

M The Ontario Fire Service Messenger

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INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS IT'S THE LAW

Inside:

**Fire death rate in preventable structure
fires hits historic low**

**New smoke alarm requirement
takes effect**



Ministry of Community Safety
and Correctional Services

Ministère de la Sécurité communautaire
et des Services correctionnels

The Ontario Fire Service **Messenger**

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

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Past, Present and Future at the Ontario Fire College

**Fred McLennan, Principal,
Ontario Fire College**



Seven years ago, the Ontario Fire College changed from a multi-week course delivery model to an intensive one-week style. The change, following consultation with the fire service, afforded a better fit of college programming with the challenges of fire department operations. With the new format, student-learners took on more responsibility for their own learning by completing pre-and post-class assignment in addition to attending classroom sessions. Student-learners brought their knowledge and experiences into classrooms which they shared with others from around the province. In this interplay of different approaches and ideas, lessons learned were reality-based.

Now, the college is emerging as a more traditional post-secondary institution in the delivery of its officer-level programs and specialty seminars. The OFC has agreements with other post-secondary institutions that recognize the equivalence of some of its courses to those offered in community colleges and universities. The firefighter curriculum and OFC pre-class packages are available on-line in recognition of the role of the Internet in supporting education and the distribution of learning. Through its partnership with Georgian College, one entire course is available through e-learning; more will follow.

More and more student-learners are attending OFC locally or regionally delivered courses, often led by OFC Associate Instructors. The significant benefits to individuals and their departments in timely access to training and in time and cost savings of this model are motivating more departments to explore this option. The mix of participants at Ontario Fire College courses has also changed with the offering of courses that address fire safety in key areas such as residential occupancies and industrial settings.

Individuals attending the college now benefit from a new resource centre with extended hours, staffed by two full-time librarians. A new fire station is the base for practical courses and a new auditorium serves the needs of large groups. Ongoing energy conservation and other cost-saving and revenue-generation initiatives ensure that the maximum financial resources are devoted directly to the learning experience.

Strategic alliances with other organizations, consistent with the mission and mandate of the OFC and the Office of the Fire Marshal, are enabling the delivery of new courses such as Trench Rescue and Marine Training. These alliances also assist in the acquisition of invaluable teaching aids.

Seven years from now, the face of the college will no doubt be changed again. Those changes will continue to reflect the underlying philosophy that learning is most valuable when it is applied to, and positively affects, the real world. This learning, focused on the Ontario fire service, will continue to be the *raison d'être* of the Ontario Fire College experience.

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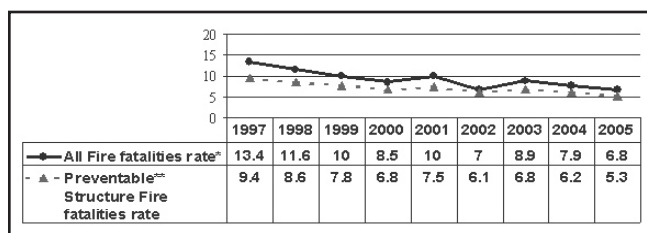
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Learning about fire safety pays off

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Get the answers to your smoke alarm questions



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Update ONTARIO

News from around the province

2005 marks lowest fire death rate in preventable structure fires in Ontario's history

The fire death rate for preventable structure fires in Ontario hit a historic low in 2005. It declined by approximately 43% since 1997, the year the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) was enacted. One of the key components of the FPPA was to mandate municipalities to have public education programs, as well as a component of fire prevention.

"The decline is a milestone in Ontario's fire history," says Bernard Moyle, Fire Marshal of Ontario. "It highlights the dedication and commitment that municipalities have been contributing to their public education and fire prevention efforts: all to make Ontario a safer place from fire."

Most recently another stride to save more lives was made in Ontario. On March 1, 2006, the smoke alarm requirement to have working smoke alarms on every storey, in addition to outside all sleeping areas, came into effect. It applies to all single-family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented.

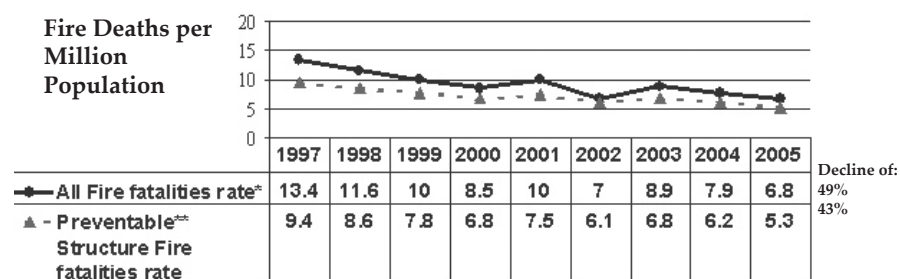
To underline the importance of the new requirement, Working Smoke Alarms: It's the Law was launched across the province

in December. The province-wide campaign heightened awareness about the importance of working smoke alarms and educated the public about the amended regulation, smoke alarm technology and the enforcement of smoke alarm requirements.

Currently the OFM is providing

fire departments with a variety of resources and information to ensure everyone in their community is aware of the new requirement. For more information about these resources or to order the public education kit that contains smoke alarm awareness materials, visit www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

10 Year Fire Death Rate in Ontario: All Fatalities and Fatalities in Preventable Structure fires



Fire Death rate: the number of fire fatalities divided by the population multiplied by 1 million

*All fire fatalities rate: This includes homicides and suicides and all other fire deaths.

** Preventable: Fires that were not deliberately set, including fires where the cause is under investigation or undetermined.

Preliminary and subject to revision - any death that is determined to be fire related occurring up to a year after the fire will be added to this total

Note: Does not include fire deaths on Federal or First Nations properties

Old farmhouse damaged

Four occupants of a rural Burlington farmhouse escaped a fire in early January, which was ignited by a candle. They are lucky to be alive.

The fire began around 6 p.m. after an 11-year-old girl, without the knowledge of her parents, lit a candle in her bedroom. The candle tipped over, igniting some papers and furnishings. After making repeated unsuccessful attempts to put the fire out herself, she eventually got scared and ran downstairs to tell a parent. By that time smoke could be detected throughout the home. The girl's mother rushed up the stairs to wake her other sleeping 12-year-old daughter. After three attempts to get through the heavy smoke from the bedroom,

she finally awoke her daughter and escaped the home. The fire destroyed the upper floor of the century home and damage was estimated at \$100,000.

The mother and two teenage girls were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation. The stepfather was not injured. Fortunately four cats and the family dog also made it out of the house safely.

Burlington public education officer Ben Rotsma said the only working smoke alarm in the home had been removed by the stepfather when he started renovations on the second floor several months before the fire. Their home also lacked a smoke alarm on the main floor where the parents' bedroom was located.

A written violation was issued

to the resident, which required the installation of smoke alarms prior to re-occupancy of the home. Fire officials indicated the parents showed extreme remorse for their actions, which could have led to the loss of the children. As a result of the fire the family has been working with the department through the TAPP-C program.

Working smoke alarms are essential to provide the precious seconds needed to safely escape a fire. Even during renovations where people may be living in their homes, working smoke alarms are required on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.

\$1,500 fine for failing to maintain smoke alarm

A response to a house fire has resulted in the owner being fined \$1,500 for failing to maintain a smoke alarm in operating condition in a residence in Brockville.

The fire, resulting from careless cooking, occurred at approximately 3:55 a.m. on June 30, 2005 when one of the homeowners was away at work and three other family members were asleep in the building.

Upon completion of the fire investigation it was determined that a working smoke alarm was not present in the residence as required by the Fire Code. The owner indicated to Fire Chief Harry Jones that the smoke alarm had been removed from the upstairs ceiling while renovations were underway. The smoke alarm in question was later located, however, no battery was in the alarm.

In provincial court on December 6, 2005, the owner pleaded guilty to the charge as investigation of the fire determined that no working smoke alarm was present outside the sleeping area of the home.

"We hope other homeowners take notice of the outcome of this case and realize that the fire department is serious about smoke alarm offences," stated Randy Burke, Chief Fire Prevention Officer for the fire department.

OFM develops emergency response strategy

The OFM developed a comprehensive strategy to be better prepared for the consequences of human caused and natural-caused incidents by establishing a provincial-municipal response system. The new system includes the establishment of three specialized and expert-level chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response (CBRNR) teams located in Toronto, Windsor and Ottawa and a heavy urban search and rescue (HUSAR) team in

Toronto. These teams are available to respond anywhere in the province.

On February 1, cheques were presented to each team in support of their training and equipment from the OFM. From left are Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle, Terry Boyko, Toronto Fire Services, Bruce Montone, Ottawa Fire Services, Al Reaume, Windsor Fire & Rescue Services, Barry McKinnon OFM, Jim Coulson, OFM and Doug Silver, Toronto Fire Services.



Application to dismiss an Information

Recently, a Justice of the Peace dismissed an application to have an Information quashed on the basis that it did not set out an offence known to law. The offences involved a marijuana grow house operation in Niagara Falls.

The Information contained two counts. One count involved Article 2.1.2.2. (failing to ensure that activities that create a hazard are not carried out in a building), while the second count involved Article 2.6.4.1. (failing to ensure that temporary electrical wiring not be used where it presents a fire hazard).

To summarize, the applicant raised three arguments. (1) The wording in the Information did not establish the status or capacity in which the defendant was charged. The wording in the Information did not identify whether the defendant is to defend himself against an allegation that he committed these offences outright himself, or whether he is to defend himself against some other responsibility for which he may

or may not have been vicariously liable. (2) The Regulation cited in the Information did not carry an obligation "to ensure" and consequently did not create an offence for "failing to ensure". (3) Respecting Count #1, it did not set out the means by which the allegation was committed, that is, it did not specify either the 'activity' or the 'hazard' of concern.

To summarize, the JP decided that in both counts the defendant was reasonably informed of the transaction against him, at least insofar as is required to establish: (1) sufficiency of the Information under Section 25 rules of the Provincial Offences Act (POA), and (2), thereby allowing the court the authority to amend the Information under Section 34 of the POA to reflect the capacity in which the defendant was charged or order particulars under Section 35 of the POA – setting out the means by which the offence in Count #1 was committed.

Questions & Answers: Smoke Alarms

Q.1 Considering the new smoke alarm requirement, when a storey includes two levels, where is the best place to install the smoke alarm?

Q.2 Also in accordance to the new smoke alarm requirement, a dwelling unit has two existing smoke alarms that are hardwired to an electrical circuit and interconnected to each other. When one activates, the second smoke alarm also activates at the same time. If additional smoke alarms are being installed to comply with the Fire Code, do they have to be electrically interconnected to the existing smoke alarms?

Answers on page 24

More Fire Code violations

BY ALISON LANGLEY
THE REVIEW (NIAGARA FALLS)

A Toronto landlord claimed he had no idea the massage parlour he owned in Niagara Falls was equipped with sleeping quarters. He was fined \$1,750 in Niagara Falls provincial offences court after pleading guilty to several fire code violations, including failing to ensure a smoke alarm was installed outside each sleeping area.

The Niagara Falls Fire Department conducted an inspection at the massage parlour in July 2005. At that time, Fire Prevention Officers noticed several violations to the Ontario Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

The landlord was aware the first floor was being used as a massage parlour, but didn't know the second storey was also being used, he told the Justice of the Peace.

"He had never seen the interior of the building and he didn't realize there were sleeping quarters upstairs," the landlord's lawyer said.

Justice of the Peace Richard Bisson said the landlord brought the problems on himself by not bothering to inspect his own property.

"That's why people are called absentee landlords. That's why things like this happen," Bisson told the landlord.

Excerpted from the December 16, 2005 edition of The Review (Niagara Falls).

Legal Success – The Last Ten Years

BY DEREK COLLINS
CAPTAIN, LEGAL SECTION &
JASON SCOVELL,
FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTOR,
TORONTO FIRE SERVICES

Enforcement of the Ontario Fire Code in any municipal fire department in Ontario exists for the purpose of achieving four clear objectives:

- To achieve compliance with Ontario Fire Code issues and violations;
- To ensure building occupants' life safety;
- To provide a deterrent to building owners, operators and tenants; and,
- To penalize building owners, operators and tenants where necessary.

The success that Fire Code enforcement achieves anywhere can be attributed in no small measure to an evolutionary cultural change that has occurred throughout the Province of Ontario in recent times. The change began with the introduction of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (formerly Fire Marshals Act) in 1997 and the Ontario Fire Code in 1981. As both pieces of legislation are still relatively young, we are only now experiencing the success long intended by their advent on the legal stage. These tools now allow municipal fire services to take on a more effective role as an enforcement agency; and the evolutionary changes continue, based on evidence that their use on a day-to-day basis is still being challenged, explored, developed

and experimented with. In fact, even the image of the Fire Prevention Inspector, as an agent of enforcement, continues to develop and mature, within the Ontario fire service, the courtroom (legal system) and in the public eye. These are not concepts that can be taught in a classroom, or recited from memory. They are aspects of the professional identity of the men and women who perform the inspection duties, and must be developed over time with experience and practical application.

To further improve the enforcement policies of any fire prevention division, change must occur on many levels. It must occur from within the Ontario fire service, the prosecutors who try the cases and the court services who adjudicate them. Change must also occur within the public's perception to acknowledge the severity of fire safety offences and their associated punishments.

Let's look at how we gauge legal success. Success in this area can be summarized through the following categories:

- A high rate of successful prosecutions (convictions);
- Greater compliance rate;
- Penalties that accurately reflect the offence; and,
- Low rate of repeat offenders.

Consistency and quality of both inspection and prosecution are the main keys to success in each of these categories. And both do improve with experience and time. But the increasing challenge in all of this is that for the whole system to be successful, staff training, professional experience and information dissemination throughout the public realm needs to grow quickly, in order to keep up with changing legislation: present experience

'...Ontario fire services should take steps to forge new partnerships with each other to share legal successes, precedents and other information.'

with each indicates that improvements are needed in each area. Therefore, it is only with the strong continuation of growth in these areas, that we will see them improved and their effectiveness and success maximized through the enforcement activities and day-to-day legal aspects of all fire prevention divisions in Ontario.

See 'More legal' on page 6

More legal success

The Toronto experience has shown an increase in the number of charges laid over the last 10 years. Also, penalties have increased in the last 10 years as well, as can be seen in the following table:

	1995*	1998**	2005
Number of charges	345	277	924
Total fines (\$)	50,735	55,005	773,650
Avg. fine (\$)	147.06	198.57	837.28

*1995 stats based on the former municipality of Toronto

**1998 indicates the first year of the amalgamated City of Toronto

Another aspect of the success of Fire Code enforcement in Toronto is that cases that include serious Fire Code violations (smoke alarm, fire alarm, sprinklers, standpipe and retrofit) that directly affect the life safety of occupants, are now being handled more effectively at each level of the enforcement process. The following examples are highlights of some of the more significant prosecutions in the City of Toronto:

- November 8, 2001: Successful prosecution of the corporation and its director who owned a residential high-rise apartment building but neglected to maintain the building in conformance with the Ontario Fire Code. Owner (corporation) fined a total of \$56,000. Director of the corporation fined a total of \$25,000 together with a thirty (30) day jail sentence and a one (1) year probation order requiring the director to personally report to the

Toronto Fire Services to ensure compliance.

- February 18, 2002: Successful prosecution of a residential landlord for failing to maintain smoke alarms and other safety features within the building. Landlord sentenced for four Ontario Fire Code offences; Fifteen (15) day period of imprisonment, a \$2,000 fine and an eighteen (18) month probation order. (N.B. First time in Canada individual jailed for smoke alarm offence.)
- March 2005: Successful prosecution of an owner of seven (7) low-rise residential buildings for failing to comply with the provisions of retrofit in conformance with the Ontario Fire Code. Owner (corporation) fined a total of \$106,250 for all seven (7) buildings.
- April 2005: Successful prosecution of an owner of a low-rise residential building for failing to comply with the provisions of retrofit in conformance with the Ontario Fire Code. Owner (individual) fined a total of \$52,000.

Public exposure and dissemination of these legal successes and similar information (i.e., legislative changes) needs to improve in many areas across Ontario. Unfortunately, in larger municipalities (i.e., Toronto), fire safety related stories that potentially offer an effective message are often pushed to the back pages in favour of other stories that are deemed more "newsworthy." Ontario fire services need to make every effort to

ensure this information is shared with the public through the effective use of all media, such as media releases, press conferences and public service announcements.

It is worth noting that on December 15, 2005 the maximum fines for all offences described in Sections 28, 29 and 30 of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act have been doubled. Also, on March 1, 2006 the scope of smoke alarm legislation is expanding to require smoke alarms are installed on every storey within a dwelling unit, in addition to those already required outside sleeping areas. These types of legislative changes should go a long way toward achieving compliance with Ontario Fire Code requirements ahead of the application of enforcement authority, which will improve the safety of living conditions in buildings throughout Ontario.

In the future, since these are provincially-legislated documents, Ontario fire services should take steps to forge new partnerships with each other to share legal successes, precedents and other information. This would further training on all levels across Ontario resulting in a more consistent approach to the legal process and a higher rate of successful prosecutions throughout Ontario. And, since all fire services in Ontario share the same duty to the citizens they serve, the forming of partnerships between municipalities and regions would send a loud and clear message to the judicial system and to the public about how serious and important Ontario Fire Code compliance really is.

People with Disabilities Day

BY SHARON GAMACHE
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION
ASSOCIATION (NFPA)

For the first time in 2005, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) designated one day during Fire Prevention Week to emphasize fire safety issues for people with disabilities called People with Disabilities Day.

This year and into the future, fire departments looking to incorporate this component of fire safety into their Fire Prevention Week activities can do so by working with their community agencies and organizations that already target people with disabilities to ensure further success. The emphasis of the People with Disabilities Day should be on planning, detection, and escape issues.

One of the first opportunities for fire and life safety planning is in the workplace. Although emergency planning should be addressed year round, Fire Prevention Week is a good time to make sure people have their plans together in the workplace, as well as the home.

People with disabilities and the workplace

Lack of adequate egress from buildings could well be a barrier to an effective escape plan. Over the years, many changes have been made to allow more people access into buildings. Provisions for helping people get out of buildings during a fire or other emergency, however, are often overlooked.

"Emergency responders and employers concerned about workplace safety need to be well aware of different kinds of disabilities and the most efficient and appropriate methods to assist a person with disabilities in an emergency," advises Linda

Woodbury, disabilities services coordinator for the City of San Diego and a member of the Center for High-Risk Outreach's Fire Safety for People with Disabilities Task Force.

"A person who is deaf, for example, needs to see the alarm; a person who is blind needs alarms that aren't so loud that they can't hear directions or sense the echo from their surroundings; a wheelchair-user may need the use of an evacuation chair; and so on," says Woodbury. "Evaluation should be made on a situation by situation basis and, ideally, advice should come from people who are disabled themselves."

NFPA's new educational safety handout, Workplace Safety for People with Disabilities, is available in both English and Spanish and can be downloaded free from www.nfpa.org. Also available from NFPA's online catalog is the Disability Evacuation Training Program VHS/DVD toolkit. The program helps safety directors develop and implement evacuation plans.

NFPA recently organized the Disability Access Review Advisory Committee (DARAC) to advise NFPA's president and Board of Directors on improving the codes and standards making process in such a way that it will not only help people with access to the workplace, but will provide viable emergency egress. For more on the committee, contact Alan Fraser, NFPA staff representative to the Committee at sfraser@nfpa.org.

"Since most fires happen in the home, escape planning is of prime importance for people with disabilities..."

People with disabilities and the home

Since most fires happen in the home, escape planning is of prime importance for people with disabilities, as it is for others. Fire departments or organizations that conduct smoke alarm installation programs can make these programs more inclusive by installing smoke alarms with special features for people with disabilities. Alarms with 10-year lithium batteries or alarms that can be tested with a television remote, for example, work for people who may be unable to stand on a ladder to test an alarm or change a battery. People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing are not able to hear conventional alarms and need alarms with strobe lights.

In the United States, Oklahoma State University Fire Protection Publications and the Massachusetts Fire Marshal's Office are implementing comprehensive smoke alarm programs for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Jennifer Mieth, public education manager for the Massachusetts Office of the Fire Marshal, conducts education sessions on fire safety and smoke alarms for all the people who receive alarms with strobe lights.

"Every smoke alarm project needs to have fire safety education

See 'People' on page 8

Learning about fire safety pays off

Once again learning about fire safety in the classroom has paid off for some very lucky winners of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council's Keeping Our Kids Safe campaign.

Open to elementary schools, teachers can register to take part in the campaign either online or by faxing their information to the Council. The campaign requires teachers to download and teach a safety lesson, and then submit a completed LESSON TAUGHT! form (either online or by fax). All names of participants are entered in the prize draw. Take a look at this years' winners!



Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle presents a trip to Florida to grand prize winner, Kris Singh, a teacher at Jefferson Public School in Brampton. On hand for the presentation were Deputy Fire Chief Andy MacDonald of Brampton Fire and Emergency Services. Onlookers include Singh's class, who were thrilled to speak with the Fire Marshal, OFM staff, Brampton Fire and Emergency Services staff and Gale Solomon-Henry, Jefferson Public School Principal.



Second prize winner was Leah James, teacher at Ridgeview Public School in Brampton. She received a weekend in Ottawa for two. Transportation through Via Rail Canada.



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People with Disabilities Day con't

to be effective," said Mieth. "This is even more important for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and who are unlikely to pick up this crucial information unless it is specifically directed to them."

Recently the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), in conjunction with the North Shore Fire Safety Education Committee, Alzheimer Society of Ontario and Alzheimer Society of Haldimand Norfolk County, developed a fire safety fact sheet to provide caregivers with

important fire safety information to provide a safer environment for those with Alzheimer Disease – and those who live with them. It is now available on the OFM website.

Information on where to purchase smoke alarms for people who are deaf and a directory of organizations serving people who are deaf can be found at www.nfpa.org. Also, to support your home safety planning activities NFPA's Fire Safety for People with Disabilities brochure emphasizes

fire safety in the home and is available from NFPA's online catalog. For an audiotape or Braille copies, contact the Center for High-Risk Outreach at 617-984-7285.

These resources can be utilized as a starting point toward including everyone in your fire safety planning activities for Fire Prevention week and throughout the year.

In Detail: Fire hazards and flammable hardwood floor finishing products:

Safety requirements and recommended practices

Over the past several years, a number of Ontario fires and explosions have been attributed to the improper use of flammable hardwood floor finishing products in homes. These incidents have resulted in injuries, fatalities, and significant property losses.

BY MICHAEL NG, P. ENG
OFM FIRE PROTECTION
ENGINEER

In 2000, Ontario experienced five incidents related to the improper use of flammable hardwood floor finishing products. Two of these incidents occurred over a three-day period and resulted in two separate fire fatalities. These fatalities subsequently led to a coroner's inquest.

Hardwood floor finishing products include adhesives, sealers, lacquers and finishes. Many of these products contain highly flammable organic solvents. The vapours that evolve at room temperature are susceptible to ignition when exposed to an ignition source. All solvents used for this application produce vapours that are considerably heavier than air and tend to accumulate at floor level or low areas such as pits and basements. They can migrate down to the basement if an unimpeded path such as a floor vent and/or open door is available. This exposes the vapours to potential ignition sources such as pilot lights on gas fireplaces, water heaters and furnaces, which are often found in the basement.

It is important that homeowners are aware of the fact that the Ontario Fire Code (OFC) regulates the storage, handling, processing and use of flammable and combustible liquids. Since many floor finishing products fall under this classification, they are subject to the applicable mandatory requirements. To eliminate the risk of fire and burn injury, here are some relevant OFC requirements and OFM recommended safety practices that should be followed when working with these products.

Recommended Safety Practices

- Use water-based floor finishing products.
- If a flammable liquid based product must be used:
- Hire only contractors that are properly trained, qualified and experienced to work with these products.
 - Carefully read and strictly follow precautions set out on the label and Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the product.
 - Seal all floor vents and shut interior doors leading to below grade levels to prevent the migration of vapours into

the basement.

- Seal off the room where the work is being performed to minimize the migration of vapours to adjacent areas within the floor. This also provides for more efficient ventilation of the work area.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment to protect against product exposure hazards as per Regulations for Construction Practices under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

OFC Requirements

- Provide adequate ventilation to the outside to ensure that the flammable vapour/air mixture concentration is maintained below 25% of the product's lower explosive limit (LEL) at all times throughout the room. This may involve opening exterior windows and doors and/or providing mechanical ventilation (i.e. an appropriately rated explosion-proof fan),

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Fire hazards and flammable hardwood floor finishing products

particularly at low levels, to ensure that vapours are removed from floor level.

- Provide mechanical ventilation that is capable of exhausting at a minimum rate of 1 cfm per square foot of floor area (18 m³/hour per square meter of floor area), but not less than 150 cfm (250 m³/hr) should achieve this. This ventilation should be maintained after the work is completed until the finish is dry. (OFC 4.1.7.)
- Flammable liquids based products are not permitted to be used in basements. It is very difficult to properly ventilate solvent vapours from basements because they are much heavier than air. (OFC 4.1.5.9.)
- Eliminate all ignition sources until vapours have been adequately ventilated. Open flames, heat sources and sparks can ignite flammable vapours. Common potential ignition sources include smokers' articles,

matches/lighters, natural gas appliance pilot lights (i.e. furnace, hot water heater, fireplace, dryer, etc.), cooking equipment, heating equipment, sparks generated by appliance electric motors (i.e. refrigerators), static electricity, and electric lights/switches. If practical, shut off electrical power until the finish is dry. (OFC 4.1.5.3., 4.1.5.4.)

- All electrical equipment (i.e. portable lighting) used by contractors where flammable vapours may be present, must be rated as explosion proof. (OFC 4.1.4.1.)
- The amount of floor finishing product permitted to be stored in the home is limited based on OFC quantity restrictions and the amount of other flammable and combustible liquids being stored at the time. Homeowners cannot store more than a total of 30 L flammable and combustible liquids in the home. Of this

amount, no more than 10 L can be a flammable liquid (flashpoint under 37.8 C) based product. Up to 50 L of flammable and combustible liquids can be stored in an attached garage or shed. Of this amount, no more than 30 L can be a flammable liquid based product. (OFC 4.2.4.5., 4.2.4.6.)

- Provide a non-combustible waste receptacle with a self-closing tightly fitted cover for disposal of waste rags and materials. Remove and dispose waste materials on a daily basis. (OFC 2.4.1.9., 3.7.3.2.)
- Provide a portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 2A-10BC rating in the area where the work is performed. (OFC 6.2.6.3.)
- Ensure that working smoke alarms are appropriately located on all storeys of the building. (OFC 2.13.)

Cybercamping with Sparky

On November 15, 2005 at Terrace Bay Public Library, Terrace Bay Fire Department held a cybercamp with Sparky. The goal of the cybercamp was to teach young children about fire safety at home. The day consisted of the children playing two computer games, Risk Watch and Sparky the Fire Dog, from the National Fire Protection Association (www.nfpa.org). Both games informatively presented

the children with different fire hazards and indicated how they should react to such hazards.

At one point during the day, Lt. Jeff Pope went over the **Stop, Drop and Roll** technique with the children and gave some fire safety tips on what to do should there be a fire in their homes. A total of nine children attended the cybercamp.

Photo courtesy of Ken Benoit, Fire Chief, Terrace Bay Fire Department.



Got questions about the new smoke alarm requirements?

As a result of an amendment to the Ontario Fire Code in December 2005, every home in Ontario is now required to have working smoke alarms on every storey, as well as outside all sleeping areas. The new requirement took effect on March 1, 2006. (For more information on the Fire Code amendment, refer to communiqué no. 2005-35.)

In previous months, the OFM has undertaken and will continue to undertake considerable public education efforts to raise property owners' and tenants' awareness about this new regulation, to ensure widespread compliance.

In addition to numerous resources being available for distribution to the public, members of the fire service need to be informed about the regulation and suggested strategies for enforcing it. The following pages are based on some of the technical questions you may have as a member of the Ontario fire service. Answers have been provided. If you have further questions about Section 2.13 of the Ontario Fire Code, please contact Bruce Weaver, OFM Fire Protection Specialist at 416-325-3175 or bruce.weaver@jus.gov.on.ca.

What dwelling units are regulated by Section 2.13 of the Fire Code?

Section 2.13 applies to all detached houses, semi-detached houses and row houses where each house is occupied as a dwelling unit. (A dwelling unit is defined by the Fire Code as meaning "a suite operated as a housekeeping unit, used or intended to be used as a domicile by one or more persons and usually containing cooking, eating, living, sleeping and sanitary facilities".)

A seasonal home, such as a cabin or cottage, is also considered a dwelling unit for the purpose of this Section. Section 2.13 also captures any other dwelling unit that is not otherwise regulated by Retrofit, Part 9 of the Fire Code. For example, where a

building contains a mixed use of occupancies and also contains one or two dwelling units, Section 2.13 would require the dwelling unit(s) to be provided with smoke alarms.

Part 9 regulates houses containing secondary apartment units and most multi-storey, multi-unit residential buildings. Smoke alarm requirements for these buildings are already contained in Part 9 of the Fire Code and Section 2.13 does not apply to these units.

Does Section 2.13 apply equally to dwelling units that are owner occupied and rental units?

Yes. Each dwelling unit is regulated regardless of the ownership arrangement.

Where are smoke alarms required to be located in each dwelling unit?

A smoke alarm is required to be installed between each sleeping area and the remainder of the dwelling unit. Where the sleeping areas are served by hallways, the smoke alarms must be installed in the hallways.

In addition, at least one smoke alarm is required to be installed on each storey that does not contain a sleeping area.

Where a dwelling unit is of a split-level design, is a smoke alarm required on each separate level?

No. A smoke alarm is not required on each level in a split-level dwelling unit because each level does not count as a separate "storey".

To determine the number of storeys in a dwelling unit, and thus determine the number of smoke alarms required, it is necessary to first identify the "first storey" of the dwelling unit.

The Fire Code defines the "first storey" as meaning the storey with its floor closest to grade and having its ceiling more than 1.8 metres above grade.

Once the first storey has been identified, it is then possible

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The Messenger needs your news

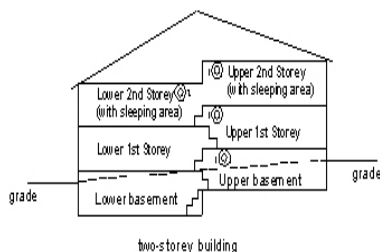
If you have an item you would like to see published in Update Ontario, please send it to: The Editor, The Ontario Fire Service Messenger, Office of the Fire Marshal, Place Nouveau Building,

5775 Yonge Street, 7th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M2M 4J1.
Tel: 416-325-3138, fax: 416-325-3119 or email carol.gravelle@jus.gov.on.ca

The OFM has answers...

to identify the basement. The Fire Code defines a basement as meaning a storey or storeys of a building located below the first storey. Similarly, once the first storey is identified, it is then possible to identify the second storey and, where applicable, the third storey.

As illustrated below, a storey can consist of more than one level. Only one smoke alarm is required to be installed in each storey (see note 1). However, when a dwelling unit contains multiple sleeping areas, a smoke alarm must be installed to protect each separate sleeping area. This may necessitate additional smoke alarms on some levels of a split-level home (see note 2). The following illustrated example of a split-level dwelling unit is provided for clarification.



Note 1: One smoke alarm required for each of the basement, first and second storeys.

Note 2: An additional smoke alarm is required on the lower level of the second storey due to sleeping rooms.

When a storey includes two levels, where is the best place to install the smoke alarm?

It is best to install the smoke alarm in the higher ceiling area, as the

smoke alarm will react quickest to smoke development in either area in this arrangement. As well, smoke alarms are best installed near the stairs that interconnect the levels or storeys. Always install the smoke alarms on the ceiling or on the upper portion of a wall in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Many homes have existing smoke alarms that are hardwired to an electrical circuit. Where additional smoke alarms are installed, are these required to be hardwired as well?

No. Any additional smoke alarms required by Section 2.13 of the Fire Code are permitted to be battery powered.

It is best to install the smoke alarm in the higher ceiling area, as the smoke alarm will react quickest to smoke development in either area in this arrangement. As well, smoke alarms are best installed near the stairs that interconnect the levels or storeys. Always install the smoke alarms on the ceiling or on the upper portion of a wall in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

A dwelling unit has two existing smoke alarms that are hardwired to an electrical circuit and interconnected to each other. When one activates, the second smoke alarm also activates at the same time. If additional smoke alarms are being installed to comply with the Fire Code, do they have to be electrically

interconnected to the existing smoke alarms?

No. The additional smoke alarms may be battery powered and need not be interconnected. Additional hardwired smoke alarms would also satisfy the requirements, whether or not they are interconnected. However, interconnected smoke alarms are a good idea for maximum protection.

Is it permissible to replace existing permanently hardwired individual smoke alarms or electrically interconnected smoke alarms with battery powered smoke alarms?

No. When smoke alarms are being replaced, the installation must not reduce the level of detection required by the Building Code in effect at the time of construction of the dwelling unit, or by municipal by-laws in effect before the Fire Code adopted this requirement. This requirement is contained in Sentence 6.3.3.5.(1) of the Fire Code. In other words, existing permanently wired individual smoke alarms or electrically interconnected smoke alarm installations must be maintained to provide the same level of protection as originally required. Any replacement smoke alarms must be of a type comparable to the original (or better).

Is a cellar, attic space or crawl space required to have a smoke alarm installed under the changes to Section 2.13 of the Fire Code?

A space without a finished floor is not considered a storey and

Continued on page 13

Fire brigade gets more equipment

Members of the Longbow Lake Fire Brigade are thrilled to receive this 1999 GMC, four-wheel drive



From left are Fire Chief John Baker, Longbow Lake Fire Brigade, Pat Magee and Wes Manulak, both of TransCanada PipeLines.

truck, donated by TransCanada PipeLines Limited. The truck will be re-furbished to become a first response vehicle for the volunteer fire brigade, carrying equipment and firefighters to highway traffic collisions and wildfires.

The Longbow Lake Fire Brigade is a non-profit and charitable organization that provides fire suppression and emergency response services to Kirkup and LeMay townships. The department is composed of volunteers entirely and

is funded by donations from the community.

TransCanada PipeLines, through their Community Investment Department, seeks to identify and forge meaningful partnerships with not-for-profit organizations that enhance the value of community-based initiatives and improve the quality of life for residents of the communities in which they work, live and conduct business.

The Longbow Lake Fire Brigade greatly appreciates the opportunity to partner with TransCanada PipeLines, and their support in the donation of this vehicle.

Continued from page 12

...to your smoke alarm requirement questions

therefore smoke alarms are not required.

"Attic space" is defined in the Fire Code as a space between the roof and the ceiling of the top "storey" (i.e. cavity within the roof space). As such, it is not designated as a "storey" and a smoke alarm is not required. However, an attic or roof space that has a floor and contains a living space or storage is no longer an "attic space" by definition. Such a space is considered a "storey" and a smoke alarm must be installed.

A "crawl space" is not defined in the Fire Code but generally refers to a cavity space located beneath the house or a portion of the house and typically has a very low

overhead. A crawl space without a finished floor is not a storey and does not require a smoke alarm. Where a crawl space has a finished floor and is used for storage or contains an appliance, it is a storey and requires a smoke alarm. A crawl space that extends out from an adjoining basement does not require a separate smoke alarm since a smoke alarm is already required to protect the basement. "Cellar" is defined in the Fire Code as a basement that is more than 50% below grade. A cellar, like a basement is considered a "storey". A smoke alarm is required to be installed in a space that falls under the definition of a cellar.

Is it permissible to install additional smoke alarms beyond the minimum required in Section 2.13?

Yes. The regulation does not prohibit the installation of additional smoke alarms beyond the minimum number that are required. In larger homes, in homes where there are room and ceiling configurations that may interfere with the movement of smoke, or in homes where people sleep with bedroom doors closed, it is recommended to install additional smoke alarms to enhance early detection of smoke and warning of fire.

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.

Online Terrorism/Hazardous Materials Awareness now revised

BY CHERYL ROSELL
EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

With updates to the Emergency Response Guidebook 2004 (ERG 2004), the Fire Marshal's online self-study course for Terrorism/Hazardous Materials Awareness for First Responders in Ontario has been updated to reflect those changes. This course was developed in response to ongoing concerns for public safety as a result of hazardous materials incidents and potential threats and acts of terrorism. The revisions were made in consultation with multi-agency stakeholders.

This updated course meets NFPA 472, Standard for Professional Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials Incidents (2002 Edition). The purpose is to specify competencies for those who respond to hazardous materials incidents at the awareness level.

As before, the primary target audience for this course includes the following groups:

- Fire service personnel
- Emergency medical service responders
- Hazardous materials responders
- Law enforcement personnel

- Provincial Emergency Management Officers
- In addition, this course is also designed to benefit
- Emergency communications personnel
 - Community Emergency Management Coordinators
 - Municipal emergency co-ordinators
 - Emergency management personnel

- Public health workers
- Hospital and community-based emergency medical personnel
- Security personnel
- Plant protection staff

Before starting, participants are encouraged to obtain a copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook 2004 (ERG 2004). This guidebook is distributed free of charge to Public

See "distributed" on page 15

Fire service certification update

Firefighter Certification Program

	Departments	Firefighters
Enrolled	190	15,498

	Career Firefighters	Firefighters
Total Certified:	1,717	607

Fire Prevention Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Fire Prevention Officers
Enrolled	82	474
Total Certified:		158

Company Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Company Officers
Enrolled	60	1,151
Total Certified:		20

Training Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Training Officers
Enrolled	33	101

Statistics as of February 6, 2006.

Firefighters in POVs given access to closed roads



**BY TONY
PACHECO**
EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT TO THE
FIRE MARSHAL

Ontario firefighters have been given new authority to access closed roads when traveling to an emergency in Personally Owned Vehicles (POVs) thanks to a recent legislative amendment.

Bill 169, Transportation Statute Law Amendment Act 2005, received Royal Assent on November 21, 2005. It amended the Highway Traffic Act to allow firefighters to respond on closed roads in personally owned vehicles, in the performance of their duties.

The idea of the closed road strategy was spurred on by a concern raised by the Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Department. It was based on a firefighter from this fire department who responded to an emergency on a road that was

closed due to weather conditions. Unfortunately, the firefighter became involved in a collision with a police cruiser that was stopped on the road and as a result of this collision, the firefighter faced increased car insurance rates.

Little did anyone know that this concern would see the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), the Ontario fire service and a number of stakeholder groups working together as a cohesive unit over the past year to develop a long-term strategy to address the issue of firefighters driving their POVs on closed roads.

The first OFM-led strategy session began in January 2005 when representatives from fire service and municipal stakeholder groups were invited to provide input into the development of a suitable long-term strategy. Those who accepted the invitation and became members of the Closed Road Working Group included: Ministry of Transportation; Ontario Association of

Fire Chiefs; Ontario Provincial Police; Fire Fighters Association of Ontario; Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Municipal Health and Safety Association of Ontario; Insurance Bureau of Canada; and the Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Department.

The goal of the Closed Road Working Group was to develop a comprehensive long-term solution and to seek support for a legislative change to the Highway Traffic Act, 1990.

"This is a great success story primarily for fire services that serve rural communities and utilize volunteer firefighters that respond in their own vehicles," said Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle. "Before this change, firefighters and police faced a tough decision on whether to obey the [Highway Traffic] Act in such a situation or break the law by allowing a personal vehicle on a closed road in the interest of protecting public safety."

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Safety Organizations by Transport Canada, Safety and Security.

Those who have taken the course previously are encouraged to review it in order to maintain currency in relation to the required competencies.

To access this course, go to the web site of the Office of the Fire Marshal, www.ofm.gov.on.ca and look under Multi-Agency Preparedness/Response. Participants who complete this self-study course and submit the application form found in Appendix A will receive a Certificate of Completion from the Ontario Fire College.



In February, a group of fire service stakeholders (From left to right: Scott Heard, (A) Captain, City of Vaughan Fire & Rescue Department; Leslie Kennedy, Educational Consultant, Academic Standards and Evaluation, OFM; Bill Sullivan, D/C Training, Toronto Fire Services; Tony Weir, Training Officer, Barrie Fire & Emergency Service; Alan Brody, Training Officer, Mnjikaning Fire Rescue Service; Phil Carr, (A) Captain, City of Vaughan Fire & Rescue Department; (seated) Garry Hobson, Training Officer, Central York Fire Services) met to amend the simulations guide. Stay linked to www.ofm.gov.on.ca for the revised guide.

Continued from page 15

POVs and closed roads con't

As part of the overall strategy, the OFM believed firefighter safety should be maintained as a priority and should be addressed prior to the implementation of any legislative change. That is why the working group focused its efforts on the development of other documents to support an amendment to the Highway Traffic Act. These included an OFM Public Fire Safety Guideline that would include contingency planning considerations for responses on closed roads; Sample Emergency Road Closure Notification Protocol; a sample standard operational guideline (SOG) for the fire service that would handle firefighter emergency response in POVs; and training for firefighters who use POVs to respond to emergencies.

The OFM also worked with the Insurance Bureau of Canada to send out a bulletin to its members mentioning the passage of Bill 169 and requesting the insurance industry to provide firefighters with 'claims forgiveness' for at fault claims submitted as a result of collisions that may occur while a fire-

fighter is responding to an emergency in a POV. The bulletin was issued in December 2005 and indicates that for individual firefighters with 'clean' driving records, support was being sought from the insurance industry to provide forgiveness for the first at-fault accident provided there were no other serious convictions connected with the collision, for example, careless or impaired driving.

Although changes to the Highway Traffic Act allow firefighters to use their POVs in the performance of their duties, firefighters still need to adhere to all the rules of the road in order to safeguard their safety when responding to emergencies.

"It is vital that firefighters remember that they have no right to speed, ignore traffic signals or posted signs when responding to emergencies," Moyle continued. "The OFM would urge all fire departments to hold training sessions in the coming months to remind staff of their rights and responsibilities when responding in their own vehicles and ensure they

are aware of all legislation and insurance issues surrounding the issue."

A teaching plan with operational guidelines was inserted in the last edition of *The Messenger* to assist in the training process and to ensure all firefighters are aware of safe driving practices in POVs.

On December 1, 2005 the Office of the Fire Marshal released its third communiqué regarding closed roads. Communiqué 2005-34: Firefighter Response in Personally Owned Vehicles on Closed Roads: Transportation Statute Law Amendment Act, 2005 and Implementation Documents for the Fire Service provides additional information and is available on the OFM website at www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

Additionally, firefighters will have new authority to direct traffic sometime in the coming year with a second amendment also having been introduced through the passage of Bill 169. This revision to legislation will not come into force until proclamation, which is not anticipated until at least Spring 2006.

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 2006: 5 fatal fires resulting in 5 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	3	1	4
65 and over	1	0	1
Total	4	1	5

Fire Cause

Time of Day

Accidental.....	2	0001-0800.....	1
Undetermined.....	0	0801-1600.....	1
Under Investigation.....	2	1601-1800.....	0
Incendiary.....	1	1801-0000.....	3

Locations of fatal fires: Athens and Rear of Yonge and Escott (1); Hamilton (1); Timmins City (1) and Toronto(2)..

February 2006: 4 fatal fires resulting in 6 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	2	0	2
16-64	2	1	3
65 and over	1	0	1
Total	5	1	6

Fire Cause

Time of Day

Accidental.....	1	0001-0800.....	5
Undetermined.....	0	0801-1600.....	0
Under Investigation.....	3	1601-1800.....	1
Incendiary.....	0	1801-0000.....	0

Location of fatal fires: Clarington (1); Ottawa (1); Scugog (3) and Woodstock (1).

Candle blamed for blaze

BY RACHELE LABRECQUE
STANDARD-FREEHOLDER
(CORNWALL)

In early January, Cornwall fire department arrived at an apartment unit where an unattended candle had sparked a fire.

"The fire was extinguished and contained to the living room area of one unit," said Michel Bickerstaffe, Senior Fire Prevention Officer, Cornwall Fire Department. "The smoke and heat damage was significant. The fire was deemed accidental and the ignition source was a candle. The building was ventilated to clear the smoke in the hallways."

Damage was estimated at more than \$50,000.

Excerpted from the January 10, 2005 edition of the Standard-Freeholder (Cornwall).

Girl's firefighting effort backfires

BY MONIQUE BEECH
THE STANDARD
(ST.CATHARINES-NIAGARA)

Luck wasn't working for a 15-year-old Lincoln girl who tried to save her home from fire and inadvertently started one.

The girl was home alone at about 3 p.m. when an ember flew from the wood-burning stove and hit the floor of her two-storey home, said Lincoln Fire Chief Scott Blake.

Panicked, the girl picked up the ember with a piece of cardboard and flung it outside, only to hit a pile of building materials. The

material ignited and flames spread to the house, including a large porch.

"It was going pretty good when we got there," said Blake. "We quickly knocked it down. They were fortunate."

Had the girl recalled the fire safety message "Get out and stay out!" the situation probably would not have escalated to this level. Damage is estimated at about \$35,000.

Excerpted from the January 17, 2006 edition of The Standard (St. Catharines-Niagara).

Smoke alarms save

In late January firefighters arrived at a house fire just outside of Simcoe. Extremely heavy smoke and an aggressive fire caused close to \$100,000 in damage to the raised bungalow and its contents. It could have been much worse.

The lone occupant of the house was alerted by a working smoke alarm, and escaped without any burns but was suffering from smoke inhalation. Several cats were rescued by firefighters and a dog was rescued by a neighbour.

Norfolk County Fire & Rescue Fire Chief Denys Prevost said "It is lucky this home had a working smoke alarm to alert the occupant with enough time to escape from this fast moving fire. Another smoke alarm in the basement might have provided additional warning time."

As of March 1, 2006, smoke alarms are required on all storeys of a home, including outside all sleeping areas.

Volunteers get firefighting tool

BY MARY GOLEM
OWEN SOUND SUN TIMES

Volunteer firefighters with the Chesley and Area Fire Department have added a piece of equipment that will enhance their capabilities as firefighters.

Thanks to a fundraising effort, major donations from Chesley's Homecoming and a Grande Olde

Opry event and financial support from companies and individuals, the Chesley and Area Fire Department now has a \$12,500 thermal imaging camera.

Both the shape of an object and its temperature can be detected with the camera, enhancing firefighters' search and rescue efforts, as well as offering support in fire detection, location and knowledge if the fire

is spreading.

"It is really a vital tool for firefighters and we are so grateful to the community for its support," said Deputy Fire Chief Robert Bell.

Excerpted from the January 4, 2006 edition of the Owen Sound Sun Times.

What is the difference between “level” and “storey”?

The difference between “level” and “storey” is that storey is a defined term in the Ontario Fire Code and level is not. To determine the number of storeys in a dwelling unit, and thus determine the number of smoke alarms required, it is necessary to first identify the “first storey” of the dwelling unit.

The Fire Code defines the “first

storey” as meaning the storey with its floor closest to grade and having its ceiling more than 1.8 metres above grade.

Once the first storey has been identified, it is then possible to identify the basement. The Fire Code defines a basement as meaning a storey or storeys of a building located below the first storey. Similarly, once the first

storey is identified, it is then possible to identify the second storey and, where applicable, the third storey.

Using language already defined in the Fire Code will help everyone understand the new requirement and ensure consistency of messaging throughout Ontario.

Firefighters get life saver awards

BY HEATHER CRAWFORD
THE NORTH HURON CITIZEN

Blyth firefighters were presented with awards from their local hospital in December after they saved the life of a Brussels resident using a defibrillator.

The Blyth Fire Department is the only department in Huron County to have the medical training to use a defibrillator and it certainly paid off when they used it to save a man's life on November 18.

The man, was working in the field of a farm close to Blyth with his friend and neighbour when a combine caught on fire. His friend ran to call the fire department and came back to find the man had suffered a heart attack.

“He worked on me until the fire department came,” the man said. The neighbour performed CPR on his friend immediately, prolonging his life until the fire department arrived on the scene.

“[The firefighters] had to get me down because I was on top of the combine,” he said. “They worked on me until the ambulance arrived.”

“This is why we’ve been doing

medical training for all these years,” Captain David Sparling said. “It’s the ultimate reward for our firefighters to be able to save a life.”

The awards were given to the firefighters from their base hospital, Grey-Bruce General in Owen Sound, as well as a certificate to the entire department accepted by Fire Chief Paul Josling.

“I think [the medical training] is a valuable service to the community,” Josling said. He added that the firefighters had used the training at least a dozen times before.

Dr. Don Eby, Chief of Staff for Grey-Bruce General Hospital, distributed the certificates to the department on December 7.

“He’s a very strong supporter of [First Response training],” Josling said.

The man, who is now recovering well said being attended to by firefighters before an ambulance arrived is not common in many areas.

“I certainly appreciate the help of the fire department. A lot of times that doesn’t happen.”

Excerpted from the December 15, 2005 edition of The North Huron Citizen.



Back row from left: Fire service personnel Captain David Sparling, Rob Kolkman, Lieutenant Paul Kerr join Grey-Bruce General Hospital chief of staff Dr. Don Eby. Front row from left: Lieutenant Mike McDonald, Mike Pawitch, Doug Cloakey, Frank Saunders and Jeff Josling. Absent: Herb Govier. Photo courtesy of Heather Crawford, The North Huron Citizen.

Brampton Fire measures results of Home Safe Home program

BY CHRIS GOUGEON
BRAMPTON FIRE AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Each year, from May through to September, Brampton Fire and Emergency Services regularly visit local shopping malls and farmers' markets. But they aren't shopping. Instead Brampton Fire's 60 suppression crews use the visits to raise awareness about the importance of home fire escape plans and working smoke alarms as part of their annual Home Safe Home program.

In 2004, the program adopted a random survey. In addition to increasing the awareness level of Brampton residents, the survey provides Brampton Fire and Emergency Services with answers that can be used as measurable results to further evaluate the percentage of Brampton families who possess the knowledge to create and implement an Escape Plan for themselves, in their own homes.

The crews get to decide which venue they would like to visit. They return to the venue as many times as necessary until each crew has conducted at least 200 surveys and given an information package to each person who completes a survey. The crews also randomly distribute an additional 300 information packages to passerby.

Each information package is developed with the objective of increasing fire safety awareness and contains a cover letter from Brampton Fire Chief Terry Irwin, OFM "Facts about Smoke Alarms" pamphlet, Brampton Fire's "Home Fire Safety" pamphlet and an instructional sheet on "How to

Make an Escape Plan" with grid paper printed on the back. Each year Brampton Fire adds one additional piece of information into its packages. In 2005, the piece of the information stressed the need for clear and visible house numberings. In 2006, the recent Fire Code amendment requiring a smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas in the home will be emphasized.

A large portion of the success of this program is due to public interaction with 'real, live' firefighters: one of the best forms of educational awareness available. Residents in the community can choose not to read the newspaper, listen to the radio, watch television or surf the Internet, but it is difficult to ignore a firefighter directly asking "Do you have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms on every storey of your home?"

The survey consists of four questions with each question dealing with a segment of the steps required to make an Escape Plan:

1. If the smoke alarm goes off in your home, indicating a fire, do you think you would have enough time to collect valuables before you get out?
2. If you discovered fire in your home should you call 9-1-1 before you leave your home?
3. Do you think that one path of escape from the home is enough?
4. Is everyone in your home aware of a meeting place once outside?

It is assumed that if a resident answers all four questions correctly they have the knowledge to create and implement an Escape Plan. The number of "all correct" answers was then tallied to calculate

a percentage of the population that had the knowledge to create an Escape Plan. In 2004, the percentage of people who answered all four answers correctly was 26.4% while the data from 2005 showed almost a six percent increase to 32.3%.

In 2005 Brampton firefighters surveyed almost 11,000 people and distributed more than 27,000 information packages at a cost of less than \$3,000. Each person gave the name of their street and the firefighters assigned the fire area numbering system to be used later to plot on the city map the number of "hits" in each area. This allowed for an analysis of the saturation of contacts in the city showing that the areas with the highest concentration received the highest number of "hits."

Brampton Fire and Emergency Services will continue with the Home Safe Home program for a period of five years and track any variations in the answers received. Due to the large number of those surveyed and the large percentage of correct answers, the program demonstrates a willingness by Brampton residents to be informed about fire safety, specifically how to create a home fire escape plan and the importance of working smoke alarms. Based on this information, Brampton Fire believes that the continuation of this program and their efforts will increase these numbers to further underline how the program is worthwhile and necessary. The question that remains is what percentage of **YOUR** population has the knowledge to make an Escape Plan?

New in the OFM Library

Check out our latest books and videos from the Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre. We provide 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, 80+ journals, and over 1,300 audio-visual resources. A full listing of new resources is available on our website!

New Books

Carbon Monoxide: A Clear and Present Danger by Bob Dwyer. (2003)

Emergency Responder Training Manual for the Hazardous Materials Technician by Wiley-Interscience. (2005)

Fire Safety in High-Rise Buildings by National Fire Protection Association. (2003)

Fire Officer Coaching by Fire Protection Publications. (2005)

Fire Protection Systems for Special Hazards by National Fire Protection Association. (2004)

Introduction To Fire Pump Operations by Thomas Sturtevant. (2005)

The NFPA Guide To Gas Safety by Carl Rivkin. (2005)

Plans Examiner: For Fire and Emergency Services by Fire Protection Publications. (2005)



New Videos and DVDs

Candles: Tiny Flame, Deadly Threat. (2005)

Program aims to inform viewers about the dangers associated with candle use. Discusses how candle fires commonly start and how to use candles safely and prevent fires.

Fundamentals of Fire Fighter Skills. Skills and Drills Series. (2005)

No. 1 Response and Size Up

No. 2 Ropes and Knots

No. 3 Forcible Entry and Search and Rescue

No. 4 Ladders and Ventilation

No. 5 Extinguishers

No. 6 Fire Suppression

No. 7 Salvage and Overhaul

No. 8 Special Operations



Go for Safety: A Children's Guide to Home Fire Safety (2004)

Aims to teach children ages seven to nine years old fire safe behaviours through interactive lessons. Covers: matches and lighters, smoke alarms, escape planning, crawling low under smoke and **Stop, Drop and Roll**.



Portrait of a Serial Arsonist: The Paul Keller Story (1993)

Documentary looks at one of the most terrifying serial arsonists, Paul Keller who was responsible for nearly 100 fires and damages estimated at more than \$35 million dollars.

The Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre are located in the Office of the Fire Marshal serving staff and residents of Ontario. 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 website by clicking on Resource Centre at <http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca> Phone: (Library) 416-325-3235/3236, (Audio-Visual) 416-325-3121, Email: firesciences.information@ofm.ca.



Pesticide notifications and reporting requirements for fire departments

BY DON MITCHELL
REGIONAL PESTICIDE
SPECIALIST, ONTARIO
MINISTRY OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

Notices to Fire Departments

Yearly, most fire departments receive notices (post cards and letters) from businesses advising of the storage of pesticides. This article explains why these notices are being sent and what they mean to a fire department.

In Ontario, the Ministry of the Environment regulates the selling and usage of pesticides, under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 914. Section 114 of the regulation requires all pesticide vendors and extermination businesses, who store pesticides of a certain Schedule, to submit an annual report to their local Fire Department.

In order to understand why the cards and letters are required and what their contents mean, it is imperative to understand the basics of pesticide regulation.

Who Regulates Pesticides?

In Canada, pesticides are regulated by at least two and sometimes three levels of government. Health Canada, through its Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), regulates pesticide products under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada). Pesticides sold or used in Ontario, must be: approved by Health Canada, have a valid Pest Control Products Act registration number, be classified

by Ontario and placed in an Ontario Schedule. For more information about Health Canada and the Pest Management Regulatory Agency, please visit: www.pmra-arla.gov.on.ca.

Each province regulates the sale, storage, use, disposal and transportation of Federally Registered Pesticides. Licensing and certification of pesticide users also falls under provincial legislation. Municipalities may further restrict pesticide use within their municipal jurisdictions.

What is a pesticide "Schedule"?

Pesticides come in many varieties and have different human health and environmental risks. They may be found in a powder, solid, liquid or a gas form. Some may be immediately dangerous to human health and/or the environment, such as Methyl Bromide gas. Others may be less hazardous, such as the common household compound, insecticidal soap. In some cases, it is necessary to restrict access to types of pesticides, limited to trained and licensed individuals. Other variations may be used by the general public.

The Ontario Pesticide Advisory Committee (OPAC) is a multidisciplinary body, created to advise government on pesticide issues and to allow for their classification. Before a pesticide can be used in Ontario, it must be classified by OPAC and placed into one of six Schedules. Highly toxic and/or persistent pesticides are



classified and listed in Schedules 1, 2 and 5. Pesticides posing a lower risk to human health and the environment are classified and listed in Schedule 3. Those that pose the lowest risk, which can be used by the general public, are located in Schedules 4 and 6.

For more information on OPAC, the lists of pesticides approved for use in Ontario and how they are classified, please visit www.opac.gov.on.ca. You may also contact your local Ontario Ministry of the Environment's Pesticide Specialist.

Who can use or sell pesticides?

The Pesticides Act and regulation 914 restrict the sale and use of pesticides classified in Schedules 1, 2 and 5 to licensed exterminators. Non-exterminators may request a special permit, for some products.

Pesticides classified in Schedules 3, 4 and 6 are generally available to homeowners. A Vendors Licence is required to sell pesticides listed in Schedules 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. A specialized General Vendors Licence, which includes training

Continued on page 22

Continued from page 21

Pesticides and the fire service

and certification of an outlet representative, is required to sell higher risk pesticides, classified in Schedules 1, 2 and 5. This type of licence is usually held by Agricultural Supply companies and pesticide wholesalers. Retailers such as big box stores, supermarket chain stores, hardware chain stores and garden centres, generally have a Limited Vendors Licence allowing them to sell only the lower risk pesticides, which have been classified in Schedules 3, 4 and 6.

Why is annual notification important for fire departments?

Section 124 of Regulation 914 is intended to proactively provide fire department personnel with advanced location knowledge of where pesticides are stored. With this information, fire departments may take additional precautions in their fire fighting initiatives to ensure public safety and ensure the protection of the environment.

Extra precautions may be required and will be determined by the type and volume of pesticides in storage. If a large amount of toxic pesticides (Schedule 1, 2 or 5) were involved in a fire in an urban

setting, evacuation of people close to the fire may be considered. If the fire involves a large amount of less toxic pesticides, (Schedules 3, 4 and 6) near a sensitive waterway, firefighting techniques involving reduced water volumes, may be considered.

Reporting Pesticide Spills and Fires to Ministry of the Environment (MOE)

The duty to report pesticide spills typically rests with the person responsible for the pesticide. However, others may also have a reporting duty. When pesticides are involved in a fire, it is recommended that the fire department notify the ministry's Spills Action Centre, by calling: 1-800-268-6060.

Under the Pesticides Act and Regulation 914, Section 29(1), when pesticides are spilled or are involved in a fire, the person responsible for the pesticide must report the spill or fire to the MOE, when it causes or is likely to cause an impact on a person or the environment. In the case of a pesticide vendor, this could be an employee or the storeowner. In the case of an extermination business,

it could be the business owner or a designated employee.

Under the Environmental Protection Act Part X Section 29, every person who spills or causes a spill of a pollutant causing or is likely to cause an adverse effect, shall notify the Ministry. In this case when pesticides are spilled as a result of firefighting activity, the fire department should be reporting this to the Ministry.

The most effective method for anyone to report a spill is by calling the Spills Action Centre at: 1-800-268-6060.

Where can I get more pesticide information?

For more information about the Ontario Pesticides Act and regulation 914, you may contact your Regional Pesticide Specialist at a Ministry office near you.

- Toronto 1-800-810-8048
- Hamilton 1-800-668-4557
- Kingston 1-800-267-0974
- London 1-800-265-7672
- Sudbury 1-800-890-8516
- Thunder Bay 1-800-875-7772

Smoke alarm saves the day

In late February, three units from Guelph Fire Department responded to a fire in progress. On arrival, firefighters found a small fire in a second floor bedroom. The fire was quickly brought under control and subsequently extinguished. All smoke was also ventilated from the house.

Fortunately there were no injuries thanks to a working smoke alarm. The occupants of the home (one adult male and three children) immediately left the building upon hearing the smoke alarm. Once again, the value of a working smoke alarm cannot be underestimated.



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.

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 are invited to attend a ceremony in a bordering district. To make arrangements, contact OFM Acting Awards Coordinator Heather Wadden at 416-325-3106.

Fire Service Calendar 2006

March 21	Regional Municipalities Of York, Halton & Peel Investiture Awards	Markham, ON
April 16 - 22	Wildfire Prevention Week	Ontario
April 27	Waterloo, Wellington, Brant & Perth, Huron Investiture Awards	TBA
May 6 - 10	OAFC Annual Meeting and Seminar	Toronto, ON
May 18	Chatham-Kent, Essex, Lambton Investiture Awards	TBA
June 5 - 8	OMFPOA Training Educational Symposium	Barrie, ON
June 15	Ottawa-Carleton, Prescott-Russell, Lanark, Stormont-Dundas, Renfrew Investiture Awards	TBA
June 21	Fire Safety Awards	Toronto, ON
July 27	Elgin, Huron, Middlesex, Oxford Investiture Awards	TBA
August 3 - 6	Fire Fighter's Association of Ontario Convention	Essex, ON
August 24	Algoma, S.S. Marie, Manitoulin, Nipissing, North Bay, Sudbury Investiture Awards	TBA
Sept. 14 - 16	FireCon	Thunder Bay, ON
Sept. 14	Kenora, Rainy River, Thunder Bay Investiture Awards	Thunder Bay, ON
Oct. 8 - 14	Fire Prevention Week	Ontario
Oct. 19	Hamilton-Wentworth, Haldimand-Norfolk, Niagara Investiture Awards	TBA
Nov. 14 & 21	Toronto, Etobicoke, North York, East York, Scarborough & York Investiture Awards	TBA
Nov. 15 - 17	Public Educators' Conference	Cambridge, ON

U of Waterloo dryer-stove design challenge

BY BETH WECKMAN, P. ENG
PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING
UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

This is the challenge that has been presented to the 32 fourth year Mechanical Engineering students in Professor Weckman's Fire Safety Engineering class at University of Waterloo (UW) this winter. As one part of their course marks, these students are hard at work addressing the following challenge:

You are engineers working for ApplianceSafe Incorporated and have been asked by the Electrical Safety Authority to look into the occurrence and root causes of stove and dryer fires in Ontario. They require you to develop at least one innovative, yet practical, design concept that can be retrofitted into existing stoves and dryers or incorporated into new stove or dryer designs to mitigate the possibility of occurrence of fires in these appliances. With the help of the Electrical Safety Authority and the Office of the Fire Marshal of Ontario, students

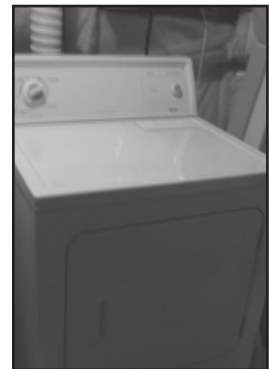
are first conducting background research to identify the most common causes of stove and dryer fires in the Canadian context. Engineering and fire safety analysis will then be applied to link several common causes of fire to possible design issues within the appliances. Once the weakest points in existing designs are identified, each student team will propose design modifications or totally new designs and analyze them from points of view such as cost, benefit, practicality, etc., in order to assess and justify the feasibility of each design and its potential to reduce the likelihood of fire from the identi-

fied cause(s).

So far, the students have organized themselves into 12 design teams, with six teams taking on the dryer challenge and the other six tackling issues in stove design. Much of the necessary background information has been assembled and the teams are currently working very hard to meet specific deadlines, like the identi-

fication of important design issues and presentation of preliminary new design concepts. Recently two stoves and two dryers arrived at the university, graciously donated by Frigidaire for students to dismantle and examine during the course of the Challenge. The donation of these appliances is of great benefit, as it will help the students visualize the internal workings of a typical appliance, as well as aid the design teams in understanding possible causes for fires and provide a real-life test bed for their preliminary design ideas and concepts. With UW's successful record in student design and innovation, we look forward to seeing the results of the First Annual ESA-UW Dryer-Stove Design Challenge! due in mid-April.

For more information about the Challenge, please contact Professor Beth Weckman at 519-888-4567 or ejweckman@uwaterloo.ca.



Questions & Answers: Smoke Alarms

From page 4

A.1 It is best to install the smoke alarm in the higher ceiling area, as the smoke alarm will react quickest to smoke development in either area in this arrangement. As well, smoke alarms are best installed near the stairs that interconnect the levels or storeys. Always install the smoke alarms on the ceiling or on the upper portion of a wall in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

A.2 No. The additional smoke alarms may be battery powered and need not be inter-connected. Additional hardwired smoke alarms would also satisfy the requirements, whether or not they are interconnected. However, interconnected smoke alarms are a good idea for maximum protection.

Visit www.ofm.gov.on.ca for more information on the new smoke alarm requirement.

OFM News Update

Leslie Kennedy left the OFM on February 28. Leslie was an education consultant in Academic Standards & Evaluation.

Kathy Paidock left on January 2. She was the information coordinator.

Gina Pontikas returned to the OFM on February 20 and is now acting information coordinator.

Barry McKinnon has assumed

the position of Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal (ADFM).

Carol-Lynn Chambers will provide leadership and management responsibilities for both Strategic Development, and Emergency Management & Response Units on a trial basis effective April 1.

Laura Newton is acting administrative coordinator in Midhurst.

Gisele Bentley is the acting Administrative Assistant in Midhurst.

Canine and smoke alarm save Ontario man

A man was lucky to escape his burning farmhouse on March 1, 2006 thanks to a working smoke alarm and his loyal canine companion.

At approximately 4:30 a.m., the smoke alarm activated. At this time, the dog Shakespeare began barking and awoke his sleeping owner, enabling him to escape with Shakespeare.

Unfortunately, the fire destroyed the rural, older home despite the arrival of fire crews from the Warkworth Station of the Trent Hills Fire Department just 13 minutes after being called.

Luckily, the man's wife and children were out of town at the time.

Investiture awards received in November



Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle and Doug Crawford Deputy Fire Marshal present Bev Gilbert with his 25 year long service medal in November. His wife, Cynthia, looks on. That same evening Alex McKenna, former OFM employee, received his 40 year federal and provincial service bars for his commitment to the fire service.

Editor's Note

Thank you to everyone who filled out the "Smoke Alarms Save Lives" sheet that was included in the December/January 2006 edition of *The Messenger*. Every submission further instills how important working smoke alarms can be. Keep the submissions coming!



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Smoke alarm saves Ontario couple

A fire in Warkworth in February proved the value of a new law requiring working smoke alarms on every storey of the home.

Two adults managed to escape their home after a smoke alarm sounded on the second level of their home.

The couple were downstairs when they heard the alarm and

upon checking the alarm, they noticed smoke coming from under their bedroom door.

The Warkworth Station of the Trent Hills Fire Department responded to the 9-1-1 call made at 11:10 a.m. They managed to contain the blaze and only minor damages resulted. An electric blanket caused the fire.

Working smoke alarms: it's the law as of March 1, 2006

A new regulation requiring smoke alarms on every storey as well as outside all sleeping areas of every home will make Ontario an even safer place to live, says Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister Monte Kwinter.

"It's simple – smoke alarms save lives," says Kwinter. "Even with the lowest fire death rate in Ontario's history in 2005, we can all do more to protect our loved ones. Installing smoke alarms on every storey of a home and outside all sleeping areas can ensure your family has the precious seconds needed to escape from a fire. The new regulation that takes effect March 1, 2006 will mean safer homes and safer communities."

Announced in December, the smoke alarm amendment to the Ontario Fire Code applies to all single family, semi-detached and town homes, whether owner-occupied or rented. It was announced in conjunction with the launch of the Office of the Fire Marshal's public education campaign, *Working Smoke Alarms: It's the Law!*, designed to heighten awareness about the importance of working smoke alarms.

"Since 1997, the number of fire deaths has declined by approximately 43 per cent," said Bernard Moyle, Fire Marshal for Ontario. "Although these numbers reflect a milestone in Ontario's fire history, people are still losing their

lives in fires. We expect that having more smoke alarms in homes will mean earlier warning of fire, which will result in faster escape by occupants, earlier arrival by the fire department and ultimately less risk to firefighters and the public."

Smoke alarms can be purchased for as little as \$10. Municipal fire departments across Ontario have increased their public education efforts to ensure homeowners are in compliance and will soon be enforcing the new smoke alarm requirements. For homeowners, tenants and individual landlords, non-compliance with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$50,000.



Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle (left) and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services Monte Kwinter help Helen Tennyson, of Toronto, install a smoke alarm in her house. The regulation requiring smoke alarms be installed on every storey of a home, as well as outside all sleeping areas, took effect on March 1, 2006. Smoke alarms on every storey of a home can help ensure families have the time they need to escape a fire.

M **The Ontario Fire Service** **essenger**

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February/March 2006

Incident Management

Teaching Plan

Introduction:

Operator: *"Do you require police, fire or ambulance?"*

Caller: *"Fire, my children are still in the house! Please help!"*

Phone line disconnected!

As the first arriving unit on this scene, an already tense situation could get worse within seconds without an Incident Management System (IMS). As we will demonstrate in this lesson plan, the importance of good, sound and structured IMS will assist in ensuring the safety of both firefighters and the public they serve.

As a senior officer, company officer and firefighter, you will be called upon to work within the IMS. It is everyone's responsibility to understand and practice the important steps within the system.

Learning Outcomes:

The company officer and firefighter will:

1. Describe the purpose of Incident Management System
2. Describe their role within the Incident Management System
3. Describe the responsibilities of the Incident Commander
4. Describe the levels of command
5. Describe span of control
6. Describe sectoring
7. Describe the tactical priorities
8. Describe benchmarks and their importance
9. Describe the Rule of Eight
10. Describe accountability and entry control
11. Describe PAR (Personnel Accountability Report)
12. Describe a post incident analysis and the role of participants within the PIAR

Expectations of the Participant:

- Participation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Effective communication
- Safety conscious
- Decision making

Key Points and Terms	Student Learning Activity	References and Resources	Trainer/Facilitator Activity
Purpose of Incident Management IMS will <u>avoid</u>: •Freelancing •Confusion and chaos •Wasted resources •Uncoordinated incident attack •Unsafe work practices •Conflicting orders IMS will <u>promote</u>: •Accountability •Personnel safety •Coordinated approach to the incident •Efficient use of resources •Confidence from crews •Public image	•Group brainstorm sessions •Group activities with ideas captured on flip chart and presented to class	Additional information on Incident Management can be found in: •<i>Fire Fighter Curriculum</i> •<i>Model Procedures for Structural Firefighting</i> •<i>Fire Department Training Manual</i> •<i>Department OGs</i> •<i>Section 21 Guidance Notes</i> •<i>“Fire Command” by Al Brunacini</i> •<i>Introduction to Incident Management for Company Officers</i>	•Facilitator led group discussion and brainstorming exercise •Flip chart documentation from group •Learning steps from curriculum: •A-1 •B-1 Learning Step A 20 minutes
Roles and Responsibilities with IMS Initial decisions and actions of the Incident Manager or Commander: •First arriving officer or firefighter shall announce and assume command	•Group brainstorm sessions •Group activities with ideas captured on flip chart and presented to class •Review handouts	Additional information on Incident Management can be found in the same resources as above.	•Facilitator-led discussions •Handout and review of definitions •Learning Steps from curriculum: •C-1 Learning Step B 20 minutes

[illegible]

Key Points and Terms	Student Learning Activity	References and Resources	Trainer/Facilitator Activity
Rule of Eight 1.Size Up 2.Call for help 3.Rescue 4.Confinement 5.Exposures 6.Ventilate 7.Salvage 8.Overhaul	•Review handout	Additional information about the Rule of Eight and Incident Management can be found in the same resources as above.	•Handout about Rule of Eight and example scenarios of how this would be played out. •Learning steps from curriculum: •D-1 Learning Step E 20 minutes
Benchmarks All clear •Primary and secondary search Under control •Fire contained/ extinguished Loss stopped Fire and firefighting efforts will cause no more damage to property	•Review tactical worksheet •Review handout with definitions of each	Additional information on Incident Management can be found in the same resources as above and •<i>Tactical worksheet from department with OG</i>	•Use a tactical worksheet as a guide •Review each benchmark and the tactics/tasks associated with each. •Review radio communication associated with each benchmark. •Learning steps from curriculum: •B-1 Learning Step F 15 minutes

Key Points and Terms	Student Learning Activity	References and Resources	Trainer/Facilitator Activity
Accountability and Entry Control • On scene • Hazardous zones • Tagging in • Documentation Personnel Accountability Reports (PARS) • Called at intervals • Major events • Termination of Scene	• Reviews OG's and info relating to each • Practice PAR check	Additional information about Incident Management can be found in the same resources as above and others including: • <i>Section 21 Guidance notes</i> • <i>FD OGs</i>	• Facilitator discusses each factor, using OGs and Section 21 Guidance Notes • Facilitator assigns roles and conducts a PAR Learning Step G 25 minutes
Post Incident Analysis Reviews • Review of the Incident • Includes everyone in Incident • Not to be used for blame • Apply IMS principles and tactical worksheets to assess what worked and what did not • Check on OGs and procedures to ensure they work • Use to develop training • Not to be used to replace Critical Incident Stress Debriefing	• Review information about PIARs • Group discussion re: benefits and challenges of PIARs	Additional information on Incident Management can be found in the same resources above and others including: • <i>Information Sheet # 3 in Fire Fighter Curriculum</i> • <i>Use PIAR from department with OG</i>	• Using sample PIAR as a Guide to discuss components of it. • Group brainstorming and discussion re: benefits and challenges of PIARS. Learning Step H 25 minutes

Summary:

The overall purpose of Incident Management System is to:

- Assign incident responsibility on one person
- Maintain overall incident safety
- Ensure adequate personnel and resources are available to complete objectives
- Ensure a strong visible command is present
- Establish an effective organization
- Provide a system for information processing

Evaluation:

It is recommended that this session be conducted in two parts.

Part 1: Theory (as described above)

- Refer to *Fire Fighter Curriculum* for Knowledge Quizzes
- Utilize Information sheets # 1 through 3 from the learner guide of the *Fire Fighter Curriculum* as a resource.

Part 2: Practical

- Conducted during the next training sessions
- Set up a number of different scenarios with officers and firefighters playing different roles
- Refer to the *Fire Fighter Curriculum* for Practical Sign Off

Notes:

Notes:

Knowledge Quiz

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Outside agencies should, if possible, take part in post-response evaluation.
2. The decision making process allows the officer in charge to make yes and no decisions and change strategy and tactics when necessary.
3. The tactical level of command (in the big sense) is instituted at all fire department emergencies.
4. Safety is a main function of the task officer.
5. All members of the fire department should be trained in the Incident Management System.
6. The tag system is a means of accounting for all fireground personnel.
7. The on-duty list of personnel shall be kept only in the dispatch office.
8. Personal safety and accountability is the responsibility of each firefighter.
9. The transfer of command can only happen on the scene.
10. The firefighter works at the tactical level of command.

Short Answers

1. When is the best time to conduct a post-incident analysis and review?
2. What information should become available to you on receipt of an alarm?
3. Name six of the pre-plan factors in the decision making process.
4. Explain what is meant by the phrase “identify major fireground factors”.
5. Name the tactical priorities within the Incident Management System.

Short Answers continued

6. Explain who should initiate command and when should it be done.
7. What is the role of a new firefighter in the command structure?
8. Describe the responsibilities of each level of command.
9. Define the term Reinforced Response.
10. Describe why an Incident Commander would create divisions or sectors.

Notes:

Answer Sheet

Knowledge Quiz

1. T
2. T
3. T
4. T
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. T
9. T
10. F

Short Answers

1. ideally the same day
failing that as soon as possible after the incident
2. location
nature of emergency
people trapped
3. building area
building height
building construction
interior arrangement
building population
fuel load
special hazards
special consideration
protection systems
water supply
hydrant locations
means of egress
access points
experts available

Answer Sheet

Short Answers continued

4. the officer decides which factor or factors are important and plans the course of action
5. tactical priorities
 - remove endangered persons (rescue)
 - stabilize the incident (fire control)
 - conserve property
 - safety, accountability and welfare of personnel
6. the first arriving officer or firefighter and it must be established as soon as possible after arrival
7. obey orders
communicate effectively
work as part of a team
8. Strategic - develop strategy for successful completion of the incident
Tactical - initiate tactics to carry out the strategy
Task - carry out the tasks that need to be done to fit the tactics
9. The Incident Commander on the scene determines that the apparatus, equipment and firefighters are sufficient to bring the incident to a successful completion. (i.e., a second alarm etc.)
10. situations where multiple companies are or will be involved
when the Commander can no longer control the number of companies involved (span of control)
when operations are complex in nature (i.e., large buildings)
when companies are operating from positions out of sight and out of the control of the Incident Commander
when special hazards require immediate control and monitoring of company operations

Notes:

Notes:



Smoke Alarms Save Lives

Fire departments are asked to complete and submit this form to the OFM to report any 'saves' smoke alarms have made in their communities. The information will be used in upcoming editions of The Ontario Fire Service Messenger and posted on the Office of the Fire Marshal's website, www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

As applicable, provide date of fire(s).

Provide number of occupants and their pets.

Provide a brief description of what happened and where the fire occurred.

Provide any additional comments.

Contact Details:

Contact Name: _____ **Position:** _____

Municipality: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Thank you for this information. The OFM appreciates your cooperation. Please return this form to the Public Education & Media Relations section by faxing it to 416-325-3162 or by sending it by email to **carol.gravelle@jus.gov.on.ca**.