said, the master fire plan will be continuously updated to address issues that have been met and new challenges as they arise.

OFM public education initiatives take many forms

BY GINA PONTIKAS,
OFM INFORMATION COORDINATOR

Over the past year the OFM's Public Education and Media Relations section undertook a variety of public education initiatives and events, and developed education resources and public service announcements (PSAs) aimed at raising public awareness about the importance of fire safety and fire prevention. Below is a summary of these initiatives. The fire service is encouraged to incorporate them into public education strategies and programs across the province.

Wildfire Prevention Week

Last year, the Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources and the Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle proclaimed the third week of April as Wildfire Prevention Week in honour of Smokey Bear's 60 years of vigilance promoting wildfire education and safety.

The OFM, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs again joined forces in 2005 to develop an education package for the fire service to use in communities affected by wildfires.

The theme for this year's Wildfire Prevention Week is "Have a safe campfire!" and once again, these organizations have created new PSAs and educational tools for use throughout the spring and summer. These materials are available on the OFM web site at www.ofm.gov.on.ca and on the MNR's web site at <http://affm.mnr.gov.on.ca>.

Fire Safety Awards - Will the next winner be from your community?

The young people pictured below are the recipients of the 2004 Fire Safety Action Awards. Each of them is an excellent example of the importance of teaching fire safety to children. Their quick actions and fire safety knowledge helped to prevent or minimize a potentially dangerous fire situation. They are a credit to their communities and positive proof that fire safety

education really works.

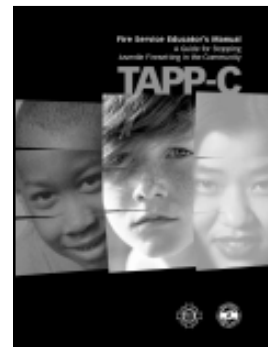
The 2005 Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council Awards will be held on June 15, 2005 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto.



TAPP-C

The OFM and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) finalized, printed and disseminated the revised TAPP-C Fire Service Educational manuals and materials to fire departments. These materials include new educational vignettes and a CD, the Fire Service Educator's Manual, the Clinician's Treatment Manual and the Community Implementation Manual.

All of the new TAPP-C materials are available in French.



Annual Fire & Life Safety Educator's Conferences

Public educators' conferences were held in Fort Frances and Pembroke in 2004.

Approximately 180 people participated at the 12th Annual Public Fire and Life Safety Educator's Conference hosted by the Renfrew County Mutual Aid

Fire Service Association and the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council in Pembroke. Highlights of the conference included workshops on the new TAPP-C educational resources, *Risk*



See Tell on page 9

'Tell us your public education ideas'

continued from page 8

Watch, working with the media and effective presentations. The 2005 public educators' conference will be held in Simcoe. For more information on the upcoming conference, please contact Gina Pontikas at 416-325-3155.

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle toured the cities of Ottawa, Hawkesbury, Stittsville, Kingston and Toronto to launch local Fire Prevention Week campaigns with fire chiefs. The theme of Fire Prevention Week was "Test Your Smoke Alarms!" promoting two simple but life-saving lessons: install smoke alarms and test them regularly; and develop and practice home escape drills.

This year, Fire Prevention Week will be held from October 9-15, 2005.

Holiday Fire Safety

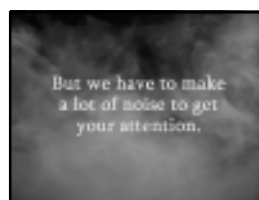
To promote fire safety during the winter holidays, the OFM and SMARTRISK developed two new television PSAs: *Up in Smoke* and *Cacophony*. Both PSAs aired frequently over the holidays and continue to be aired nationally and locally.



The PSAs were unveiled at Holiday Fire Safety news conferences held in Toronto, Barrie, Kitchener, Peterborough and North Bay during the week of December 7, 2004. Demonstrations were also



Graduates of the Public Fire and Life Safety Educator's Certificate Program receive their certificates at the public educators' conference every year.



provided at each news conference to disseminate safe cooking practices through the media. In addition to the television PSAs, new audio and camera-ready PSAs were distributed to media across the province. PSAs can be found on the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council web site at www.firesafetycouncil.com/english/pubsafe.htm.

Risk Watch

The SMARTRISK team has completed the English revision of Risk Watch and the material has also been translated into French. The graphic design of the materials is currently in progress. The last stage will be production and distribution. The new Canadian version is expected to be available for use in schools by September, 2005. Stay tuned for the exciting launch! (See the back cover for more information on the Canadian version of *Risk Watch*.)

Looking ahead

The OFM is working on new public education resources, programs and materials for this year. The Public Education and Media Relations section would like to thank everyone who participated in the development of these resources. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The OFM would like to continue to hear from you, find out what programs are working in your communities and hear your recommendations or suggestions for province-wide resources including programs and public service announcements.

Please forward any feedback to the Public Education and Media Relations section by fax at 416-325-3162 or by email to gina.pontikas@jus.gov.on.ca.

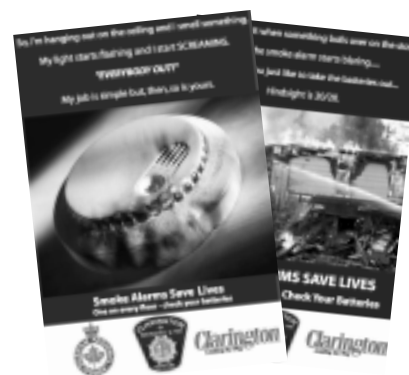
Fire sparks education campaign

Clarington Emergency and Fire Services, Durham Regional Police and the Municipality of Clarington have joined forces to develop a year-long public education campaign aimed at increasing awareness about the importance of homes being equipped with working smoke alarms. The campaign is in response to a fire that injured two teenagers in Clarington on Jan. 6.

The campaign kicked off with a

media conference on Feb. 21. Campaign activities include sending information flyers to all Clarington school boards; producing and displaying awareness posters (shown at the right) in municipal buildings; corporate advertising; working with local media to raise awareness; and special events including a family safety day.

For more information about the campaign, contact Jennifer Cooke,



Municipality of Clarington, at 905-623-3379, ext. 407.

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.

January 2005: 10 fatal fires resulting in 12 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	6	4	10
65 and over	1	1	2
Total	7	5	12

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental 2	0001-0800 4
Undetermined 0	0801-1600 3
Under Investigation 5	1601-1800 2
Incendiary 3	1801-0000 1

Locations of fatal fires: Kawartha Lakes (1); Kingston (1); Mississauga (1); North Dundas (1); St. Charles (1); Toronto (4); Windsor City Essex (1).

February 2005: 8 fatal fires resulting in 11 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	5	5	10
65 and over	1	0	1
Total	6	5	11

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental 1	0001-0800 5
Undetermined 0	0801-1600 1
Under Investigation 7	1601-1800 0
Incendiary 0	1801-0000 2

Locations of fatal fires: Cornwall (1); Greater Sudbury (1); Kitchener (1); Mississauga (1); Sault Ste. Marie (1); Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield (1); Thunder Bay City (1); Tyendinaga, (1).

Risk Watch cultivates farm safety

BY DEB BARTLETT
KAWARTHA LAKES THIS WEEK

Students at Pope John Paul II Catholic School in Lindsay heard a variety of messages on March 4, but they all dealt with farm safety.

Karen Cook and Dr. Bob Watson of the Kawartha Lakes Risk Watch Advisory Coalition brought their safety messages to the students as part of Farm Safety Week. They gave four presentations to different age groups at the school.

The message they kept reiterating for the Grade 1/2 class was the ABCs of farm safety – Always Be Careful.

Using an interactive magnetic board, Cook and Watson set up a farm with a variety of hazards. Students were asked to point out the hazards and explain why they were dangerous.

They were also shown a photo of a huge tractor and asked to show how tall they would be compared to the tractor. That exercise showed how difficult it was for the tractor

driver to see in front of the tractor.

Some of the students were surprised to hear that 12 Canadian children under age 10 are killed every year in farm incidents. Boys are three to four times more likely to be seriously injured than girls, and farm injuries to children peak in the summer.

Watson, who has farmed for his whole life, told the students that tractor implements can be over 7.5 metres (25 feet) wide. "Stay well away from farm machinery," he told the class.

People get killed on farm equipment because they either get hit or fall off and get run over by machinery. Cook and Watson stressed the importance of having a one seat, one rider rule for machinery.

"The farm is a work site, but it's also a home," Cook said. "That's why it's hard to maintain that safety standard."

Cook and Watson offered the following farm safety tips:

- no riders on implements;
- before moving equipment (espec-

ially when backing up) make sure children are safe;

- when tractors and self-propelled machines are parked, brakes should be locked and keys removed from the ignition;
- farm ponds and manure storage structures should be surrounded by child-proof fencing;
- fixed ladders should be placed out-of-reach, or fitted with a special barrier. Portable ladders should not be stored away from danger areas;
- livestock facilities and operating machinery should be off-limits to young children;
- store pesticide and other dangerous chemicals in locked facilities;
- place warning decals on grain bins, silos, wagons and trucks;
- set aside time for family safety instruction at regular intervals.

This is an excerpt of an article appearing in the March 8 edition of the Kawartha Lakes This Week. For more information on Risk Watch, see the back page.

Home fire safety checks provide public education opportunities

Last summer, firefighters in Welland, Ontario credited their residential smoke alarm inspection program for saving two lives. Two residents of a townhouse escaped a fire on July 14, 2004 just a month after Welland firefighters installed two smoke alarms in the unit as part of their annual inspection program (for more information see the September/October 2004 issue of the *Messenger*).

Similarly, the Township of Woolwich Fire Department credits their home inspection program for a woman's safe escape from a house fire in January (for more information see the article on page 4 of this issue). As in Welland, Woolwich firefighters installed smoke alarms in the home as part of the department's five-year plan that will

see all homes in the township inspected.

These two examples highlight the importance of home inspection programs. "Home fire safety checks should be a central part of all municipalities' fire prevention strategies," said Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Crawford. "They are a great way to get into the community and talk to people about ways to prevent home fires and to promote safety."

"Home fire safety checks are a unique opportunity to ensure firsthand that homes and their occupants are as safe as possible from fire," Crawford continued. "They also provide a chance to strengthen relationships between the fire service and the community. In doing so, we can make fire and life

safety a greater priority for the public."

Recent surveys in Canada and the United States indicate that the public greatly underestimates the risk of fire. The surveys found that households are not proactive about fire safety; for example, people fail to replace smoke alarm batteries and are not developing and practicing home fire escape plans (for more information on these surveys, see the September/October 2004, November/December 2004 and January/February 2005 issues of the *Messenger*).

Following are some things to remember when preparing for and conducting a home fire safety inspection:

See Inspections on page 13

Home Fire Safety Inspection Tips

The following is a sample of fire safety issues that can be discussed with households during a home fire safety inspection.

Cooking Safety: Discuss the importance of: adults staying in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove; stove tops and counters kept clear of clutter; pot handles turned inward on the stove so they can't be bumped; wearing tight-fitting or short sleeves while cooking; keeping a pot lid within easy reach of the stove; keeping curtains and other combustible items well away from the stove.

Candles: Discuss the importance of: always extinguishing candles before leaving the room; placing candles in sturdy, non-combustible holders; placing glass chimneys over lit candles; keeping lit candles out of the reach of children/pets.

Heating Safety: Discuss the importance of: turning off space heaters when adults leave the room or go to sleep; placing space heaters at least one metre (three feet) from anything that can burn; using a sturdy fireplace screen to catch sparks; getting the chimney cleaned and inspected every year; having the furnace serviced by a professional every year; storing propane and other fuel tanks outside the home.

Electrical Safety: Discuss the importance of: not overloading outlets; having additional electrical outlets installed to avoid using extension cords; keeping the space around electrical equipment clear of combustibles and clutter; using proper size fuses and circuit breakers in the fuse/circuit breaker box; inspecting appliance cords for damage and replacing damaged cords.

Matches and Lighters: Ask if anyone in the home smokes. Review the reasons for a safe place to store matches and lighters. Discuss safe ways to store matches and lighters.

Smoke Alarms: Discuss the importance of working smoke alarms. Bring a smoke alarm and batteries with you. Test the smoke alarm with household members. Ask household members to show you where smoke alarms are located in the home. Ask household members to test the smoke alarms. Review the best locations for smoke alarms. Demonstrate changing the battery and ask household members to practice changing it. Discuss ways to limit false alarms.

Home Fire Escape Planning: Explain the reasons for having a home fire escape plan. Show the household how to develop a home fire escape plan.

-Adapted from the NFPA's Home Fire Safety Checklist and the TAPP-C Fire Service Educator's Manual.

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.

Certification Council set for expansion

BY LESLIE KENNEDY,
OFM'S EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT AND ACTING
EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR, CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS

The OFM is currently seeking to expand its Certification Council. Currently, Council is comprised of three firefighters, one of which is a captain and one a platoon chief, three fire prevention officers, two fire chiefs, one training officer and one OFM representative.

The purpose of Council is to develop and provide role-specific certification programs so that individual fire service personnel may achieve and be awarded provincial certification.

The benefit to the OFM of individuals' participation on Council is obvious. We get input from our stakeholders on the requirements of programs that will directly impact them. It would be impossible for us to develop credible certification programs in isolation. We also benefit from having stakeholders who support the certification programs and are eager to

implement them.

However, your participation on Council also benefits you and your department. You have an opportunity to:

- influence the decision-making process and help ensure that requirements for certification are achievable;
- learn first-hand about the requirements for certification and the rationale for them, which is beneficial when you implement training and certification programs in your department; and
- network with your peers and personnel in other roles from a number of departments across the province.

Certification Council members:

- have a commitment to the goal of achieving individual certification in various fire service roles in a manner that is consistent with fair, ethical and equitable practices;
- have knowledge of and experience in the Ontario Fire Service;
- have knowledge of the *Standards*

Process Model and Fire Service Standards;

- have excellent communication skills, including effective listening, negotiating and clarifying;
- are willing to be open and receptive to new ideas and concepts;
- are willing to share expertise and knowledge with others;
- have the ability to apply problem-solving skills within a team environment using knowledge and experience in the fire service;
- have the ability to set priorities and further the goals of the Certification Council;
- have analytical skills;
- are able to function effectively as a team member to achieve the goals and promote the activities of the Certification Council;
- will declare any conflict of interest issues prior to application and during Council proceedings; and
- will keep all Council business confidential.

One-day meetings of Council are held about five times per year, with the work of sub-committees being conducted in between Council meetings. Occasionally, members are asked to participate in e-mail consultations.

If you are interested in being a member of the Certification Council,

See Council on page 13

Inspections make fire safety a high priority

continued from page 11

Preparing for Inspections

- Target key areas to inspect in your community based on your risk assessment.
- Publicize (for example, through local media) your intentions to inspect homes to make the community aware of possible inspections.

Items to Bring With You

- Fire department identification and business card.
- Home fire safety tips (see box on page 11) and clipboard.
- Smoke alarms and batteries, and any smoke alarm installation tools required.
- Fire safety and home escape planning information.

When You Arrive

- Pay attention to the outside features of the home (number of levels, location of garage roof, size of windows, etc.).
- Look for a place that would make

a good meeting place for their home escape plan.

- Ensure the house number is visible.

When You Meet the Household Members

- Introduce yourself and provide a business card.
- Explain why you are there and the importance of fire safety in the home.
- Ask household members if they would take you on a tour of their home so that you can point out some important fire safety issues.

Touring the Home

- Use the home fire safety tips (page 11) to ensure you cover the key points.
- As you tour each area, point out alternate exits that the family could use if a fire was blocking their primary escape route. Make sure these exits are unobstructed and accessible.
- Watch for things like bars on

windows or interior door locks that may impede their escape in a fire. They should be equipped with quick release hardware.

- If possible, rectify potential problems as you go.

After the Tour

- Review potential problems you couldn't fix during the home tour.
- Give the household members a home fire escape planning sheet and review it with them.
- Tell the household members that they can contact you or anyone at the fire department should they have any questions or concerns about fire safety in the future.
- Thank the household members for participating in the home fire safety inspection.

Adapted from the TAPP-C Fire Service Educator's Manual.

Council looking for members

continued from page 12

cil, please submit a letter and résumé outlining how and why your background and experience fit the membership criteria. Your application should also include any past experience in certification or accreditation, as well as special skills or knowledge related to Council's purpose that you would bring to the table.

Please submit your application in confidence to:

Leslie Kennedy
(A) Chair, Certification Council
Office of the Fire Marshal
Place Nouveau Building
5775 Yonge Street, 7th Floor
North York, Ontario M2M 4J1

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by e-mail at Leslie.Kennedy@jus.gov.on.ca or by phone at 416-325-0942.

We look forward to welcoming new members to Council, and enjoying the influx of fresh ideas and renewed energy.

Leslie Kennedy (pictured at the far left), educational consultant and acting executive coordinator, certification/accreditation programs for the OFM, met with training officers from fire departments across the province on



March 24. The meeting was aimed at getting feedback from them about the proposed requirements for training officer certification including an academic requirement in the 'Window of Opportunity' and demonstration of essential competencies on-the-job. The feedback will be used to develop the Training Officer Certification Program that will be launched at the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs conference in May. Pictured with Leslie (from the left) are: Scott Dahmer, Waterloo Fire Department; Terry Foster, East Gwillimbury Emergency Services; Paul Reynolds, Toronto Fire Services; and Jeremy Parkin and Alan Brody, Mnjikaning Fire Rescue Service. Other training officers who attending the meeting included Sean Bradley and Shawn LePage, Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services; Rocco Volpe, Richmond Hill Fire Department; and Paul Jackson, King Fire and Emergency Services.

InDetail: Dealing with UF₆

InDetail *highlights relevant technical information on topics of interest to the fire service.*

The objectives of InDetail are to:

- *enhance the understanding of fire protection, fire prevention and life safety principles;*
- *promote the use of established and state-of-the-art technology to enhance public fire safety; and*
- *raise awareness with respect to ongoing fire research and code development.*

Topics will be selected based on various factors, including: requests for information/clarification from the fire service, OFM staff perception of fire service needs, new developments in the fire safety and fire protection fields, new OFC and OBC requirements, current OFM research, and OFM evaluation of products.

We hope to take what are sometimes fairly complex technical issues and present them in an easy to read and interesting format that will benefit the fire service. Your input is welcomed and encouraged. Please direct your comments to the editor.

The frequent transportation of the chemical in Canada and to the U.S. means fire services must be prepared.

BY ROBERT HARPUR,
OFM FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEER

No, it's not the latest rock group. UF₆ is the chemical symbol for uranium hexafluoride, which is the form of uranium used during the uranium enrichment process. Uranium hexafluoride is convenient to use because it can be a solid, a liquid or a gas within a relatively small range of temperature and pressure. This means it can be stored as a solid, converted to a liquid for filling or emptying containers, or converted to a gas for processing.

Because the uranium enrichment process takes place in several stages at different locations, there are frequent shipments of UF₆ both within Canada and to the USA. Containers may be identified by the name uranium hexafluoride, the symbol UF₆, the CAS #7783-81-5 or the UN# 2978.

Physical Characteristics

Solid UF₆ is a dense, white crystalline material that resembles rock salt. At atmospheric pressure, UF₆ will be a solid at temperatures below 57°C (134°F). Above 57°C (134°F) solid UF₆ sublimates directly to a colourless gas. It will only be found in a liquid state if the temperature is above 64°C (147°F) and the pressure is above 151.7 kPa (22 psia). In its liquid state it is clear and colourless. The liquid has low viscosity and flows easily. When UF₆ is heated and changes from a solid to a liquid, it undergoes a very large volume expansion, up to 40%

if heated to 121°C (250°F). This large increase in volume can result in hydraulic rupture of the container.

Chemical Characteristics

Uranium hexafluoride is not flammable and does not react with oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, or dry air. It will react, sometimes violently, with hydrocarbons, ethanol and water, including the water vapour in the air. Uranium hexafluoride that has reacted with water (become hydrated) will form uranyl fluoride (UO₂F₂) and hydrogen fluoride (HF). The hydrogen fluoride in combination with the water vapour in the air can form an HF-H₂O fog that appears as a white cloud. The uranyl fluoride will appear as finely divided yellow particles that are water-soluble. These reactions can take place whether the UF₆ is in a solid or a gaseous state, but will take place almost instantaneously when the UF₆ is in a gaseous state.

Depending on the humidity, the plume resulting from a release of UF₆ to the atmosphere can contain unhydrolysed UF₆ several hundred metres from the release point. Particulate UO₂F₂ may be deposited anywhere along the path of the plume. UO₂F₂ that has been deposited may be resuspended in the air if it is disturbed. Although gaseous HF will not deposit, the hydrofluoric acid it forms when combined with water vapour can be deposited.

Shipping

All UF₆ must be shipped in certified containers that comply with ANSI N14.1 Nuclear Materials-Uranium Hexafluoride- Packaging for Transport.

See UF₆ on page 15

UF₆ requires a very knowledgeable response

continued from page 14

Most of the UF₆ shipped in Ontario comes from one company. The container they commonly use is a 30B cylinder with an over-pack. The 30B cylinder is a steel cylinder with a nominal diameter of 76 cm (30 in.) and a nominal length of 206 cm (81 in.) There is a 25 mm (1 in.) valve at one end and a plug at the other end. These cylinders must maintain their integrity after being subjected to a variety of stringent tests including a 9 m (30 ft.) drop test onto an unyielding surface, a 1 m drop onto a steel bar (puncture test), exposure to an 800°C (1472°F) fire for 30 minutes and immersion in 15 m deep water for 8 hours.

The over-pack is also a steel cylinder that is divided into two halves lengthwise. The 30B cylinder is cradled in the over-pack and surrounded with fire resistant material. A gasket is used between the two halves to prevent water from leaking into the container. Vent holes are provided to allow gases to escape in the event of a fire. These vent holes are sealed with plastic plugs to maintain the water resistance of the package.

UF₆ containing less than 1% of the U₂₃₅ isotope is classed as low specific activity (LSA) radioactive material and may be shipped in industrial packages. The one most commonly used is US48Y. These containers have a nominal diameter of 1220 mm (48 in.) and may contain up to 12500 kg (27,557 lbs.) of UF₆. Although they must still meet specified standards they are not required to pass the drop tests or thermal test that the 30B cylinders must pass.

The transportation of UF₆ is regulated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)

under the Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations made under the *Nuclear Safety And Control Act*. Whenever UF₆ is transported, complete transportation and security plans must be filed with the Commission.

Hazards

Although UF₆ is a radioactive material, the main hazards it presents are chemical, not radiological.

Unhydrolysed UF₆ is toxic as are UO₂F₂ and HF. The HF may also combine with water to form highly corrosive hydrofluoric acid or react with many metals to form flammable hydrogen gas.

The particulate UO₂F₂ may be dispersed in air and inhaled. Because it is very soluble, it is readily absorbed in the bloodstream. If large quantities are inhaled, kidney damage may result. The highly corrosive HF may cause symptoms ranging from eye and respiratory irritation to death, depending on the exposure.

Emergency Response

It should be noted that firefighter bunker gear does not provide protection against the chemical hazards associated with UF₆, UO₂F₂ or HF. Cartridge respirators will not provide protection against UF₆ and provide only limited protection against HF. Cartridge respirators will provide adequate protection against UO₂F₂ and so may be used in the decontamination phase. When

responding to an incident involving UF₆ or its by-products chemical protective clothing suitable for UF₆ and full SCBA must be worn.

As mentioned earlier, the primary hazards associated with UF₆ are chemical and, therefore, rescue, medical and firefighting concerns take priority over measuring radiation levels.

UF₆ is a specialized material that requires a very knowledgeable response. The shipping papers that accompany UF₆ shipments are required to have an emergency response telephone number on them. This number should be called first. If the shipping papers are not available, then CANUTEC should



Drivers should have an MSDS for UF₆, a set of emergency instructions and an emergency kit to deal with small leaks or damage to the cylinders.

be called.

The driver should have an MSDS for UF₆, a set of emergency instructions and an emergency kit to deal with small leaks or damage to the cylinders. According to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, solid UF₆ reacts relatively slowly with the moisture in air. Within the first 20 to 30 minutes after a container is breached, it should be possible for firefighters to approach the cylinders wearing bunker gear and SCBA. Small leaks can sometimes be sealed with equipment as simple as duct tape or duct tape and plastic sheets.

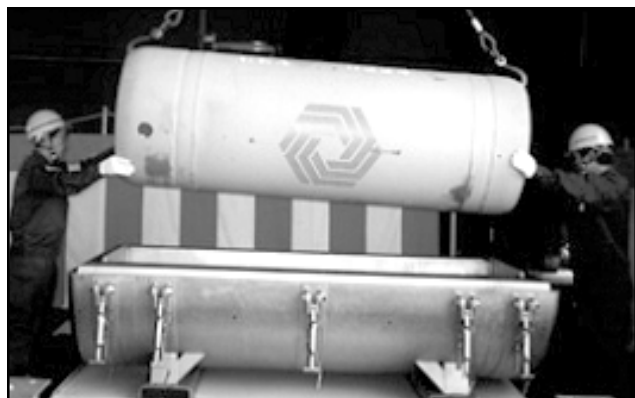
If the container has been heated,

See Water on page 16

Water, foam should never be applied to UF₆ material

continued from page 15

applying a CO₂ fire extinguisher directly to the hole or leaking area can cool the material back into solid form long enough to facilitate applying the duct tape. The CO₂ must be applied directly to the



Cylinders used to transport UF₆ are subjected to a variety of stringent tests ensuring their integrity.

container, not to the over pack. It should be noted that this procedure is only a short-term solution and is only intended to buy enough time to permit victim extrication or to permit longer-term solutions to be implemented.

The incident area should be immediately isolated and no personnel allowed into the area unless they are wearing appropriate protective equipment. The 2000 Emergency Response Guidebook recommends isolating for 30 m (100 ft) in all directions for small spills and 95 m (300 ft) in all directions for large spills. For small spills the Guidebook recommends evacuating persons downwind for 0.2 km (0.1 mi) during the day and 0.5 km (0.3 mi) at night. For large spills it recommends evacuating persons downwind for 1.0 km (0.6 mi) during the day and 3.1 km at night. These distances are for the areas most likely to be affected during the

first 30 minutes after a release and may need to be increased with time. If there is a significant fire involved with the release of the UF₆ these distances should be increased.

Because it is water reactive, water or foam should **never** be applied to UF₆ material. Fires involving UF₆

must be extinguished using dry chemical or CO₂.

Water may be applied to undamaged UF₆ containers to protect them from overheating due to exposure fires. Because of the very large volume increase that occurs when UF₆ changes from

the solid phase to the liquid phase, it is critical that containers not be heated above 64°C or rupture of the container could occur.

Water fog may be applied downstream of the release to reduce the concentration of UO₂F₂ and HF in the plume and limit the area that will eventually have to be decontaminated. Water should not be used to prevent deposited UO₂F₂ from being resuspended because the solutions formed could penetrate the ground and thus require that a much greater volume of soil be removed to effect decontamination.

Dikes should be provided to contain all water used for fire-fighting or exposure protection so that it may be decontaminated. All equipment and clothing used on the scene will have to be decontaminated or disposed of in an appropriate manner.

Responding medical personnel should be made aware of the hazards so that they can take suitable precautions to protect themselves and so appropriate treatment can be provided to any casualties. A record should be kept of all persons in the area, both emergency responders and civilians, so that they may be monitored for external and internal contamination after the emergency is over.

For additional information, see:

1. 2004 Emergency Response Guidebook
2. *Planning and Preparing for Emergency Response to Transport Accidents Involving Radioactive Material*, Safety Guide No. TS-G-1.2 (ST-3), International Atomic Energy Agency Vienna (available from OFM Library)
3. *Uranium Hexafluoride: A Manual of Good Handling Practice*, USEC-651, United States Enrichment Corporation (Revision 7 January 1995 can be downloaded free from the Office of Scientific and Technical Information at http://www.osti.gov/bridge/product.biblio.jsp?osti_id=205924. Revision 8, 1999, can be purchased from Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, Customer Service and Product Scheduling, Attn: Michael Buckner P.O. Box 1410, Paducah, KY 42002)
4. *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substances Regulations, SOR/2000-208
5. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, 280 Slater Street P.O. Box 1046, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5S9, Tel: 1-800-668-5284 or (613) 995-5894, Fax: (613) 995-5086 Email: info@cnsccsn.gc.ca
To report a nuclear incident ONLY, call the CNSC's 24-hour duty officer: (613) 995-0479
6. CANUTEC, 330 Sparks Street, Office 1415, Place de Ville, Tower C, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0N5; **Emergency: (613) 996-6666 (call collect); Cellular: * 666 (Canada only);** Information: (613) 992-4624 (call collect); Fax: (613) 954-5101; E-mail: canutec@tc.gc.ca



The Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council
and the North Shore Fire Safety Education Committee present the

13th Annual Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference

Feel the Warmth!

November 16, 17 and 18, 2005
Simcoe Travelodge, Simcoe, Ontario

Highlights Include:

- Pre-conference seminar on the new *Risk Watch*®
- Increasing Fire Safety in Vulnerable Occupancies
- How Hot are You: Performance Measurement and Benchmarking
- Fire Safety for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease
- Fire Safety for Persons with Disabilities
- Farm Safety
- Working with the Media
- Making a Difference in the Community - Your Role
- Effective Presentation Techniques
- and more!

The conference cost is \$175. This includes all seminars and workshops, as well as breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner on November 17 and breakfast on November 18. Limited accommodation is available at the Simcoe Travelodge and costs \$80 per night plus applicable taxes. For reservations, call 1-800-263-8090 and mention the Fire Education Conference.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

On November 16, from 1300-1600, there will be a free workshop featuring the *Risk Watch* program in Ontario. Tick one of the following boxes to indicate if you will be attending: ☐ Yes, I will attend ☐ No, I won't attend



Make cheques payable to:
North Shore Fire Safety Education Committee
c/o Norfolk Fire and Rescue Services Division
95 Culver St., Simcoe, ON N3Y 2V5

For more information, call 519-426-4115, x425



Fire Safety Commission Decision

Decision No. 2004RA006-143
Date: October 27, 2004

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 416-325-3100.

SUBJECT MATTER

The issue before the tribunal was an application made by the fire department for authorization to do work relating to an Inspection Order served on the owner of a mixed use residential, commercial and assembly building. The Inspection Order required that a second exit be provided from a second floor area by June 18, 2004. The previous second exit was compromised as a result of a fire.

Five residential units situated on the second floor of the premises are now located within a dead-end corridor and served by only one exit. Temporary alternative accommodation was provided by the fire department for occupants of the affected units until this second means of egress is provided.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES

This 2500m², two storey (plus basement) building was constructed in 1947 and is of combustible construction. The exterior walls of the building are concrete block, brick or stucco on wood frame. The roof and floor assemblies are boards on joist.

The building is generally occupied as commercial on the first floor and residential on the second floor. The second floor includes 13 apartments in the north wing and five apartments in the south wing. The south end of the building also has four apartments on the second floor that are vacant because of a recent fire. The southeast portion of the building has both floors gutted and under reconstruction due to this fire. The roof of this portion has been removed and partially covered with tarps and plastic.

The north and south wings of the building have floor assemblies that are boards on joist with gypsum wallboard sheathing on the underside. The corridors serving the apartments and the exit stairs are separated from the remaining floor area with gypsum wallboard on wood stud wall assemblies. The apartments are separated from each other and other floor areas by wall assemblies constructed with gypsum wallboard on wood studs. Suite doors are a solid-core wood type and are provided with self-closing devices. Doors accessing exit stairs from the floor area are labelled

and provided with self-closers.

The second floor of the north wing is provided with two exits that include the east exit stair and the central exit stair. The south wing is currently provided with a single exit, which is the central exit stair. A previous second means of egress from this wing is locked off as it leads through the fire-damaged area to the south, which is under reconstruction.

Fire safety equipment, such as the fire alarm system and in-suite smoke alarms are in place throughout the occupied portion of the building but not in the portion of the building under reconstruction or the second floor vacant apartments in the south end. The power supply and services have also been shut-off in the vacated portion of the building. Sprinklers are provided and in service on the ground floor and basement of the north wing and part of the south wing.

This building falls within Section 9.5 of the Fire Code which requires that each floor area to be served by a minimum of two exits.

APPLICANT'S POSITION

The fire department indicated that the owner is not likely to comply with the Inspection Order since the timelines for an appeal have passed and there is no sign of action being taken by the owner at the premises. Since the issuance of the Inspection Order, the fire department has received no communication about the owner's intent despite repeated attempts to contact him. The fire department filed an application to the Commission on September 27, 2004 for authorization to do work. The fire department believes that the application is consistent with criteria set out in subsection 33.(4) of the *FPPA, 1997*, and failure to provide the exit endangers the occupants of the residential portion of this property. The fire department is therefore seeking the Commission's decision to grant the authority to do the minimum acceptable measures as proposed therein at the owner's expense.

RESPONDENT'S POSITION

The owner's business manager was at the hearing

continued on page 19

Safety guide serves as public education tool

The Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services has developed a new community safety guide. It is a compilation of educational, informative and helpful safety tips aimed at appealing to all citizens of the community.

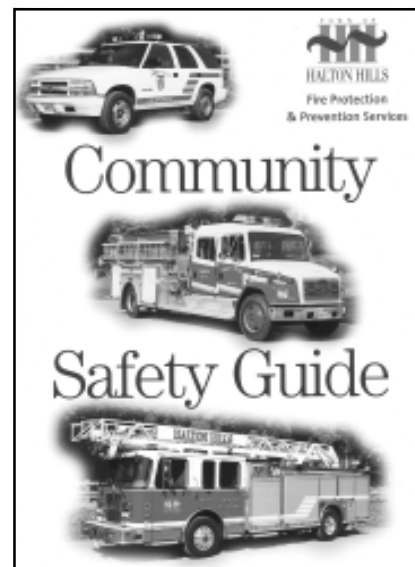
"The guide is yet another tool we can use to spread the word about being fire safe," said Halton Hills' Fire Safety Specialist David Ford. "Along with other public education materials, the guide will act as a collective source of information."

Ford said that the guide supports the goals and objectives of the municipality's Fire Service Master Plan: the focus on public education

and prevention measures as the primary and most effective means to protect the community.

"Public education is recognized as the most effective, pro-active means to reduce personal injury, deaths and property loss," Ford said.

The guide includes information on a variety of fire safety topics. Halton Hills had 10,000 copies printed before Christmas and Ford said the supply is steadily declining. Guides are available at a variety of community businesses, at seniors' centres, municipal offices and fire stations. Copies were also distributed to 21 schools and par-



ents of kids in 21 daycare centres in the area. For more information about the guide, contact David Ford at 905-873-2601.

Adapted from a Town of Halton Hills media release dated Feb. 3.

Fire Safety Commission Decision

continued from page 18

to collect information for the owner, and stated that he did not have the authority to make decisions on matters relating to financial commitments. He also provided additional information about an ongoing dispute over claims for the fire damages, and that it was the owner's intent to let the Inspection Order compliance date lapse until sale of the property could be arranged. He also stated that the owner has undertaken all safety measures to the property required by the fire department as a result of the fire, except the provision of the required second exit.

COMMISSION RULING

The Commission ruled that the application for authorization to do work be granted in accordance with the minimum acceptable measures as follows:

1. A structural engineer shall assess the area, specifically looking at the structural stability of the egress route and adjacent areas impacted by the fire. The engineer will also provide working drawings for any work to be performed.
2. Any work required by the engineer for the purposes of structural stabilization will be completed.
3. Separations or hoarding between the egress route and areas impacted by fire will be provided.
4. Emergency lighting and fire detection will be provided as required.
5. Exit signage will be provided as required.
6. Work undertaken will be in conformance with the Ontario Building Code or will match facilities in existence prior to the fire. Where this is not possible, proposals for alternative measures will be approved by the chief fire official, prior to implementation.

7. The egress facility should be designed to ensure a minimum impact on the facility, if restorative work on the fire involved portion of the property were to commence.

The fire department shall complete the work within one month.

REASONS

The Tribunal has heard the evidence to the effect that the owners had ample opportunity to implement the inspection order. The work is necessary to ensure life safety of the occupants and the visitors at the building. The reasons given at the hearing by the respondent for not implementing the order are not acceptable to the Commission in view of the life safety of the occupants of the residential units on the second floor. The Tribunal believes that the work must be completed to ensure the safety as mentioned above.

OFM News Update

Brent Ellen joined the OFM as program specialist in the Field Fire Protection Services unit on Feb. 28. Brent most recently served as training officer for the Georgina Fire Department. Brent was also an active participant in the York Region Hazmat Response Team and worked closely with other fire departments in York region to deliver specialized technical rescue programs.

John Fox retired on October 31, 2004. Prior to joining the OFM as a fire investigator in 1993, John was with Humber College, the Peel Regional Police Force and the Ministry of Environment. Congratulations John!

Dyanne McCullough became program specialist in the OFM's Field Fire Protection Services unit starting on Feb. 28.

James O'Donnell joined the OFM as a fire investigator on Jan. 24. James was previously a detective

constable with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Michael Ross began on Jan. 24 as a fire investigator with the OFM. Michael has a Masters degree in Fire Sciences and a degree in Forensic Identification from the University of New Haven.

Denis Seguin started on Feb. 28 as program specialist in the OFM's Field Fire Protection Services unit.

Skye Lorimer started as a fire investigator with the OFM on Feb. 28. Skye has 14 years experience with the Durham Regional Police, most recently as deputy constable in the forensic identification unit.

Bruce Gougeon retired after 24 years in a variety of positions with the OFM, including representing the



Fire Marshal at various events in recent years. Bruce spent a total of 40 years working in the fire service. Congratulations Bruce!

Six year old set to reduce fire losses

Six year old Autumn Mearow, a grade one student at Sir James Dunn Public School in Wawa traveled all the way to the North Bay Fire Education Conference to meet with the Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle to find out how she could help spread the word about fire safety.

Autumn Mearow was very concerned about fire safety after a



Autumn Mearow met with Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle at the North Bay Fire Education Conference in April to discuss ways she can promote fire safety. Autumn traveled from Wawa to North Bay for the meeting. (Picture courtesy of Bev Gilbert)

family of eight died in a West Lincoln house fire. The Office of the Fire Marshal had sent out a home fire safety checklist to the directors of education to distribute to their schools and Autumn wanted to help out.

The Fire Marshal and Autumn met in a boardroom at the conference to discuss smoke alarms and home escape planning and how Autumn could help out. Autumn wanted to take back some fire safety activity books and a home escape planning activity she could share with her classmates.

Fire Marshal Moyle was extremely impressed with Autumn, her knowledge of fire safety and the fact that she was determined to meet him to help further the fire safety cause.

"It is very rewarding to meet such a delightful young girl, who already has a desire to help out her classmates and her community. It was wonderful to meet Autumn."

Autumn has learned a lot about fire from her grandmother, who is the fire chief of Batchawana Bay.

Firefighters killed in Yellowknife fire

CBC NEWS

Two firefighters died battling a fire in Yellowknife on March 17.

Police first noticed the fire at the Home Building Centre on Old Airport Road at 7:20 a.m. Fire crews arrived a short time later.

The roof of the building apparently collapsed while the firefighters were trying to vent the building. Witnesses said the weight of men, equipment and snow on the roof may have contributed to the collapse.

The death is believed to be the first death of a firefighter in the line of duty in Yellowknife.

At the time of writing, an investigation to determine the cause of the fire was ongoing.

Fire Service Calendar 2005

May 1-5	Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Conference	Toronto, ON
May 9-13	OBC Fire Protection Course	Kingston, ON
May 27	CBRNE Conference	Ottawa, ON
May 31	Canadian Fire Alarm Association Annual Seminar	Toronto, ON
June 2-4	Eastern Ontario Vehicle Rescue Challenge and Symposium	Port Hope, ON
June 5	Ontario Firefighters Memorial Dedication - Queen's Park	Toronto, ON
June 6-9	OPFFA Annual Convention	Niagara Falls, ON
June 15	Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council Fire Safety Awards 2005	Toronto, ON
July 10-13	15th World Conference on Disaster Management	Toronto, ON
July 29-Aug. 1	104th Annual Fire Fighters Association of Ontario Conference	St. Jacobs, ON
Sept. 11	Canadian Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony	Ottawa, ON
Sept. 15-18	FireCon 2005	Thunder Bay, ON

Upcoming Long Service Medal Investitures

First awarded in 1971, The Fire Services Long Service Medal is an expression of public appreciation for the dedication and hard work of Ontario firefighters. It is officially recognized by the province and is included in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. Both full-time and volunteer firefighters can qualify for the medal.

Suspended from a red, white and green ribbon, the circular medal bears on the obverse the Maltese Cross, with the coat of arms of Ontario superimposed, and the inscription, "Fire Services Ontario". The inscription, "For Long Service the Fire Protection and Prevention Act", appears on the reverse.

Besides the medal, each recipient is also presented with a citation, which includes their name and the signature of the Fire Marshal of Ontario.

Below are the tentative dates of Long Service Medal Investitures coming up this year. They are subject to change depending on attendance and facility availability.

If your district does not have enough applicants to hold a ceremony (20-25), you may attend a ceremony in a bordering district. To make arrangements, contact

OFM Awards Coordinator Marie Falk at 416-325-3106.

Please note that investitures are held in northern Ontario districts every two years and are dependent on the number of applicants.

2005

Districts

May 24	Frontenac, Lennox-Addington, Hasting, Prince Edward, Leeds-Grenville
June 23	Elgin, Huron, Middlesex
July 14	Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, Simcoe
Aug. 18	Parry Sound, Muskoka, Haliburton
Sept. 22	Cochrane, Timiskaming
Oct. 20	Durham, Peterborough, Victoria-Kawartha, Northumberland
Nov. 15 and 22	Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, East York, Scarborough, York

Critical thinking skills key to revised *Risk Watch*

The new Canadian version of *Risk Watch*® is expected to be available for use in Canadian schools by this September. *Risk Watch* is a comprehensive injury prevention program for students in pre-kindergarten through Grade 8. Developed by the National Fire Protection Association in the United States, *Risk Watch* covers eight injury prevention areas, including motor vehicle safety, bike and pedestrian safety and poisoning prevention. It teaches children skills and strategies to make positive choices about personal injury prevention behaviours.

In 2003, the Ontario Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council contracted with SMARTRISK to revise the curriculum to include Canadian statistics, legislation, information, resources and education content, and to produce a French language version.

Being able to make smart decisions is an important part of injury prevention. Central to the Canadian version is the "Look First, Think Twice, Choose Smart" decision-making process that promotes the use of critical thinking skills in all grade levels to encourage students to make educated decisions about injury prevention by assessing the risk in situations and using their knowledge to make decisions.

For example, in grades 3-4, students act as reporters to examine choking, suffocation and strangulation risks in familiar fairy tales.

Students first reflect on their prior knowledge about what it means to, and what items could cause, choking, suffocation or strangulation, through creating and playing a concentration game. Students discuss strategies to prevent injury from the items identified. Students then work with their teacher and classmates to analyze a modified version of Jack and the Beanstalk for risks and write a newspaper



Karen Cook and Dr. Bob Watson of the Kawartha Lakes Risk Watch Advisory Coalition brought farm safety messages to a Grade 1/2 class in Lindsay recently. The new "Canadian-ized" version of *Risk Watch* includes a focus on regional issues such as rural safety. (Picture courtesy of Deb Bartlett/Kawartha Lakes This Week. See page 10 for more information on *Risk Watch*.)

report. Students then analyze their own choice of fairy tale and write a report for a class newspaper. They share their stories with other students and classes and reflect on new learning.

What is different about the Canadian version?:

- Challenging and varied activities

including critical thinking and decision-making skills.

- More detailed lesson plans that include opportunities for reflection prior to and following lessons, related activities for split-grade classes, and in-class and wider school extensions.

- A focus on Canadian and regional issues (use of ATV's and snowmobiles, rural issues, ice safety, forest fires).

- Teaching of behaviours rather than rules and inclusion of positive language ("Do" instead of "Don't").

- Links to a wide variety of curriculum areas (music, science, math, language, visual art, physical education).

- Resources related to each topic area.

- Canadian statistics, legislation, and terminology (e.g., hazard symbols).

- Assessment section designed to measure learning across schools and regions for larger scale evaluation purposes.

- Availability in French.

For more information, please contact Bev Gilbert at the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office, at Bev.Gilbert@jus.gov.on.ca or 416-325-3178.

Reprinted from SMARTRISK's newsletter "Heads Up!"