

M The Ontario Fire Service Messenger

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Click on www.makeitstop.ca

Inside:

Coping with forest fire smoke

HRVs create concerns

Results are in for 'Keeping Our Kids Safe'



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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Bev Gilbert,
Office of the Fire
Marshal
Manager, Public Education
& Media Relations

Spread the word
about smoke alarms



We've all experienced nuisance alarms. It happened to me in my home just a little while ago. While we prepared food in the oven for a dinner party, the smoke alarm activated. Immediately, I went over and pressed the 'hush' feature to silence the alarm. I also took the opportunity to inform my guests about the how the 'hush' feature was one solution to a nuisance alarm.

This experience made me realize, how little, people understand about nuisance alarm solutions. Here, I am responsible for fire and life safety across Ontario but my friends are unaware of important fire safety information.

In January, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) launched **Make it Stop!**, a provincial campaign designed to provide advice to Ontarians to deal with nuisance alarms. The seed for the campaign was borne from provincial fire loss data and the many nuisance alarm stories people told us about. The crux of the campaign is to provide practical solutions to nuisance alarms.

Although the OFM will continue to work to address this issue, it is up to fire departments to pick up the ball and run with it.

Working in the fire service, the public looks to you as the experts in fire prevention and protection. Whether you are a firefighter or fire prevention officer, they expect you to have all the answers about fire safety. Please share your experiences and provide the public with nuisance alarm solutions from www.makeitstop.ca. Review the website yourself and direct people you speak with to it for more information.

To further reduce fire losses, we need to demonstrate to the public that we are serious about reducing nuisance alarms, regardless of your position in the Ontario fire service. Since the Fire Code amendment in March 2006, public awareness about the importance of smoke alarms is higher than ever before. Let's keep the momentum going by sharing knowledge about smoke alarms with friends, family and the community every chance we get. Smoke alarms are not a nuisance, they are critical life saving devices. Pass it on.



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St. Catharines launches Make it Stop!
See Page 4 for details.



Update ONTARIO

News from around the province

Time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms

On March 1, 2007, the Office of the Fire Marshal distributed a provincial news release to remind the public it was time to change the batteries in the smoke alarms that were installed last year.

"The batteries in smoke alarms need to be replaced once a year, or if the low-battery warning chirps," said Patrick Burke, Fire Marshal for Ontario. "With the clocks changing on March 11, this is the perfect time to also change the batteries in all your smoke alarms."

A recent review of provincial fire loss data indicate that 79 per cent of homes that experienced a fire had a smoke alarm installed. However, these smoke alarms



activated in less than half (47%) of these fires. One of the primary reasons why smoke alarms do not activate is because their batteries have been removed, often as a result of frequent nuisance alarms due to cooking activities or steam from a shower.

It is against the law for homeowners to tamper with, or remove the batteries from their smoke alarms. The Office of the Fire Marshal encourages anyone experiencing nuisance alarms to visit the website www.makeitstop.ca for nuisance alarm solutions.

Make it Stop! launched in St. Catharines

On March 9, 2007, St. Catharines Fire Service launched *Make it Stop!*, a public education campaign to reduce nuisance alarms and increase the importance of working smoke alarms.

Ontario Fire Marshal Pat Burke attended the launch and presented Allison Toews-Peplinski, a Grade

4 teacher and her class, at Prince of Wales school, with awards for participating in the 'Keeping Our Kids Safe' campaign. The launch wrapped up with a media demonstration of a typical nuisance alarm at a nearby home.

Turn to page 7 and 17 to see more 'Keeping Our Kids Safe' winners.

Smoke alarm initiates dramatic escape

In mid-February, a 75-year-old man awoke to the sound of a smoke alarm. It was 1:00 a.m. and he immediately went down the stairs of his home to wake his 77-year-old wife, who was asleep in front of the TV in the living room.

He woke his wife and called 9-1-1. However, after the phone call, there was too much smoke to make it out the front door. The couple retreated up the stairs.

"We stood on the balcony upstairs and I jumped off. I didn't think - I just jumped," said the man of his 12-foot leap to the snowy ground below in his bare feet.

Once on the ground, the man pulled a ladder over to his wife and helped her down the rungs to safety.

Seaforth District Fire Chief Tom Phillips said firefighters arrived at the scene with flames shooting out of the side porch.

"We knew there were at least two occupants. We went around to the back and there they were coming down the ladder. He was in bare feet and she was in slippers," said Phillips.

Huron East Fire Chief Marty Bedard said "This is one of the success stories for [smoke alarms]. The [smoke alarm] saved their lives for sure and we were able to stop the fire before it spread."

The cause of the fire is still undetermined.

Excerpted from February 28, 2007 issue of The Huron Expositor.

Milton firefighters nominated for another award

Two Milton firefighters have been nominated for the newly launched MSA 2006 Fireslayer of the Year Award.

Firefighters Andrew Brassard and Steve Ellis were nominated by Milton Fire Chief Larry Brassard after they heroically rescued a young man from his blazing home. With only seconds to find their victim, their story thoroughly demonstrates the depth of their training and experience to save lives. Chief Brassard also nominated the

men for the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery, which they received in November 2006 during a ceremony at Queen's Park.

In total, there are five nominees up for the award that will be announced in April. The Milton firefighters are the only nominees from Canada. To vote for the nominees, read their stories and learn more about the award, visit <http://webapps.msanet.com/FSOTY-Ballot/default.aspx>.



Firefighters Andrew Brassard and Steve Ellis sit on a Milton fire truck.

Norfolk County gets fire safety trailer

BY STEPHANIE GILES
DIVISIONAL COORDINATOR
NORFOLK COUNTY FIRE &
RESCUE SERVICES

In January, Norfolk County Fire & Rescue Services welcomed a new arrival to the community: it was a fire safety trailer designed to provide a practical life saving 'hands-on' approach to fire safety and prevention.

The new addition was established through strong partnerships in the community.

The idea to obtain a fire safety trailer was initiated in December 2004 by Norfolk County Fire & Rescue Services' Fire Prevention Bureau, who also launched a

campaign to purchase a 'fire safety house.' This incredible tool would be a trailer designed to appear like a house with common household rooms and could be used to simulate different fire safety situations for children.

A financial goal of \$70,000 was developed to purchase the house and to purchase a retired ambulance to be converted to tow the trailer. The ambulance would also serve as a resource centre for fire safety education materials.

Within 14 months, the trailer was ordered. Norfolk County thanks the Norfolk County Council for approving this expenditure for the community and area, the

marketing committee (firefighter Bryan Thompson and firefighter Dave Vandermeersh) who met with community stakeholders and the specification committee (firefighter Tom Myerscough, Acting Captain Dan Price, former Captain and Fire Safety Educator Jason Poole) who met and agreed on a design. Special thanks goes to all the firefighters' associations and Norfolk Mutual Insurance who gave generous monetary donations.

Norfolk county operates from 11 fire stations and employs 240 volunteer fire fighters and full-time personnel. The county is home to approximately 64,000 residents.



Norfolk County's converted ambulance and fire safety trailer. Photo submitted by Stephanie Giles.

Calendar charts life-saving path

BY JERRY SMITH
FIREFIGHTER
PERTH EAST FIRE DEPARTMENT

A defibrillator was installed at the Perth East Recreation Complex, thanks to money raised by the Milverton Firefighter's Association's fundraising calendar. The two-year calendar features a group photo of Milverton Station firefighters, individual firefighters and firefighters with their families.

The calendar was developed for Milverton's 125th anniversary in July 2006. To date, more than 400 of the 500 calendars produced have been sold.

Initially, the project started out with the idea of producing a calendar to feature photos of the department's 22 firefighters.

"They decided it was a good idea and a good opportunity to get some family shots done as well," said Sherri Scott, wife of firefighter Jamie Scott, who helped co-ordinate the project, along with Sheila Newbigging, wife of Deputy Chief Kim Newbigging.

Photos in the calendar were taken by Country-Tyme Portraits, and depict firefighters in various

action poses. It was an expensive undertaking and the department is grateful for the support from its donors.

The 2007-2008 calendars sell for \$25 each and are available from any Milverton Station firefighter. Remaining funds will be donated to the burn unit of Sick Children's Hospital in London, Ontario.



From left are firefighter Jeff Leblanc, firefighter and Milverton Fireman's Association President Jerry Smith, Sherri Scott, wife of firefighter Jamie Scott and Captain Kevin Reis with the defibrillator. Photo submitted by Jerry Smith, Perth East Fire Department.

www.makeitstop.ca

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Click on the
newest website
to provide
solutions to
nuisance alarms.

www.makeitstop.ca

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Smoke alarm stops fire from getting out of control

A morning fire on January 12 could have been worse if not for a smoke [alarm], says a local fire prevention officer.

"It could have been bad. This is another good lesson for smoke [alarms] and how they work," said Joe Gardiner, of the North Bay Fire Department. "It was a townhouse complex and could have set the whole row of housing on fire. There was a lot of potential there.

"A neighbour heard (the smoke [alarm]), listened for about four minutes and went over, took a

quick peek inside but could not see anything and called 911," Gardiner said.

A shopping bag hanging from a pantry doorknob caught on fire and burned a hole through the door.

"We caught it just before it spread," Gardiner said.

The owners believed a cigarette may have fallen into the bag. There was minimal damage to the residence.

Excerpted from the January 13, 2007 issue of the North Bay Nugget.

The results are in!

On February 15, 2007, Pat Burke, Ontario Fire Marshal presented a trip for two to Florida to a Thornhill Catholic school teacher for participating in the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council 'Keeping Our Kids Safe' campaign.

Rosanna Iannetta won the trip, which includes airfare and accommodation for a March Break stay after she taught an injury prevention lesson to her junior/senior Kindergarten class at Holy Family School.

"The principal talked about

the lesson plans on the Council's website," said Iannetta. "I went online and downloaded the safety lesson called *Electrical Safety: Be Safe to a Fault!*"

The class of 13 also received a pizza party.

Prior to that presentation, the Fire Marshal was in Midland on January 31 presenting two other pizza parties to students at Monsignor Castex and students at Huron Park public schools whose teachers also participated in the campaign.

In Midland, the 'Keeping Our

Kids Safe' campaign is part of a larger initiative in Simcoe County called 'Partners in Prevention.' The initiative is in operation in five municipalities and includes a smoke alarm program for new-borns. A smoke alarm is given to the newborn's family to be installed in the baby's bedroom. Numerous sponsors work with fire departments to ensure the continuation of this program and other activities throughout the year.



Teacher-in-charge Sal DiGiacomo stands with Vaughan Fire Department Chief Fire Prevention Officer John Caruso, Vaughan Fire Chief Greg Senay, Fire Marshal Pat Burke, Rosanna Iannetta, Ward 5 councillor Allan Shefman and Art Pullan, Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and the class of students.



Pat Burke, Ontario Fire Marshal provides Rosanna Iannetta with the details of her trip for two to Florida.



In Midland, Sparky and Fire Marshal Pat Burke were invited to present a class of students at Huron Park public school with a pizza party.

The Messenger needs your news

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

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carol.gravelle@ontario.ca

Restaurant chain fined for no fire safety plan

BY SHANE EDWARDS

FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER
BARRIE FIRE & EMERGENCY
SERVICE

On February 19, 2007, a private, Canadian, restaurant chain company pleaded guilty for violating the Ontario Fire Code and received a fine of \$5,000.

During the month of November 2006, Barrie Fire & Emergency Service responded to a call at one of the chain restaurants in Barrie. When fire crews arrived, they found heavy smoke but no fire. The problem was a malfunction of a fan in the ventilation above the cooking grill. The malfunction of the fan caused the smoke from the grill to start accumulating in the dining room area. A female patron within the restaurant announced to the other patrons that the smoke was dangerous and that everyone needed to get out. After her announcement she pulled the fire alarm pull station to activate the fire alarm. The fire alarm was monitored by an outside agency

that contacts the Barrie Fire & Emergency Service. When the fire crews arrived, there were over 100 people still sitting in the restaurant breathing the thick smoke. Instead of leaving, the patrons chose to remain and finish their meals.

The fire service tries to educate the public when it comes to fire and life safety. One of the principles of fire safety is that people must be responsible for their own safety. This is a classic case of people not identifying a dangerous situation and not knowing when to leave. Later, it was interesting to learn that the only person who acted responsibly, was criticized by representatives of the restaurant. The female patron who activated the fire alarm and told everyone to leave did everything right, but the representatives of the restaurant felt she over-reacted. In the end, one person was transported to hospital for smoke inhalation. It could have been a lot worse.

Shortly after, Barrie Fire & Emergency Service commenced

with charges against the restaurant for not having a fire safety plan. Part of the problem during this incident was the lack of emergency procedures for supervisory staff. In fact, the manager thought it was alright to disconnect the fire alarm since the noise of the bells were disturbing the customers.

At a recent Ontario Fire College FPO-401 course on fire safety planning, it was learned that fire safety plans from this particular chain restaurant were being submitted to fire departments all over the province. Laying the charges against this Canadian company influenced it to address the issue of fire safety planning throughout their organization.

For more information about this article, contact Shane Edwards at sedwards@barrie.ca or (705) 739-4220 ext. 3235.

Smoke alarms save lives

BY ERICA BAIER

CHATHAM DAILY NEWS

Working smoke alarms are being credited with possibly saving the lives of a Wheatley mother and son.

A smoke alarm alerted the mother to a fire that caused \$200,000 damage to her home, said Barb Dawson, a public educator with the Chatham-Kent Fire Department.

"They were actually asleep when the fire broke out," she said. "The smoke alarm woke her up."

Dawson said because of the

smoke alarm, the mother and son got out of the home before it went up in flames. Dawson said they likely would have "perished" if it hadn't sounded.

Fire Chief Bob Crawford said "Without working smoke alarms, it's not unlikely that these people would have been harmed or worse."

Dawson said the cause of the fire, which broke out around 5 a.m., has been deemed accidental. It started when a rolled extension cord became overheated, she said.

Working smoke alarms were also found at an early morning house fire.

While the resident noticed the attic fire before the smoke alarm sounded, the devices were in working order. Damage in that fire is pegged at \$20,000 and no one was injured.

Excerpted from the January 11, 2007 issue of the Chatham Daily News.

Cabinet and window shutter business fined \$9,200

On January 11, 2007, a Richmond Hill kitchen cabinet and window shutter manufacturing business was fined \$9,200 for 23 violations of the Ontario Fire Code.

Each of the 23 violations carried a fine of \$400. There were a variety of offences involving provisions

regulated under Fire Code Subsections, 2.4, 2.7, 3.4, 6.2, 6.5, 5.10 and 5.12.

Fire Prevention Officer Vince Ferrari reported, "The owner of the business had no regard for fire and life safety."

Got conviction information?

Let's hear about it!

The *Ontario Fire Service Messenger* would like to inform all readers about recent convictions and other successful enforcement initiatives in Ontario.

Visit www.ofm.gov.on.ca, then click on the **Prosecutions & Convictions Form** link in the *Legislation* box. Please send information to carol.gravelle@ontario.ca.

Auto shop fined \$8k

A Hamilton building owner and business have been hit with fines totalling \$8,000 for failing to have a working sprinkler system.

Hamilton Emergency Services reported that they took the action after the owner and the business ignored repeated notices. The business operated out of an industrial complex area.

Chief Fire Prevention Officer Jim Winn said in a news release the building was occupied as an auto repair and auto-body shop.

The owner pleaded guilty and was fined \$2,000 personally while the business was penalized \$6,000.

Excerpted from the February 2, 2007 issue of the Hamilton Spectator.

Restaurant owner fined \$2,500

The owner/operator of a restaurant in Stoney Creek has pled guilty in Provincial Offences Court to a violation of the Ontario Fire Code.

This charge stems from a Multi-Agency Task Force inspection conducted on the evening of October 6, 2006, during which the rear exit door of this restaurant was found locked; making the exit inaccessible to any of the patrons of the restaurant in the event of an emergency. At the time of the inspection, the owner/operator of the restaurant was advised to immediately unlock the door and take steps to permanently remove the key lock from this door.

On December 21, 2006, the owner/operator of the restaurant, attended Provincial Offences

Court and pleaded guilty to this violation of the Ontario Fire Code and was subsequently fined \$2,500.

Chief Fire Prevention Officer Jim Winn with Hamilton Emergency Services said, "At the time of inspection the business was open to the public and this contravention is a serious violation of a regulation that is in place to protect all citizens. A locked exit door from any building can result in serious consequences in the event of a fire emergency."

Business owners are responsible for ensuring their buildings are kept safe and in compliance with the Ontario Fire Code at all times.

OMNR helps people cope with forest fire smoke

BY DEBBIE MACLEAN
FIRE INFORMATION OFFICER
NORTHWEST REGION FIRE
MANAGEMENT CENTRE

At times an organized municipality or unincorporated area experiences smoky conditions coming from grass, brush or forest fires. The smoke may be from a nearby fire, but there have been occasions when smoke in communities originates from large forest fires burning hundreds of kilometres away.

It all depends on the wind. The smoke is driven by wind speed, wind direction and wind currents that can carry it great distances. The duration of the smoky conditions depend on a number of factors including how many fires are burning in the area, fire behaviour, weather and topography.

The Ontario Ministry of Natural

Resources (OMNR) Forest Fire Management Program has guidelines in place to work in partnership with local and regional health and emergency services to advise the public about ways to reduce the impact of smoke from forest fires.

When heavier smoke conditions prevail, a first level evacuation may occur where those most vulnerable to smoke are moved to another community.

In 2006, a number of northern communities experienced evacuations as did some in the southern portions of northwestern Ontario due to smoke impacts from forest fires. The OMNR Emergency Management Program was involved in providing support to Emergency Management Ontario and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

District emergency response teams, coordinated by a District

Emergency Response Coordinator, were activated and community liaison officers were dispatched to the affected communities to work closely with them to provide current information on smoke conditions and transport of residents.

At the peak of the 2006 smoke activity a total of nine First Nations communities had declared emergencies and over 1,550 residents had been evacuated to host communities in Greenstone, Thunder Bay, Cochrane, Kapuskasing and Sudbury. In the end, all evacuees returned home safely thanks to the efforts of OMNR staff working at the district, regional and provincial levels.

Municipal fire departments in Ontario are often involved in mutual response with the OMNR fire program in locations where rural

See 'Coping' on page 11

Get ready for Wildfire Prevention Week

Wildfire Prevention Week occurs every year in the third week of April. This year it falls on the week of April 15 to 21. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR), the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFIC) would like to remind everyone that forest fires and fires that occur in the ever-increasing wildland-urban interface are not just the concern of Smokey Bear. Fire departments, particularly those in communities that could be affected by wildfires,

are encouraged to organize and participate in wildfire prevention activities during Wildfire Prevention Week and throughout the summer.

Educational materials can be obtained by following the Wildfire Prevention Week link through the OFM website. With all fire service agencies working together, safety messages can be disseminated to as many people as possible during Wildfire Prevention Week and throughout the wildfire season.

Click!



Richmond Hill fire department promotes [makeitstop.ca](http://www.makeitstop.ca) on their outdoor sign. A great way to get people learning about fire safety. Photo was taken by the OFM's Heather Wadden.

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Coping with the smoke

landscapes occur within a municipality or border on unorganized areas with wildland/urban components. These municipal fire departments respond to grass fires, brush fires, and even forest fires in standing timber and as such, wildfire response and smoke issues are part of their firefighting duties. Working in partnership with the OMNR, municipal fire departments are involved with training, consultation and mutual services response. Depending on the type of required response, the OMNR fire management program can provide firefighting support to municipalities, or a municipal fire department will provide firefighting support to the OMNR. In the majority of Northern Ontario municipalities, similar municipal agreements are already in place and are one of the best ways to protect public safety and reduce property loss when grass, brush or forest fires occur.

In cases where less severe smoke conditions occur, the OMNR Fire Management Program works with local and regional health units to advise people in the affected communities about smoke, its potential health risks, and what people can do to help reduce the impact of smoke on their health. Some of the ways the public can cope with smoke include:

- Smoke particles can build up in the respiratory system and aggravate some illnesses. People are advised to avoid breathing smoke if they can, particularly those with heart or lung diseases, such as congestive heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema or asthma are more susceptible to the effects of inhaling smoke, as are children and the elderly.
- Health officials advise against outdoor activity such as running in smoky conditions, and suggest it is better for children to remain inside with windows and doors closed.

- Operate an air conditioner with the fresh air intake closed. Indoor air filtration devices with HEPA filters can be helpful in reducing the levels of smoke particles indoors, if they are changed on a regular basis.

- Take caution with face masks. Most masks are designed to trap larger dust particles and will generally not protect lungs from forest fire smoke.

- Particle levels inside a home can be lowered further by avoiding the use of anything that burns such as wood stoves and gas stoves, cigarettes and even candles.

- In smoky situations, people often experience symptoms including a scratchy throat, coughing, irritated sinuses, headaches, runny nose and stinging eyes.

- If smoke levels are high enough for a prolonged period of time, tiny smoke particles can get inside a home and accumulate. People who are experiencing symptoms indoors such as coughing, burning eyes and runny noses are advised to talk with their doctor or call the appropriate health unit. This is particularly important for people with heart or respiratory diseases, the elderly and children.

- Smoke particles that cause problems for people may also cause problems for animals. The same solutions for people apply to animals. Keep pets indoors, watching for symptoms and seek advice from a veterinarian if symptoms worsen.



A firefighter with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources puts water on a 'hot spot' in a forest.

New in the OFM Library

Check out our latest books, videos and web resources 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

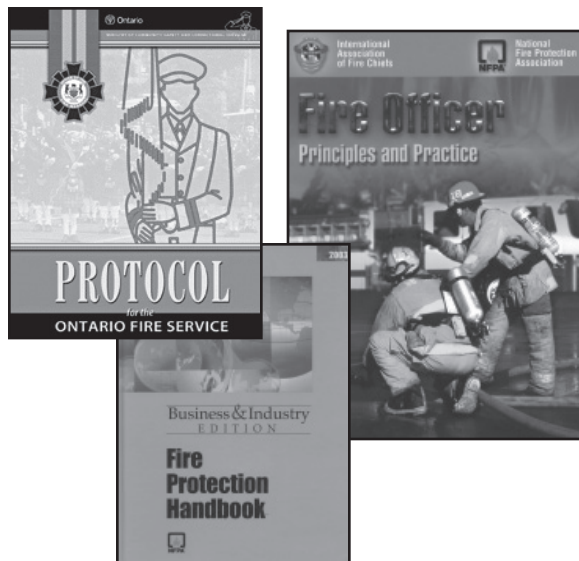
Emergency Response Team Handbook by Joseph A. Cocciardi, Joseph. National Fire Protection Association, 2004.

Fire and Life Safety in Health Care Facilities by Marvin Fischer and Thomas Gardner. National Fire Protection Association, 2006.

Fire Officer: Principles and Practices by National Fire Protection Association and International Association of Fire Chiefs, 2005.

Fire Protection Handbook: Business & Industry Edition. National Fire Protection Association, 2003.

Protocol for the Ontario Fire Service. Ontario. Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Office of the Fire Marshal, 2006.



New Videos and DVDs

American Heat Series: Emergency Procedures for Gasoline-Electric Hybrid Vehicles (2006)

Identifies the challenges and dispels common myths about the dangers of hybrid vehicles to rescuers in a crash situation.

American Heat Series: The Art of Reading Smoke (2006)

Defines smoke, its toxic hazards, chemical makeup and behaviour.

American Heat Series: Fires that Caused Change (2006)

The Cocoanut Grove, MGM Grand Hotel and Beverly Hills Supper Club fires were significant fire events that impacted codes and standards, fire prevention and firefighter safety.

American Heat Series: Reducing Deaths in the Fire Service (2007)

Examines some of the most common causes of apparatus deaths and identifies methods that fire agencies can implement to reduce firefighter fatalities.

American Heat Series: Incident and Disaster Preparation (Feb.2007)

Identifies problems, concerns, issues and lessons learned from the 2005 hurricane season and other disasters.

Web Resources

International Association of Arson Investigators has a web based training site, CFITrainer.net, which allows users to register for programs, track their progress as they complete educational modules and take online evaluation tests. Modules currently offered are Analysis of the Station Nightclub Fire, Fire Investigator Scene Safety, Insurance and the Fire Investigation and Motor Vehicle Fires. (www.cfitrainer.net)



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 www.ofm.gov.on.ca Phone: (Library) 416-325-3235/3236, (Audio-Visual) 416-325-3121, Email: firesciences.information@ofm.ca.

In Detail: Operating clothes dryers during sleeping hours

Did you know?

- Normal clothing is dried at an air temperature of about 60°C while permanent press clothing is dried at about 50°C.

- Clothing made of cotton fabric or man-made plastic material when combined with the accumulated lint in the dryer has an approximate flash ignition and auto-ignition temperature above 200°C.

- Safety features built into clothes dryers include two or three high limit switches at the heating elements which stops any thermal runaway condition by cutting off the power at about 120°C.

- Under normal conditions, there is a considerable margin of safety before the ignition point of clothing is reached. In addition, the dryer drums within the dryer cabinets are designed to act as a fire barrier to slow the spread of fire.

- Major fire hazards associated with clothes dryers include:

1. Lack of maintenance;
2. Improper installation (venting);
3. Drying flammable materials;
4. Accumulation of lint; and,
5. Use of plastic ducts.

- If a fire occurs, it will often start within the drum of the dryer and be fueled by lint that has accumulated in the dryer cabinet.

This information was excerpted from *Communiqué 96-031* and can be found by clicking on *Communiqués* from www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

BY MICHAEL NG, P. ENG.
OFM FIRE PROTECTION
ENGINEER

In an effort to reduce electricity demand and consumption, there have been a number of recent campaigns introduced to promote energy conservation in Ontario. Encouraging homeowners to operate high electrical demand appliances during off-peak periods has been identified as one means of achieving this objective. The implementation of the *Smart Meter* program beginning in 2007, which provides electricity price reductions during off-peak hours for customers with this meter installed, will further encourage this practice. Related to this, the OFM has received a number of inquiries from the fire service regarding the safe operation of clothes dryers when residents are asleep at night.

In response to these concerns, a 1995-2003 review of residential fire loss statistics relating to clothes dryers was conducted. This analysis revealed the following facts:



A photograph of a clothes dryer.

- Ontario averaged 213 fires, eight injuries, and \$1.9 million in dollar losses per year, due to household dryers as an ignition source. The two fatalities attributed to this ignition source over this nine-year period are, in fact, the only reported clothes dryer-related fire deaths since the OFM began tracking dryer fire loss statistics in 1976.

- 'Maintenance/Installation Deficiency' was the cause of approximately 1/3 of the dryer fires, while 'Electrical/Mechanical Failure' was the cause for another 1/3.

- It is noteworthy that the two aforementioned fatalities were as a result of a single incident caused by the 'Misuse of Material Ignited.' The victims were not asleep at the time of the fire.

- The six-hour timeframe with the highest number of fire incidents is between 11:00 a.m. and 4:59 p.m., accounting for nearly 40 per cent of residential dryer fires. The six-hour timeframe with the lowest number of fire incidents is between 1:00 a.m. and 6:59 a.m., accounting for only six per cent of residential dryer fires.

- The fire injury rate during sleeping hours (10:00 p.m. to 6:59 a.m.) is significantly higher at 6.9 injuries/100 fires versus 3.0 injuries/100 fires during waking hours (7:00 a.m. to 9:59 p.m.).

See 'Clothes' on page 14

Continued from page 13

Clothes dryers during sleeping hours

- There was no significant difference in dollar loss per fire between sleeping and waking hours.

The vast majority of dryer related fire losses are attributed to maintenance/ installation issues and electrical/mechanical failure. Dryer fires caused by maintenance/ installation issues (i.e. lint accumulation in ducts, improper venting, use of plastic ducting, etc.) are generally preventable and perhaps best addressed through improved public education relating to the subject areas covered in *Communiqué 96-031*, "Fire Hazards Associated with Household Clothes Dryers", www.ofm.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/Communiqués/1996/96-031.asp. However, fires caused by electrical/ mechanical failure (i.e. thermostat problem) due to age, design, or manufacturing defect may not be reasonably preventable by the homeowner.

Based on our records, dryer fires occur more frequently during the day. This reflects the fact that homeowners generally operate their dryers in the daytime rather than during sleeping hours. With the upcoming implementation of the 'smart meter' program, it is expected that more people will be shifting their laundry practices into the late evenings to take advantage of lower price incentives.

The main concern with dryer fires occurring at night is that sleeping occupants may be more vulnerable as they are unable to detect and react to the situation as quickly as they would if awake. This may account for the significantly higher injury rate during sleeping hours. For this reason, homeowners are encouraged to install working smoke alarms within the laundry room as well as on all storeys of their home. Homeowners using natural gas dryers should also be encouraged to install carbon monoxide alarms or a combination unit (smoke and carbon monoxide alarm) in the laundry room. As laundry areas are often located on a different floor than the sleeping level, interconnection of these alarms may be necessary to address audibility issues.

While OFM statistics suggest dryer fires have not been a significant problem in Ontario, the move towards energy conservation may potentially result in more of these fires occurring at night. The occurrence and impact of these incidents can be mitigated with increased public awareness on the importance of proper dryer maintenance/installation and the installation of smoke alarms on every storey, including outside sleeping areas, and carbon monoxide alarms in laundry areas.

Espanola public library gets fire truck



From left are head librarian, Charles Grayson, retired Espanola high school shop teacher and volunteer firefighter Henry Girard, Home Hardware representative, Andy McKechnie, Espanola Fire Chief Mike Pichor, Clair Rouse, OFM and educational assistant Chrystal Belisle. In front row on the truck are the students who built the truck, Tawnie Bell, Chantee Clement and Amber Van Duijnhoven. Photo submitted by Clair Rouse, OFM Fire Protection Adviser.

There is a new fire truck in Espanola.

Retired high school teacher and volunteer firefighter Henry Girard came up with the idea as a way to promote fire safety in the community. He took the idea to high school students who designed and constructed the truck as a school project. Girard also worked with Home Hardware to sponsor all of the materials.

The versatile truck has appeared in parades and has been occupied most often in the library by grandparents and their grandchildren.

Fire started by candle sends woman to hospital

A Cornwall woman was sent to hospital in January after an unattended lit candle started an apartment fire.

Mike Bickerstaffe, the Cornwall fire department's Fire Prevention

Officer, said the fire began shortly after 4:00 p.m. in an apartment building. The woman was taken to hospital, treated and released.

Bickerstaffe said there was extensive fire damage to the

apartment itself, plus major smoke damage elsewhere in the apartment building.

Excerpted from the January 15, 2007 edition of the Cornwall Standard-Freeholder.

Shop smart for home fire safety products

BY BETH TATE, P. ENG.
OFM FIRE PROTECTION
ENGINEER

Both fire service personnel and private citizens have expressed concerns to the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) about high pressure sales tactics used by a company to encourage homeowners to spend hundreds of dollars on home fire safety products.

Company sales staff promote the firm's products using incomplete or biased information including fire statistics that may be out of context for photoelectric smoke alarms, heat detectors, fire extinguishers and videos that deal with home fire escape training and fire safe practices.

Some fire departments have been solicited to view presentation materials that showcase products. Then, sales staff tell homeowners that they have the endorsement of the local fire department.

Although the OFM is supportive of activities that result in homes being outfitted with products that will enhance fire protection for the safety of occupants, consumers need to remember that these devices (e.g., smoke alarms) must be installed to satisfy Fire Code requirements. Additional devices, products and practices may, of course, be considered.

Working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas can provide an early warning that can make the difference between life and death. They form part of an overall home fire safety strategy that includes preventing fires by adopting fire safe behaviour, and developing and practising a home fire escape plan.

When purchasing a smoke alarm, look for a product that has been manufactured and tested to an acceptable standard, with a marking by the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC), or Underwriters Laboratories Incorporated (cUL). There is every reason to believe that alarms listed by a certification agency accredited by the Standards Council of Canada will function as intended.

Homeowners should consider installing more than one device, to take advantage of both ionization and photoelectric sensing means, or use a combination/dual sensing alarm. Neither sensor type is universally better at detecting all types of fire. Although the sensing technologies differ, both alarms must be tested to the same standard and meet the same requirements to achieve ULC listing. If an owner is concerned about nuisance alarms, a change of sensor technology may be an option.

Nuisance alarms have been attributed to conditions such as inappropriate device placement (being too close to smoke generated by cooking activities, steam or moisture), lack of maintenance (which may increase sensitivity), and lack of occupant understanding (low battery warning 'chirp' is often misunderstood as a nuisance alarm).

A common reaction to nuisance alarms is to remove the source of power, often a battery, or otherwise disable the smoke alarm, and not restore its operation after the initiating incident. Then, should a fire occur at some future date, the device is not able to function.

If nuisance alarms occur, owners can also relocate the existing alarm

a short distance away, replace the alarm with a newer model, or replace it with an alarm that has a 'hush' feature. Other features are also available, such as hardwiring with battery backup, long-life batteries, and alarms that incorporate strobe lights, vibrations or lights, which may be particularly suited to specific needs. For more solutions to nuisance alarms, homeowners can visit www.makeitstop.ca.

'CAVEAT EMPTOR' (LET THE BUYER BEWARE)

Homeowners should test, clean and maintain smoke alarms as per the manufacturer's instructions. Smoke alarms should be tested at least once a month and again if returning after an absence of more than a week.

Homeowners should only purchase listed products from reputable merchants.

Whether in the fire service or in the sales industry, there is a mutual interest in promoting fire safety, and a common goal of ensuring that people are safe from fire. On a topic as important as fire safety, the OFM believes that the public deserves to be informed and protected without pressure or fear.

A new twist on an old initiative

BY R. B. (BRUCE) HALL
PAST PRESIDENT
ONTARIO INDUSTRIAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

There are many benefits to municipal Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) programs.

When the CAER was launched initially, its intent was to involve local governments, emergency services, industry and the general public in order to establish guidelines and response strategies to effectively handle an emergency situation inside their jurisdictions. To create these guidelines and response strategies, an inventory of potentially hazardous industrial incidents, followed closely by a

community equipment availability list, had to be developed. If a major event were to occur, the pre-planning could eliminate guesswork for the incident commander. The pre-planning would also ensure an informed response would be implemented by using equipment and resources that were available within the community.

Today, CAER programs operate in a similar fashion. The twist is the partnerships with local industries that can significantly help emergency services in pre-planning for a major emergency event.

An example of a CAER program with a twist can be found in Sarnia, Ontario; it is referred to as the Chemical Valley Emergency Co-operative (CVECO). CVECO is dependant on large industry and emergency services pre-planned response. However, it still relies on smaller local industry and

government involvement to make it a success.

Due to the many specialized materials and processes in Sarnia's 'chemical valley,' the depth of CAER programs generally depend on specific industries to 'lead the way.' Large industrial facilities will have the required response equipment and materials onsite, in case an incident occurs. In this instance, and when CVECO is activated, local responders will take a back up or support role when they are called to an industrial incident. Although industry will have the required response materials, they are not always well stocked with available peoplepower (off shifts, holidays, etc) and ancillary devices (usually equipped for one event at

“The twist is the partnerships with local industries that can significantly help emergency services in pre-planning for a major emergency event.”

a time). Local emergency services are always well equipped in these two areas, thus the need for mutual aid agreements and co-operative awareness training. Hopefully this can all happen prior to an event!

A more recent example can be found in Oakville, Ontario. There, the Petro Canada Refinery participated in local CAER group meetings, provided internal refinery tours and hazardous area training, sponsored members of the Oakville fire department to attend petroleum hydrocarbon fire training at Lambton College in Sarnia and spearheaded a second mutual aid agreement with the Petro Canada Mississauga lubricants facility. The Oakville refinery also maintained firefighting equipment including three foam pumps,

one foam storage tender, one rapid assault or Twin Agent vehicle, a large inventory of firefighting foam, dedicated hydrant system and 24-hour staff trained to facilitate a response. Any time an internal refinery emergency alarm was initiated, the Oakville fire department was called immediately and would report to the refinery with a pre-planned response, standing by for further instructions. In all responses the chief responding officer would be escorted to the scene and informed in detail about the incident.

In late 2005, the refinery operations ceased and all the associated refining equipment is currently in various stages of being dismantled and removed. All that

would remain at the site was the operation of the tank farm storage area, transshipment capabilities and rail car unloading rack. What about the equipment? Most of the pieces were sold, scrapped or relocated to

other refineries: except the newest foam pumper, a 2004 custom built Smeal, rated at 2,000 gpm with a 75' aerial ladder, Servo Command foam proportioning system and a 1,000 gallon on board foam tank. A decision was made. The truck could not stay at the terminal. Instead, ownership of the pumper was transferred to the Oakville fire department. The department was instilled as the primary responder for terminal emergencies, the response protocol was amended and a revision was made to the Mutual Aid Agreements between Petro Canada's Oakville terminal, the Oakville fire department and the Mississauga lubricants facility.

The official hand over ceremony

See 'Oakville' on page 17

Students bite into injury prevention lessons

BY BRIAN P. WALSH CET, CBCO
CHIEF FIRE PREVENTION
OFFICER
MISSISSAUGA FIRE &
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services were on hand in February to congratulate the Grade 6 class at Ray Underhill School in Streetsville. Teacher Holly Smart was the lucky winner of a pizza party lunch courtesy of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council in recognition of her safety lesson aimed at 'Keeping Our Kids Safe.' The real winners were the kids who will benefit from the safety lessons learned.

On hand with Smart and her



students, were school principal Bill MacGregor, captain Roger Clement and public education officer Michele Allen.

Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services was also pleased to be

able to present a pizza party prize package to second time winning teacher Cindy Mohareb and her Grade 4 class at St. Hilary School who learned the 'Great Escapes' lesson.

Continued from page 16

Oakville gets new fire truck

occurred in January 2007. According to the agreement it was deemed critical for foam application equipment to remain in the area. Therefore the truck must be maintained and be available if, and when, the terminal has a need. Training on the new truck will again demonstrate the cooperation between

Petro Canada and the Oakville fire department. All of the training on the truck operation will be provided by Petro Canada to the fire crews of Oakville.



A view of the entire truck. Photo submitted by Petro Canada.



From left, members of the Petro Canada fire crew stand beside Ken Dymock, Manager of Distribution for Petro Canada. Dymock shakes hands with Oakville Mayor Rob Burton while handing over the keys to the truck to Fire Chief Richard Boyes. Oakville town councillors look on. Photo submitted by Oakville Fire Department.

The training is scheduled to take place in February.

These examples indicate how partnerships with local industry can be effective in pre-planning for major incidents. It is likely many more partnerships, at the local level, will be developed in the near future as industry continues to search for ways to reduce costs.

Note: The examples in this article were not intended to infer any sort of deficiency with local response networks, rather for this article it is required to be understood that the local emergency services were in a support role.

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.

Pre-Service Firefighter program streamlined

BY DOUG GOODINGS
EXECUTIVE COODINATOR
OFM ACADEMIC STANDARDS
& EVALUATION (AS&E)

Recently the Certification Council streamlined the application process for those firefighters seeking certification. With a more efficient application process, applicants will no longer have to submit copies of supporting certificates along with their applications. Members seeking certification will only have to submit the letter from their Fire Chief, the application form and the job performance skills sign-off sheet. It will now be the responsibility of the individuals requesting certification to maintain a record of all supporting documentation. This information will be updated on the certification section of the OFM website in the near future.

Other great news from AS&E includes discussions by the OFM with the Justice Institute of British Columbia to obtain recognition of the OFC Company Officer diploma program for transfer credits with the Institute's Bachelor of Fire and Safety Studies program. This agreement would allow graduates of the OFC Company Officer program to receive advanced standing credits. As soon as the details have been worked out it will be posted to the OFM website. If you

Fire service certification update

Firefighter Certification Program

	Departments	Firefighters
Enrolled	191	15,773
	Career Firefighters	Firefighters
Total Certified:	1,840	642

Fire Prevention Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Fire Prevention Officers
Enrolled	86	487
Total Certified:		171

Company Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Company Officers
Enrolled	78	1,188
Total Certified:		49

Training Officer Certification Program

	Departments	Training Officers
Enrolled	54	175
Total Certified:		14

Public Fire & Life Safety Educators' Certification Program

	Public Fire & Life Safety Educators
Total Certified	247

Statistics as of February 2007.

wish to find out more information about the JIBC degree program, visit www.jibc.bc.ca/fire.

If you require further information, please consult the OFM website at www.ofm.gov.on.ca, call the OFM Certification Office at (416) 325-3142 or contact Doug Goodings, Executive Coordinator by e-

mail at Doug.Goodings@ontario.ca or by phone at (416) 325-3136.

Fire Safety Awards

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Will the next winner be from your community?

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council are pleased to announce that the 2007 Fire Safety Awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel on June 28, 2007. This is your chance to nominate those dedicated individuals and organizations in your community that deserve to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to fire safety.

The nomination forms have been mailed out to all fire departments and are available at www.ofm.gov.on.ca and www.firesafetycouncil.com. You now have until **April 27, 2007** to nominate individuals or organizations for the following awards:



Fire Safety Action Award

Eligible nominees are children aged 16 and under who have demonstrated fire safety knowledge by taking appropriate action to prevent or mitigate a potentially hostile fire situation.

Fire Safety Partner

Eligible nominees are organizations (such as corporations, service clubs or media) that have partnered with emergency services by providing time, expertise and resources in support of fire safety in the community.

Fire Safety Advocate

Eligible nominees are individuals that have provided time, expertise or resources to promote fire safety in the community.

*Please note that fire services personnel are not eligible for an award.
 If you have any further questions, please contact Gina Pontikas at 416-325-3155.*

Time to draw a line in the sand

In September 2006, a fire occurred in a home situated in a Burlington sub-division. Its dollar loss was estimated to be \$1 million.

"The circumstances around the fire that occurred in Burlington turned into a life safety issue for the province of Ontario," said Pat Burke, Ontario Fire Marshal. "Through calculated strategies and actions, the potential for more property damage and loss of life was reduced through the cooperative efforts of the Office of the Marshal, Burlington Fire Department and the Ontario Electrical Safety Authority."

Heat recovery ventilators are part of many newer homes' heating, cooling and ventilating systems. These systems, like furnaces and air conditioning systems, require periodic maintenance.

After the fire, a letter was distributed to homeowners in the area by an independent investigation firm. The firm was investigating the origin and cause of the fire, subsequent to the OFM being on the scene to investigate the HRV that had been in the home.

After the letters were distributed, several homeowners began to express concerns to the Burlington Fire Department. They had encountered problems with identical HRVs in their homes. In fact, five HRVs, in the neighbourhood surrounding

the fire scene, had already had their motors replaced due to malfunctions. All the systems had been listed through ULC and there had been no recalls issued on the particular models. Burlington Fire immediately contacted the OFM.

James Bennett, a Fire Protection Engineer with the OFM visited one home where the homeowner had expressed concerns. The homeowner told Bennett that a few days prior to the visit, he had smelled burning in the two bathrooms that were serviced by the HRV. The homeowner had investigated the ventilator and found it to be overheating. It had also been too hot to touch. The homeowner explained to Bennett how he cleaned the HRV every three months, but continued to notice large accumulations of dust; most likely due to the construction of several new homes in the area over the last 10 years.

Bennett examined the motor of the system. During its operation, Bennett found the rotor locked and the exterior increased in temperature. When Bennett attempted to manually turn the rotor, he found it "unusually" resistive to rotation indicating a possible bearing failure.

The investigation continued when representatives from the independent investigating firm told Bennett about two other homeowners in the area who had submitted motors that had failed with their homes' HRVs. Both motors were restrictive to rotation by hand. After these motors were examined, it was evident all the motors had come from HRV

systems that had been operation in for seven to eight years or more.

Bennett said "It is my opinion, based on my examination of the four HRV motors all within the same neighbourhood, that there is a problem with the bearings failing in the motors resulting in overheating of the motor exterior. The dust exposure in the area, and restriction of the ventilation openings may be contributing to the problem. It is my opinion that there is a problem with these units, and the public should be warned of a potential failure."

Burlington Fire Department continued to receive calls from the public. Public officials feared it could only be a matter of time before another HRV might overheat and someone could be injured or killed. Communication with the public was essential.

"It was important to gather as much information about the affected HRVs as possible," said Ed Gulbinas, Manager, Applied Research. "Only then, could the OFM and Burlington Fire communicate with the public."

Within the same day of being notified of this potential for the HRVs to overheat, OFM staff from Applied Research, Public Education & Media Relations and Fire Investigation Services began to collect and evaluate relevant information.

"Representatives from the manufacturer, Venmar Ventilation Inc. were contacted immediately after the OFM had been made aware of the potential fire concerns," said Doug Crawford, Deputy Fire Marshal. "Based on the information we collected,

"After the letters were distributed, several homeowners began to express concerns..."

See 'Working' on page 21

Continued from page 20

“Working as partners was the best way to eliminate confusion...”

it was determined that a public safety notice would be developed to make the public aware of the potential fire concerns with the HRVs. Burlington Fire would take the lead to immediately distribute these notices within selected targeted areas of Burlington.”

The OFM faxed a letter from the Fire Marshal to Venmar outlining the OFM’s obligation under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*: to notify the public regarding this potential fire safety hazard. At that time, Venmar was asked to comment on the scope and content of the public safety notice.

“We had a moral and legal obligation to advise our residents that there was a potentially serious fire risk associated with any HRVs installed in their homes,” said Mark Mehlenbacher, Deputy Fire Chief of the Burlington Fire Department. “It was imperative that we treated this issue with the highest priority and did everything

that we could to prevent another fire. We released the public safety notice to the area media and to the public. In fact, a major television network was literally waiting on our doorstep and did broadcast the notice and related story live that very evening.”

Two days later, Venmar issued a news release to announce a safety upgrade program. It stated “It has come to Venmar’s attention that an unlikely series of circumstances could lead to a motor overheating in certain HRV models, that may result in a potential fire hazard. These units fully comply with all applicable CSA, UL, and other standards... Only certain models between 1991 and 2001 are affected.” Through the new safety upgrade program, consumers were asked to relay their concerns to Venmar. Based on their concerns, the manufacturer of the HRVs would send them an adapter to be installed at the end

of the HRV power cord.

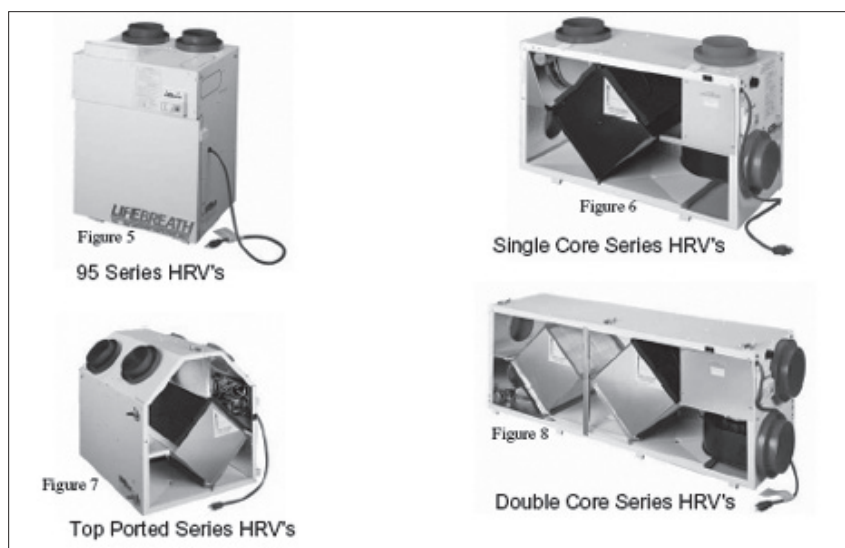
Through a telephone discussion shortly after, the OFM learned there were 253,753 affected units in Canada and 74,933 affected units in the United States. The OFM continued to work to get more information about the brand names and model numbers.

To speed up the process, the OFM asked the Electrical Safety Authority (ESA), which is responsible for public electrical safety in Ontario as designated under the Electricity Act 1998, to assist.

“ESA got involved because it was an electrical safety issue for Ontario,” said Tatjana Dinic, Code Engineer at the Electrical Safety Authority. “Together with the OFM, we were able to put more credibility in our corner and publicly communicate the information we had obtained. Working as partners was the best way to eliminate confusion for the public.”

Working in partnership with ESA, two news releases were distributed. Each release communicated more information about affected brands and their model numbers than the last, gave manufacturer contact information for consumers and described potential problem signs.

When the news releases were being developed, the OFM distributed *Communiqué 2006-33* to the Ontario fire service. The *Communiqué* noted the importance of consumers reading and following the manufacturer’s instructions on maintenance and



Photos of affected heat recovery ventilation systems reprinted from a CSA International news release (www.csa-international.org).

See ‘It’ on page 22

Continued from page 21

"It was fortunate no one was injured."

repair. It was attached to a CSA International news release.

During the development and distribution of the communication materials, Venmar distributed power-plug adapters through their safety upgrade program. Following this distribution, ESA sent a letter to Venmar stating:

"Since the power-plug adapter is not approved as the acceptable

retrofit action, ESA can no longer support Venmar's Safety Upgrade Program.

ESA has determined that the affected models present a substantial risk of injury to the public and requests the following action [from Venmar Ventilation Inc]:

• Stop implementing the Safety Upgrade Program and advise

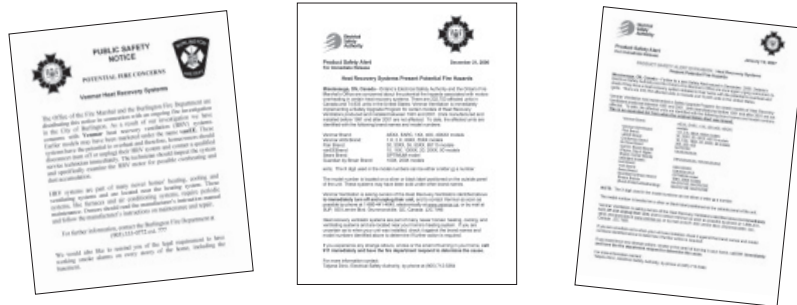
consumers who received the power-plug adapter not to use it and to unplug the affected model; and

- Repair the defect in affected models or,
- Replace affected models with like or equivalent certified products or,
- Refund the purchase price of such product (less a reasonable allowance of use)."

The fire in Burlington that destroyed a home late last year yielded much more than what met the eye initially. Unfortunately, two firefighters were injured as the result of this fire. It could have been much worse given the severity and rapid, fire progression at the time of the response.

Through good working relationships with the Ontario fire service and industry stakeholders, the OFM was able to 'draw a line the sand' and implement informed decisions to reduce the potential for fire. As a partner in fire safety, all fire departments should make a concerted effort to become familiar with HRVs and firefighters, in particular, should be aware that in circumstances where an HRV is suspected as the fire cause, the structure could already be compromised at the time of initial response.

ESA and the OFM continue to work on this issue and your assistance is requested. If your fire department is aware of any issues (i.e., overheating, fires) involving heat recovery ventilation systems in your municipality, contact the OFM at (416) 325-3100. For more information about these systems visit www.ofm.gov.on.ca and click on *Communiqués*.



Copies of the public safety notice and news releases that were distributed by Burlington Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal and Electrical Safety Authority.

SummerSmart 2007

SummerSmart is just around the corner, ready to be read by countless safety-minded cottagers, campers and homebodies across the province. What is *SummerSmart*, you ask? Well, it's an annual public safety awareness campaign, brought to you by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council. The information booklet is designed to give Ontarians the information they need to reduce risk and prevent incidents associated with summertime activities such as barbecuing, camping, cottaging, boating and amusement rides.

However, changing behaviour doesn't happen overnight. It takes the ongoing commitment of both

the public and private sectors working together to ensure safety information is being delivered effectively to the greatest number of people possible.

With that in mind, TSSA and the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council would like to thank all of our safety partners for participating in this year's program.

Let's make it the safest season ever and be — *SummerSmart*.

A copy of *SummerSmart* 2007.



Ontario Fire Service Messenger Survey

On a bi-monthly basis, the **Ontario Fire Service Messenger** is distributed to the Ontario fire service, Ontario media and stakeholders to be used as a tool to promote fire safety. The purpose of the following survey is to give you, the reader, the opportunity to tell us how the **Ontario Fire Service Messenger** can best meet your needs. Your feedback is appreciated and will remain anonymous. Please fax the completed survey to the attention of Carol Gravelle at (416) 325-3162 no later than June 8, 2007.

1. How helpful are the following sections of the Ontario Fire Service Messenger in your day-to-day activities? (Please circle the number that corresponds with your answer.)				
	Very helpful	Somewhat helpful	Not very helpful	Not at all helpful
Climbing the Ladder	1	2	3	4
Code Violations	1	2	3	4
In Detail	1	2	3	4
What's new in the OFM Library?	1	2	3	4
Ontario Fire Commission Opinion	1	2	3	4
News stories	1	2	3	4
Teaching plans (insert)	1	2	3	4
2. When you receive a new issue of the Ontario Fire Service Messenger , do you: always read, sometimes read, rarely read, or never read...?				
	Always read	Sometimes read	Rarely read	Never read
Climbing the Ladder	1	2	3	4
Code Violations	1	2	3	4
In Detail	1	2	3	4
What's new in the OFM Library?	1	2	3	4
Editorial	1	2	3	4
Profile	1	2	3	4
Ontario Fire Commission Opinion	1	2	3	4
News stories	1	2	3	4
Teaching plans (insert)	1	2	3	4
3. Other than you, please circle how many people in your department read the Ontario Fire Service Messenger in an average month? 1-4 people 5-10 11-20 21-40 more than 40 people				
Thank you for completing this survey.				



Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association
Training and Educational Symposium
June 4th – 7th, 2007



REGISTRATION FORM

No Registrations will be accepted after May 31, 2007

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Bus. Phone: _____

Full Symposium Package: Includes: All sessions as well as Monday and Tuesday Night Dinner and Wednesday Night Gala Dinner, All Breakfasts and Lunches	Members: \$300.00
Daily Registration: (Cost includes lunch)	Non-Members \$350.00
	Subtotal \$_____

Monday	Cost: \$95.00
Tuesday	Cost: \$95.00
Wednesday	Cost: \$95.00
Thursday	Cost: \$95.00
Monday Evening Dinner	Cost: \$35.00
Tuesday Evening Dinner	Cost: \$35.00
Wednesday Evening Gala Dinner	Cost: \$50.00
Full Companions Program: Includes: Monday and Tuesday Night Dinner, Wednesday Night Gala Dinner and Breakfast each Morning	Cost: \$175.00

Monday Evening Dinner Only	Cost: \$35.00
Tuesday Evening Dinner Only	Cost: \$35.00
Wednesday Evening Gala Dinner Only	Cost: \$50.00
Companions Name: _____	

CHEQUE ENCLOSED (Make payable to Richmond Hill Symposium 2007) Total Cost:\$_____

Please Mail or Fax Symposium Registrations to:

150 High Tech Road, Richmond Hill ON L4B 4N5 Telephone: (905) 763-8778 Fax: (905) 763-8144

To Book Hotel Reservations for The Sheraton Parkway or Best Western,
call 1-800-668-0101



Putting pen to paper

Over the winter months, a few poems were written by members of the Ontario fire service. They communicate the challenges of their roles and of getting fire safety messages to members of their community. They are also poignant reminders of the hard work and dedication fire service members perform every day.

The Fire Prevention Officer

BY DUNCAN RYDALL

PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY

TECHNICIAN

ST. CATHARINES FIRE SERVICES

The Prevention Officer's most
fearful plight;
Is did our message get through
alright?

Stop Drop and Roll!
Get Out, Stay Out
Put a Lid on it!
No battery No Chance!

Our message is clear and well
defined
However people continue to leave
it behind.

"It won't happen to me" or "Just a
short cut you'll see"

"The battery was out during
cooking for 3"

"I only left the stove for a second
you see"

Our job is to educate, to keep
everyone safe
To prevent tragedy and keep fire in
its place

We strive to learn more; We seek
the keys
To convince the public of what our
eyes see.

The hurt and the anguish from
preventable tragedy
No home to go to, a funeral to plan

Reporting a loss to a Mother or Dad

Please make our job easier
Take heed in our Plan

To make our City the most Fire Safe
in the Land

Smoke alarms

BY GARY BELLE

CAPTAIN

EAST GORHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

Sound asleep in bed with my wife
The pager goes off, I jump to life
Kiss my wife and tell her I'm going
The message says smoke is showing
and tells us where we're going

We arrive at our destination
To see a mother's devastation
Her cries could be heard through
the windows of the truck
"My two children are stuck!"

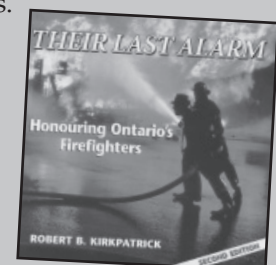
Fire is shooting out the main floor
door
We immediately ladder the second
floor
The firefighters start the search and
find a boy, next to his favorite toy
to their joy, he opens an eye
Down the ladder he goes as a

firefighter says goodbye
Back to the search, time is short
in the second room they give a
report
Second child found exiting out the
alfa bravo side
Even with all their efforts, that child
had died

The sad thing is, for that battery cost
An innocent child's life was lost
Working smoke alarms on every
floor
Could have got everyone out the
first floor door

events as the dangerous trains
of St. Thomas that killed the
world's largest elephant, the book
illuminates the unpredictability
of firefighting. To the *Enarco* ship
explosion of 1934, the devastation
of Hurricane Hazel in 1954, to the
lasting effects of chemical fires.

The only book of its kind, it
is a credit to Ontario's fallen
firefighters. It is recommended
to anyone who is hoping to
get a better understanding of
Ontario firefighting challenges,
advancements and a mere look into
the lives of the brave firefighters
that fought fires big and small to
protect their communities and
homes.



Book review

Their Last Alarm: Honouring Ontario's Firefighters was written by Captain Robert Kirkpatrick and was reprinted in 2004. Divided into eight chapters, the book is a historical overview of Ontario and the changing face of firefighting. Largely driven by industrial advancement, these chapters summarize numerous firefighting challenges and portray gradual public realization that often, firefighters will make the 'ultimate sacrifice' trying to save the life of a citizen. It is clear firefighting is not for everyone.

Chronicling deaths of Ontario firefighters since the mid-1800s to the present, the book takes readers from a strictly male profession to the entrance of women. With interesting news bites of such

Hotel retrofit training seminar

BY BRIAN P. WALSH CET, CBCO
CHIEF FIRE PREVENTION
OFFICER
MISSISSAUGA FIRE &
EMERGENCY SERVICES

On February 21, 2007 Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services hosted hotel/accommodation industry stakeholders, consultants and other departmental fire prevention staff for a one day technical training seminar on the provisions of the Ontario Fire Code's new Section 9.9 Hotel Retrofit.

The seminar was well attended with representatives from more than 15 hotel groups, provincial consultants and fire inspection staff from 12 nearby municipal fire departments coming together for a joint presentation provided by Susan Clarke and Kevin Kelly of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office Fire Safety Standards section.

Mississauga Fire Chief Garry Morden also attended and talked about the value of these joint training sessions that bring the enforcement side of the fire service together with the affected industry members. These sessions are opportunities directed at information sharing, dialogue and

understanding.

As of January 1, 2007, the Ontario Fire Code now consolidates all existing hotel fire safety regulations and is applicable to all hotel establishments. The retrofit provisions of Section 9.9 provide for scheduled compliance over a five-year time frame. Joint fire service and hotel industry stakeholder training sessions continue to be scheduled across the province. For a list of locations and contacts related to future training sessions, as well as up-to-date information and resource tools related to the new Hotel Retrofit provisions please visit the OFM website www.ofm.gov.on.ca/english/Legislation/Hotel/Default.asp.



Susan Clarke, Engineer with the OFM's Fire Safety Standards section presents a PowerPoint presentation at the seminar in Mississauga in February. Photo submitted by Brian Walsh, Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services.



Kevin Kelly, Engineer with the OFM's Fire Safety Standards answers a question at the seminar. Photo submitted by Brian Walsh, Mississauga Fire & Emergency Services.

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.

December 2006: 8 fatal fires resulting in 8 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	1	1
16-64	3	0	3
65 and over	2	2	4
Total	5	3	8

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental.....3	0001-0800.....3
Undetermined.....0	0801-1600.....0
Under Investigation.....5	1601-1800.....0
Incendary.....0	1801-0000.....5
Location of fatal fire: Cochrane Town (1), Hearst Town (1), Laurentian Hills (1), London (1), New Tecumseth (1), Toronto (1) and Windsor (2).	

January 2007: 4 fatal fires resulting in 4 fire deaths

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0-15	0	0	0
16-64	0	1	1
65 and over	1	2	3
Total	1	3	4

Fire Cause	Time of Day
Accidental.....0	0001-0800.....1
Undetermined.....2	0801-1600.....2
Under Investigation.....2	1601-1800.....0
Incendary.....0	1801-0000.....1
Location of fatal fires: Central Elgin (1), Ottawa (1), Toronto (1) and Windsor (1).	

OFM News Update

Anne-Marie Hawke joined the OFM on January 29 as the administrative assistant for the southwest region in the Fire Protection Services section.

Dawn Heath began a six-month secondment on February 1 as an administrative assistant working with the Deputy Fire Marshal.

Paul Leslie left the OFM on March

23 to begin as Deputy Chief with Central York Fire and Emergency Services. Paul worked with the OFM for 17 years.

Bob Lock retired from the OFM in January after 20 years. Bob was an operations manager in Fire Investigation Services for nine years in the northern region.

Kelly Serson began in February on a six-month secondment as

the training officer in the Fire Protection Services section.

Orit Biran left the OFM's Academic Standards & Evaluation section to join the Ministry of Environment.

Elaine Wallwin retired from her role as Food Services Supervisor at the Ontario Fire College on March 23.

Fire Service Calendar 2007

May 5 - 9	Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs 55 th Annual Conference & Trade Show	Toronto, ON
May 10	Durham, Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Investiture Awards	Oshawa, ON
April 15-21	Wildfire Prevention Week	Ontario
June 4 -7	OMFPOA Training & Educational Symposium	Richmond Hill, ON
June 25	Cochrane, Timiskaming Investiture Awards	Timmins, ON
June 28	Fire Safety Awards	Toronto, ON
July 26	Bruce, Dufferin, Grey, Simcoe Investiture Awards	Orillia, ON
August 30	Parry Sound, Muskoka, Haliburton Investiture Awards	Parry Sound, ON
Sept. 13	Algoma, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Sudbury (Incl. Greater Sudbury & Sudbury District) Investiture Awards	North Bay, ON
Sept. 13-16	Northwestern Ontario Fire Training and Education Conference 'Fire Con'	Thunder Bay, ON
Sept. 23-26	Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Conference	Niagara Falls, ON
Oct. 11	York, Halton, Peel Investiture Awards	Mississauga, ON
Oct. 29	Hamilton, Haldimand, Norfolk, Niagara Investiture Awards	Hamilton, ON
Nov. 14 - 16	15th annual Fire & Life Safety Educators' Conference	Midland, ON
Nov. 20 & 21	Toronto (North, South, East & West Commands) Investiture Awards	Toronto, ON

Make it Stop! campaign a real 'life saver'

In January, Ontario's Fire Marshal Pat Burke, launched Make it Stop!, a unique provincial campaign to provide life-saving solutions to nuisance alarms in Ontario homes.

A nuisance alarm is when smoke from a toaster, an open oven door or even steam from a shower causes a smoke alarm to activate. Frustration due to nuisance alarms is a primary reason why batteries are removed from smoke alarms, leaving occupants vulnerable to fire.

"Disabling a smoke alarm is not only risky, it's against the law," said Burke. "If nuisance alarms are a problem, never remove or disconnect the batteries. Instead, visit the new website www.makeitstop.ca or call your local fire department for practical solutions such as relocating smoke alarms or using smoke alarms with a 'hush' feature. These solutions could save

your life."

Make it Stop! was developed by the Office of the Fire Marshal following a review of provincial fire loss data from 1995 to 2004. Fire department reports during that period indicated a smoke alarm was present in 79 per cent of homes that had a fire. However, these smoke alarms activated in less than half (47%) of these fires. In many cases the batteries had been removed or disconnected.

Launched at Toronto Fire Services McRae station, Toronto Fire Services Fire Chief Bill Stewart applauded the new campaign saying, "Every year, people die in fires without working smoke alarms. This campaign will educate Toronto residents about the importance of working smoke alarms in their homes and make the city a safer place from fire."

A number of major Ontario news outlets attended the launch

including, CTV News, The Toronto Sun, CHUM News, CITY-TV, CFRB (AM1010), CBC-TV, A-Channel, Canadian Press, Fairchild Television and Ming Pao. Before the news conference, Ontario Fire Marshal Burke appeared on Global TV and was heard on CFRB.

Working with the fire service, Make it Stop! is designed to educate people about nuisance alarm solutions, smoke alarm technologies, home fire escape plans and the importance of working smoke alarms. New public service announcements direct Ontarians to visit www.makeitstop.ca.

It is the law in Ontario for every home to have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. Failure to comply with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$50,000.



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

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February/March 2007

Smoke Alarms

Teaching Plan

Introduction:

Education is a critical component of any smoke alarm program. In order to provide accurate information and guidance to the public, fire service personnel must be educated about the requirements and procedures for the installation, testing, and maintenance of smoke alarms. Fire service personnel need to be aware of the different technologies used in smoke alarms, and how they work, in order to provide an effective response to public inquiries about smoke alarms.

Often, smoke alarms do not operate in a fire because the batteries have been removed or the power has been disconnected as a result of nuisance alarms. A nuisance alarm is when smoke from a toaster, an open oven door or even steam from a shower cause a smoke alarm to activate. Fire service personnel must be able to provide the public with acceptable options to deal with nuisance alarms without disabling the smoke alarm.

SMOKE ALARM FACTS:

- Over 90% of residential fires are preventable.
- An injury is reported in one out of every 17 preventable home fires. Not all injuries are reported.
- One out of every 100 preventable residential fires is a fatal fire.

Research from 1995 to 2004 regarding preventable/fatal/residential fires indicated:

- 35% of fires, a smoke alarm was present and operated.
- 25% of fires, a smoke alarm was present and did not operate.
- 21% of fires, no smoke alarm was present.
- 19% of fires, smoke alarm operation was undetermined.

This research pertains to 609 fatal fires that occurred from 1995 to 2004. Based on the research, there was no smoke alarm warning in 46 per cent of fatal home fires.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this session, the firefighter will be able to:

- a) Describe the difference between a smoke detector and a smoke alarm;
- b) Describe the various technologies and features currently available on smoke alarms;
- c) Identify Ontario Fire Code requirements for the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms in dwelling units;
- d) Identify proper locations for installation of smoke alarms in various types of dwelling units;
- e) Describe proper installation and maintenance procedures for smoke alarms;
- f) Describe the offences and penalties for violation of Ontario Fire Code requirements for smoke alarms in dwelling units;
- g) Describe acceptable options for dealing with nuisance alarms without disconnecting power or removing batteries from smoke alarms;
- h) Describe the roles and responsibilities of homeowners, landlords, and tenants regarding smoke alarms in dwelling units; and,
- i) Identify available sources of information designed to provide guidance and assistance to the public on smoke alarms.

Expectations of the Participant:

- Be an active listener
- Participate in discussions
- Ask relevant questions
- Display professionalism

Smoke Alarms vs. Smoke Detectors:

Although the terms 'smoke alarms' and 'smoke detectors' are generally used synonymously, there is a subtle difference. It can be argued that the general public will not likely make any distinction, but it should be recognized by the fire service that these are defined terms in the Ontario Building Code and the Ontario Fire Code.

As per subsection 1.2.1. of the Ontario Fire Code:

Smoke alarm means a combined **smoke detector** and audible alarm device that is designed to sound an alarm within the room or suite in which it is located when there is smoke within the room or suite.

Smoke detector means a **fire detector** designed to operate when the concentration of airborne combustion products exceeds a predetermined level.

Fire detector means a device which detects a fire condition and automatically initiates an electrical signal to actuate an **alert signal** or **alarm signal** and includes **heat detectors** and **smoke detectors**.

A smoke alarm is a stand-alone unit that detects smoke and sounds an alarm, in comparison to a smoke detector, which is a type of fire detector that detects smoke and sends a signal to an alarm panel, which will initiate an audible alarm.

Smoke Alarm Technologies and Features:

Technology

There are two types of technologies used in smoke alarms to detect the presence of smoke or the products of combustion. Smoke alarms will employ one or both of these types of detection technologies. Smoke alarms are designed to be battery-powered or powered by a permanent connection to the household alternating current (AC) supply. It is important when replacing alarms that the correct type is installed. Smoke alarms that are installed with permanent electrical connections cannot be replaced with battery-powered units.

Ionization Smoke Alarms

This type of smoke alarm uses a small amount of radioactive material that ionizes the air between two electrically charged plates, causing a measurable current to flow between the plates. When smoke enters the chamber, it changes the flow of current, which is detected and activates the alarm. Ionization alarms may be more prone to nuisance alarms caused by such things as burning toast, opening the oven door while cooking, or steam from cooking or showering. The steam or heat generates ions which can trigger the alarm to activate.

Smoke Alarm Technologies and Features: *con't*

Photoelectric Smoke Alarms

This type of alarm uses a light source that is aimed away from a sensor in a sensing chamber. When smoke enters the chamber it reflects the light onto the sensor, which is detected, and activates the alarm. Photoelectric alarms may be less prone to nuisance alarms caused by cooking activities and more sensitive to smouldering fires that generate more smoke.

Combination Ionization/Photoelectric Alarms

This type of alarm uses a combination of the two technologies to detect the presence of smoke or products of combustion. An alarm can be initiated by either of the sensors (ionization and photoelectric) within the unit.

Smoke alarms that combine carbon monoxide detection capabilities are also available in a single unit. These units incorporate different sounding alarms for detected presence of smoke and/or carbon monoxide.

Other features:

- Some smoke alarms are designed with a 'hush' button which can be pressed in the event of a nuisance alarm. The hush button will silence the alarm for several minutes and then automatically reset itself. If smoke continues to build from a real fire while the alarm is in hush mode, the smoke will override the silence feature and the smoke alarm will re-activate.
- Some alarms may be equipped with an emergency safety light that will light up when the alarm is activated.
- Some battery-operated smoke alarms are provided with long-life (lithium) batteries that do not have to be replaced every year. Alarms with these types of batteries do not have to be changed as often, however the public should still test their smoke alarms regularly.

Ontario Fire Code Requirements:

IT'S THE LAW in Ontario for every home to have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.

Homeowners

Homeowners are responsible for installing and maintaining smoke alarms on every storey of their homes and outside all sleeping areas.

Landlords

Landlords are responsible for ensuring their rental properties comply with the law. They must also provide tenants with a copy of the smoke alarm manufacturer's maintenance instructions.

Tenants

Tenants of rental properties should contact their landlord immediately if their occupancy does not have the required number of smoke alarms, or if there are any problems or concerns with the alarms.

Smoke Alarm Installation:

- Effective March 1, 2006, it is the law for all Ontario homes to have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. Reference: Ontario Fire Code, Section 2.13.2.3 (1), (2) and (2.1).
- Smoke alarms shall be installed between each sleeping area and the remainder of the dwelling unit. If sleeping areas are served by hallways, the smoke alarms shall be installed in the hallways.
- Smoke alarms are required to be connected with permanent electrical connections, however, battery powered units are acceptable and will satisfy the requirements
- It is against the law for anyone to remove the batteries or tamper with a smoke alarm in any way. Tenants in rental accommodations can be held accountable for tampering.
- When smoke alarms are being replaced, the level of detection shall not be reduced.

Failure to comply with Ontario Fire Code smoke alarm requirements could result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals or \$100,000 for corporations.

Dealing with Nuisance Alarms:

Simple steps that can be taken to help reduce or eliminate some nuisance alarms caused by cooking activities include:

- Keeping ovens and stovetop burners clean;
- Cleaning accumulations of crumbs from the bottom of toasters and turning down the timer setting; and
- Using the fan on the range hood when cooking to help remove steam and combustion particles from the air.

Other options include:

- Avoid installing smoke alarms in/near kitchens and bathrooms;
- Install a smoke alarm with a hush feature;
- Move the alarm farther away from the source of the nuisance alarm;
- Relocate the smoke alarm from the ceiling to a spot high on an adjacent wall, and
- Replace ionization type alarms with photoelectric type alarms

Testing and Maintenance of Smoke Alarms:

- Make sure unit is secure and unobstructed.
- Test the alarm monthly or after being away from home for more than a few days by pressing the 'test' button.
- Install a new battery in the alarm once a year or whenever the low-battery warning sounds.
- Clean alarm by gently vacuuming the outside of the unit for battery-operated alarms. For electrically connected alarms disconnect the power to the unit, open the alarm cover and gently vacuum the inside of the alarm, and then reconnect the power to the alarm.
- Replace the alarm if it fails to operate properly when tested.
- Replace the alarm at least every 10 years.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing, testing, and maintaining smoke alarms.

References and Resources:

- *www.ofm.gov.on.ca*: A variety of smoke alarm materials, including news releases, public service announcements can be found on the OFM website in English and French.
- *www.makeitstop.ca*: A website to provide advice and solutions for nuisance alarms.
- *Communiqués 2006-29, 2006-11 and 2006-07*.
- News release: On November 21, 2006 a news release was distributed to urge Ontario fire departments to enforce zero tolerance approach to smoke alarms. It can be found in the 'News Releases' section of the OFM website, *www.ofm.gov.on.ca*.
- *Ontario Fire Service Messenger*: Articles about the smoke alarm amendment and fire department programs have appeared in issues of the magazine. For information specifically about the amendment refer to the February/March 2006 issue (Vol. 15, Issue 2).
- *Smoke Alarms Save Lives* insert: Distributed in the December/January 2006 issue of the *Ontario Fire Service Messenger*, this insert requested fire departments to report any 'smoke alarm saves' in their communities. Since the insert was distributed, a number of these 'saves' have appeared in the magazine.
- *www.firesafetycouncil.com*: Smoke alarm materials can be purchased through the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council.
- Standard CAN/ULC S531 for smoke alarms. This standard is referenced in the Ontario Fire Code, Sentence 2.13.2.3 (1) (installation of smoke alarms).

Fire service personnel should remind the public that in addition to installation, testing and maintenance of their smoke alarms they should also have a home fire escape plan. In addition to assistance from their local fire department, information regarding home escape planning is available on the OFM website (*www.ofm.gov.on.ca*).

Notes:

SMOKE ALARMS

Key Points and Terms	Student Learning Activity	References and Resources	Trainer/Facilitator Activity
Definitions • Smoke alarm • Fire detector • Smoke detector • Dwelling unit	Discussion Look up	<i>Ontario Fire Code, Part I, Defined Terms</i> <i>OFM Guidelines</i>	• Lead discussion • Encourage group discussion
Smoke alarm types IONIZATION • Most sensitive to flaming fires • Slower to detect smouldering fires PHOTOELECTRIC • Most sensitive to smouldering fires • Slower to detect flaming fires COMBINATION SENSOR • Best for all kinds of fires • Combines ionization and photoelectric chambers in one unit HUSH FEATURE • Hush button or pause feature • Deals with nuisance alarms • Housekeeping (e.g., clean toaster) • Temporarily silences alarm	Understand Ask questions Firefighter confidence Demonstrate Participate	OFM website (<i>www.ofm.gov.on.ca</i>) Manufacturer's recommendations <i>Alarmed for Life</i> <i>Working Smoke Alarms: It's the Law!</i> <i>Make it Stop!</i>	• Explain • Show example • Now alarms are date-stamped • Show floor plan and have participants identify where the alarms should be located • Explain the 'hush' feature • Automatically resets itself • Lithium battery • Ionization, avoid kitchens or bathrooms, steam from shower will activate ions • Photoelectric best for near kitchens and bathrooms

SMOKE ALARMS

Key Points and Terms	Student Learning Activity	References and Resources	Trainer/ Facilitator Activity
Installation • Location as per the law • Technology • Smoke alarm waiver • Interconnected • Kitchens, bathrooms • Dead air spaces • Proximity to air vents • Ensure battery is engaged • Safety light • Strobes • Auxiliary devices	Understand Ask questions Demonstrate	OFM website (www. ofm.gov.on.ca) Manufacturer's recommendations <i>Alarmed for Life</i> <i>Working Smoke Alarms: It's the Law!</i> <i>Make it Stop!</i>	• Demonstrate the smoke alarm vents are not blocked • For AC units turn power off prior to cleaning • Lithium battery • Communiqués
Maintenance • When you hear chirping • Cleaning (AC vs. battery-powered units) • Battery replacement, yearly • Life expectancy, 10 years • Ensure secure and unobstructed			• Explain
Testing • Monthly		Manufacturer's instructions	• Demonstrate
Additional Resources OFM videos • <i>No Time to Spare</i> video • <i>You Meant to Come Back</i> PSA • <i>Up in Smoke</i> PSA • <i>Cacophony</i> PSA • <i>Emily's Room</i> PSA • <i>Make it Stop!</i> PSA	Explain Demonstrate	Use smoke alarm as a model	• Show public service announcements • Discuss with group • Video, audio, newsprint also available

Notes:

Notes:

Smoke Alarm Incident Report (Sample)

Name of Municipality: _____

Date: _____ Firefighter name: _____

Shift: _____

Type of inspection : Complaint _____ Request _____ Other _____

Property owner: _____

Address: _____

___No one home ___No adult available ___Entry denied ___Other

Occupancy type: _____

Person contacted: _____

Phone Number: _____

Status: Working _____ Battery Replaced _____ Other: _____

What information was left with the owner or occupant? _____

Fire prevention notified: _____

Follow up inspection date: _____ By whom: _____

Notes: _____

Always Maintain Proper Records

Notes: