

M The Ontario Fire Service **essenger**

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Ted Wieclawek
Fire Marshal of
Ontario

Inside:

Hoarding: Consider this
CBRN standard for first responders
Flickr for the fire service



The Ontario Fire Service Messenger

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

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

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Ted Wieclawek Fire Marshal of Ontario

A balancing act: the challenge in fire protection and prevention



In the last while as Fire Marshal of Ontario, I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many of you at different venues about the issues and challenges that you are facing in your municipalities.

One of the themes that I noted, and will be our challenge going forward, is to continue our efforts to integrate the three lines of defence: public education, fire safety inspections and enforcement and emergency response. Ultimately we want everyone in the fire service to support education, prevention and suppression activities. Ensuring these types of links between all lines of defence will enable us to prevent fires, reduce losses, injuries and deaths, and ensure firefighter health and safety.

So, over the next while, I will be taking a closer look at Section 2.(1) (b) of the FPPA and determining what it means when it says that “every municipality shall provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary.”

Currently, options to determine what these other fire protection services are exist in the guidelines that have been drafted by my Office. The first, *Operational Planning: An Official Guide to Matching Resource Deployment and Risk*, is a risk management guideline for fire departments. The guideline was developed to assess and analyze all risks within the community, determine current suppression capabilities, identify gaps, and develop options and recommendations to address these risks. These options and recommendations can then be presented to municipal council. I encourage the fire service to review and use this guideline. Any comments or feedback would complement our ongoing consultations with the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs and other stakeholders and serve to further enhance this guideline. It can be downloaded from the OFM website at www.ofm.gov.on.ca.

A companion document called *Operational Planning: An Official Guide to Matching Fire Prevention Resources and Risk* will be completed shortly and will be distributed for stakeholder consultation. It was designed to help fire departments assess and analyze all risks, determine current fire prevention capabilities (i.e., public education, inspections and investigations etc.), identify gaps, develop options and recommendations and present them to municipal council.

We hope to have two documents that, together, will help municipalities achieve an integrated balance of the three lines of defence. This is an opportunity for all roles within fire departments to work together and

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Update ONTARIO

News from around the province

Fire at Listowel business claims the lives of two firefighters

On March 24, a funeral was held for Kenneth Rea and Raymond Walter, who died in the line of duty, fighting a fire in Listowel.

"On behalf of the Office of the Fire Marshal and the fire service of Ontario, I would like to express my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of these two courageous firefighters," said Ted Wieclawek, Ontario Fire Marshal. "This is a terrible tragedy."

The Fire Marshal attended the scene to survey the damage and offer support and condolences to the local firefighters and community.

A statement from the North

Perth Fire Department said "On behalf of Fire Chief Edward Smith of the North Perth Fire Department and his fellow firefighters, we wish to sincerely send out gratitude to all the fire services that assisted us and provided condolences, not only across our own country of Canada, but also other countries near and far. The show of brotherhood and sisterhood will be forever close to our hearts."

Throughout their investigation OFM investigators and engineers will continue to work with Ontario



Fire Marshal Wieclawek speaks with OFM investigators and North Perth firefighters at the site of the fatal fire.

Provincial Police, Office of the Chief Coroner and the Ministry of Labour. Preventing a similar fire and resulting consequences is a priority for the OFM.

For more information on the lives of these two courageous men and for pictures from the funeral, read the next issue of the *Messenger*.

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A balancing act con't

share what they know about their communities, including specific buildings, neighbourhoods, residents and any fire safety concerns associated with them.

Over the years, the Ontario fire service has done an excellent job in reducing our fire losses. However, if we are to continue to reduce our fire losses even further, we need to focus on the high risk and hard-to-reach groups in our communities such as older adults, young children,

persons with disabilities and other groups who are at a higher risk to fire. To reach these groups, we will have to look at doing things differently by fostering greater innovation and examining new ways to effectively protect these groups. The fire service will need to develop partnerships with ministries, community groups and associations who work with or who have influence over these high risk groups. Some specific examples include working with personal support workers, agencies who protect children and groups who serve new immigrants, to name a

few.

Community collaboration and partnerships are the keys to further reducing our losses. I look forward to working with you to overcome our challenges and to develop some new solutions and approaches to deal with our fire problem.

In the next issue of the *Messenger*, Dan Hefkey, the Commissioner of Community Safety, will be featured in the editorial.

Fire Marshal of Ontario appointed

Ontario has appointed Tadeusz (Ted) Wieclawek as the province's Fire Marshal.

Wieclawek joined the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) in 1992 and has held several high-ranking positions, most recently Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal responsible for Fire Protection Services.

Wieclawek was an integral part of the policy and legislative development of Ontario's *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, 1997. As Assistant Deputy Fire

Marshal he worked closely with municipalities to help determine appropriate levels of fire protection and ensure the OFM is monitoring the delivery of fire services across the province.

A graduate of Queen's University, Wieclawek is a member of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and sits on the Professional Standards Setting Body Committee.

"We are fortunate to have

someone with Ted Wieclawek's experience and knowledge of fire protection serving as Ontario Fire Marshal. His appointment is a great asset as we work together with our fire prevention partners to keep Ontario communities safe," said Jim Bradley, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services in a news release.

Ontario Fire Coordinators

On February 8, Ontario Fire Coordinators came together from across the province to discuss issues and network with one another at the Ontario Fire College.

This conference is part of the Ontario Mutual and Automatic Aid Plan and Program developed by the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM). This program works in connection with Section 7 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, 1997 and provides a guideline to help fire coordinators establish and maintain a mutual aid plan within their county districts and regions. For the purposes of fulfilling this legislative requirement, the OFM recommends the roles and responsibilities for fire coordinators include:

1. Develop, review and maintain an up-to-date mutual aid plan, under the instructions of the Fire Marshal of Ontario, and in cooperation with the area fire chiefs.
2. Submit the plan to the OFM regional operations man-

ager for approval.

3. Review the mutual aid plan annually, or more often if required, with the participating fire chiefs and the local fire protection adviser(s).

4. Coordinate activations of the mutual aid plan.

5. Consider request and recommend to the Pro-

vincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) the deployment of provincial CBRNE and HUSAR teams.

6. Provide advice and assistance to the Fire Marshal upon request.

7. May assist and support participants by providing information and guidance during mutual aid activations.

8. Within seven days by email to FPSDAR@ontario.ca a synopsis of any significant



Ontario Fire Marshal Ted Wieclawek presented Fire Chief Dave Fields of Windsor Fire & Rescue Services with a plaque to commemorate his 16 years of service as a Fire Coordinator for Windsor Essex county. Fields will be retiring from Windsor Fire this year.

events within their area.

9. In cooperation with the local fire protection adviser, review equipment and apparatus covered by the plan when deemed necessary by the fire coordinator or the fire protection adviser.

10. Attend the annual fire coordinators' conferences and

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such other meetings as may be convened from time to time by the OFM.

11. Submit expense accounts to the OFM regional operations manager for approval twice yearly, and more frequently if required, and before March 31st of each year.

12. Encourage county, district or regional training, and submit requests to the Office of the Fire Marshal for specialized courses.

13. Other duties as may be assigned by the Fire Marshal.

"Fire coordinators act as a conduit between the OFM and fire departments in the requesting of training and fire prevention and public education programs in their areas," said Larry Crang, OFM Acting Operations Manager, Emergency Planning and Strategic Develop-

ment. "When an emergency does occur, they are the OFM's main source of initial contact to coordinate provincial resources requested through the PEOC."

In Ontario, there are 46 coordinators that represent counties, united counties, districts and re-

"We can't thank the fire coordinators enough for all the work that they do within the province. "

gions.

"Fire coordinators are greatly beneficial in the event of an emergency in the local fire department area," said Dennis

Gannon, OFM Operations Manager for the Southwest Fire Protection Services team. "Particularly when the emergency exceeds the ability of their local department, the coordinator can send resources, as needed to this and other departments while also ensuring that coverages are in place in surrounding areas to maintain the required levels of service. We can't thank the fire coordinators enough for all the work that they do within the province. They are extremely beneficial to the residents of Ontario and their time and efforts are greatly appreciated."



A picture of the fire coordinators and Office of the Fire Marshal staff who attended the Fire Coordinators' Conference on February 8, 2011 at the Ontario Fire College.

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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Tactics for Combative Patients

BY MICHAEL WEAVER
FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC
EVERETT, WASHINGTON
STATE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The call comes in as "Police on-scene request medic evaluation for bizarre behaviour." On fire department arrival, the patient becomes agitated, and his behaviour deteriorates into open aggressiveness toward responders. Did police leave after fire department arrival? Was a path of egress left open? Is the patient intent on harm, or does he just want to run away? Oftentimes, this scenario involves a physical confrontation.

Emergency responders surround the patient, who is kicking, screaming, and trying to bite, while responders try to control him and gain his cooperation. After extreme effort, responders bring order to the chaos. They apply restraints, start IVs, give medications, and transport to the nearest [hospital] emergency department. Post call involves completing a patient report and putting the unit back in service.

On return to the station, personnel file injury/exposure reports, and work returns to normal. The crews, once again, survive their most recent "near miss." Near miss? Yes, near miss! The brief series of events described above is the combative patient call. The combative patient represents a real hazard for emergency responders. He can cause debilitating injury, resulting in lost work and wages. He can be injured or die while in fire department care, potentially triggering a lawsuit and its attendant time demands. This does not take into consideration the negative impact such actions will have on co-workers or the respective employer, be it private or public.

Signs and Symptoms

The differential diagnosis for the combative patient can be, but is not limited to, the following: hypoglycemia, drug ingestion, head injury, carbon monoxide poisoning, psychosis/mental illness, and excited delirium. Excited delirium deserves special mention: It is believed that excited delirium is a true medical emergency with references going back as far as 1849 in insane asylums. Doctor Luther V. Bell described the condition as follows: acute onset of symptoms, delirium, extreme agitation, violence with no disposition to yield to overwhelming force, and the need to use physical restraint. Sudden, unexplained death was often associated with individuals presenting with these signs and symptoms. Today, very few cases occur in "managed care" settings. Unfortunately, not everyone in need of this care receives it.

Traditionally, police have been first to respond to individuals who possibly are in this condition because of violent behaviour. With the proliferation of cellphones, emergency responders sometimes arrive prior to the point where the patient becomes violent. The patient may be in a state of delirium or agitation, with violence soon to follow. Police involve emergency responders sooner in the sequence of events to provide medical aid. This can result in emergency responders' assisting in the restraint of the violent individual, thus putting them in the mix of witnesses involved in any inquest or other court proceedings that might follow an in-custody death.

Train for infrequent incidents

With few exceptions, firefighters train for fighting fire much more

often than they actually fight fire. This makes the firefighter more safe and effective at a task that he/she would have little experience with otherwise. The danger of fighting fires is out of proportion to the frequency at which they occur. The same logic should apply to the combative patient.

Before restraining the combative patient, ask the following questions: Is there a medical emergency that requires treatment? After initial contact, can we safely observe the patient from a distance until law enforcement officers arrive? Is the decision to restrain based on safety for the patient and crew or made out of anger? On whose authority are we acting? Could the techniques used to restrain be considered a type of lethal force? Can I justify my actions if someone is badly hurt?

Local laws and protocols can answer most, but not all, of these questions. Early recognition and maintaining paths of egress give us options. Restraint of the combative patient should be an option only when all other avenues have been exhausted or the emergency responders' personal safety is compromised if the patient is not restrained. The crew's safety comes first, followed by efforts to maintain patient dignity. Always show respect and professionalism. Law enforcement officers should be the first choice when dealing with physically aggressive individuals. Consider developing common terminology, protocols, and training with your local law enforcement agencies.

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Code violations in Thunder Bay

The owner of a three-storey Thunder Bay apartment building was found guilty of five Ontario Fire Code violations on February 23, 2011 and fined \$11,400.

The building contained four apartments and a beauty salon and had been retrofitted in the late 1990's. The investigation of this building stemmed from a fire call to the building on the morning of August 9th, 2010. Attending fire crew found several concerns and immediately notified Fire Prevention. A subsequent investigation by fire prevention led to charges being filed.

The five violations for which the owner was found guilty included failure to maintain building fire alarm system in operating condition (6.3.1.4.) (fined \$7,5000), failure to maintain a written record of tests and corrective measures (1.1.2.1.(1)) (fined \$1,150), allowed portable fire extinguishers to be defective and not repaired or recharged when necessary (6.2.7.3.) (fined \$1,000), failure to maintain and test portable fire extinguishers in conformance with regulations (6.2.7.1.(1)) (fined \$1,000) and failure to install smoke alarms in every dwelling unit (9.5.4.5.(1)) (fined \$750).

Submitted by Brian Berringer, Director of Fire Prevention at Thunder Bay Fire & Rescue Service.

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Michael W. Weaver is a firefighter/paramedic for and a 12-year veteran of the Everett Washington State Fire Department. He is an instructor in safe handling of combative patients and a competency based training (CBT) instructor for the department. Weaver served for four years in the

U.S. Army, assigned to the Second Ranger Battalion and a Long Range Reconnaissance Unit.

This article appeared in its entirety in the September 2008 issue of Fire Engineering.

****Fire departments should attend conferences and sessions to stay informed on the latest techniques to deal with combative patients.**

In addition to showcasing the latest products and services, the annual Blueline Trade Show on April 26 and 27, 2011 in Markham, Ontario will provide a training session hosted by Michael Weaver called *Transitional Tactics for the Combative Subject*. This course will help law enforcement, fire and paramedics to rapidly identify, physically manage and arrange transport of the extremely agitated suspect. The goal is to help minimize the possibility of injury to the suspect and the first responders in the field.

Clarington Fire includes fire safety with snow fun

At right, a firefighter (Durham College volunteer) watches as a young girl practices her Stop, Drop and Roll. The event on February 20, hosted by Brimacombe, was facilitated by Clarington Emergency & Fire Services. Its focus was on making sure families know what to do in a fire. The event used several interactive stations to educate their audience including a crawl under the smoke simulation, finding a meeting place, calling for help and a Stop, Drop and Roll station.

Each station had practical advice for children, such as knowing phone numbers and addresses and the importance of having a meeting place for the whole family to make sure everyone was properly evacuated from a burning home.



Open air burning results in fines

A Clarington resident was convicted of three Ontario Fire Code violations and fined \$21,000.

Prior to the convictions, a Clarington woman had been repeatedly warned before receiving the charges under Part 3 of the Ontario Fire Code. In the court proceedings, Clarington Emergency & Fire Services proved there had been repeated violations by the woman, that she had been aware of the proper procedures involved with applying for a permit and that she was burning materials that were not permitted under the burning by-law and the Ontario Fire Code. Subsequently, she was charged \$5,000, \$6,000 and \$10,000 consecutively by the judge.

Provided by Jennifer Delaney, Fire Inspector with the Clarington Emergency & Fire Services.

Smoke alarm fine

A Belleville man has been fined for removing batteries or silencing a smoke alarm -- an alarm that should have sounded when his apartment caught fire in September 2010.

When the fire broke out, the tenant had to be rescued by firefighters. He was later fined \$750 in provincial court for tampering with a smoke alarm.

Excerpted from the January 13, 2011 issue of The Intelligencer.

More violations in Niagara Falls

A numbered company in Niagara Falls was fined \$54,000 in court recently after being found guilty of several violations of the Ontario Fire Code.

A trial was held in absentia at Niagara Falls provincial offences court. Court was told the Niagara Falls Fire Department conducted an inspection of the property on Nov. 27, 2009 after receiving a complaint. At that time, fire officials noted a number of violations including no operating smoke alarms in the upstairs apartments,

fire doors wedged open and combustible materials stored in a service room.

"The Niagara Falls Fire Department hopes this sends a clear message that violations of the Ontario Fire Code place both the public and the firefighters responding to buildings at risk and will not be tolerated within our municipality," said assistant fire chief Jim Jessop.

Excerpted from the January 10, 2011 issue of the Niagara Falls Review.



Two property owners receive fire safety fines

Two property owners in St. Catharines have recently received fines for failing to follow fire safety regulations.

On January 27, 2011 the owner of a three-storey building was found guilty of failing to maintain interconnected smoke alarms in the building's stairwells. It was during a routine inspection that St. Catharines Fire Services discovered the alarms were disabled. The owner was fined \$8,000, plus a victim fine surcharge of \$2,000.

On Feb. 3, a numbered company was found guilty for failing to comply with an inspection order requiring the installation of a

sprinkler and standpipe system and the construction of a fire escape. The company was fined \$20,000 plus a \$5,000 victim fine surcharge.

"We are grateful the courts take these infractions so seriously," Fire Chief Mark Mehlenbacher said in a news release. "St. Catharines Fire Services will continue to be vigilant in upholding a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to property owners maintaining life-saving equipment."

Excerpted from the February 8, 2011 issue of Niagara This Week.

Hoarding: consider this

The fire at 200 Wellesley Street East in Toronto captured massive media attention. In the beginning, the attention was the result of the dramatic images of the blazing fire consuming a single apartment unit on an upper floor. It was only after, when the flames were extinguished, that the issue of hoarding came to light and how it had impacted the safety of other occupants in the building and the ability of firefighters to do their jobs. The fire also raised questions among those in the fire service, to ask themselves what tools can be used to prevent another fire like this one?

The issue of hoarding, made popular by television programs, is not new. It has existed in communities just as other obsessive compulsive disorders have for decades. So what makes hoarding a fire safety issue? Piles of stored materials in hallways and in front of doors can physically trap a person in their home and pose an immediate threat to life: a significant concern to those who work in fire and life safety.

According to Dr. Randy Frost, PhD, Professor of the Department of Psychology at Smith College in Northampton, MA, compulsive hoarding involves three distinct behaviours:

1. The acquisition and failure to discard a large number of possessions that appear to be useless or of limited value;
2. Living spaces sufficiently cluttered so as to preclude activities for which those spaces were designed; and,
3. Significant distress or impairment in functioning, caused by the hoarding.

Not only is hoarding an issue for fire safety for the public but it also poses an issue for firefighters who are called to suppress the fires. So

what can be done about the issue of hoarding in communities?

According to Tawnya Roberts, Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) Fire Protection Adviser, there needs to be a comprehensive approach to mitigate hoarding. It would focus on different agencies working together to achieve results.

"The primary purpose of fire departments is to provide for life safety, and that includes our emergency responders," said Roberts. "It is not the fire department's job to clean these places out. These occupancies are potential death traps."

There isn't a fire department in Ontario that wants to have a fire blazing for hours that they can't suppress effectively because of the many combustibles blocking their access, the massive heat these occupancies generate when burning or fear that they are putting their crews directly in harm's way. So before a fire occurs, fire prevention staff must consider whether an accumulation of combustible materials, such as paper, clothing, furniture, debris and other items contained within a dwelling unit, pose a threat to "fire safety". Some questions fire prevention officers should ask themselves include:

1. Are the combustible materials stored in close proximity to ignition sources within the dwelling unit? (i.e., stove, electrical baseboard heaters, furnace, fireplace, wood stove, etc.)
2. Are materials including combustible materials stored in a manner that would prevent the occupant from escaping, should a fire occur? For example, is there an unobstructed means of egress from every room leading

to an egress door from the apartment or to an exterior exit door from the dwelling unit?

3. Where the accumulated combustible materials are in an apartment situated in a multi-unit apartment building, would the accumulated materials pose other problems? For example, would the materials be prone to absorbing water during fire fighting activities that could lead to structural failure due to excessive weight beyond the limitations of the building's design? How would factors of this nature impact on the safety of others in the building or responding to the fire?

4. Are there materials present that pose an explosion hazard? How would these factors impact on the safety of the occupant in the dwelling, others in the building, or to others outside, including firefighters?

After considering the response to each of these questions, do the circumstances pose a risk, that if a fire were to start, would the circumstances seriously endanger the health or safety of any person? If the answer is "yes" to these or similar questions, then the circumstances involving the combustible materials meet the criteria for "fire safety" as defined under Section 18 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, as amended (FPPA).

"This situation is like other fire safety inspections in such that you have options," continues Roberts. "You should use all the tools in your toolbox to mitigate the risks and the FPPA is what you use."

One option afforded to any

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Assistant to the Fire Marshal is the use of inspection orders.

Under section 21(1) of the FPPA, the inspector has the authority to order the owner or occupant to take corrective measures to eliminate the risks. For example, based on the response to the questions above, the inspector may order:

- The combustible materials to be removed a specified distance from specified sources of ignition,
- That clear aisles be provided to exit doors or doors unblocked in order to facilitate the escape of the occupant(s),
- That the quantities of stored combustible materials be reduced, and/or,
- That specified explosive or flammable materials be removed or be stored in a safe manner as specified in the order.

For guidance in matters dealing with inspection orders, refer to the OFM technical guideline OFM-TG-01-2009 found by clicking on the *Legislation, Directives and Technical Guidelines* link on the OFM website (www.ofm.gov.on.ca) Once this link has been selected, choose *Technical Guidelines and Reports* from the navigation bar on the left.

Another option available in the FPPA is the use of Section 15. When the inspector considers the seriousness of the circumstances, do the circumstances pose an "immediate threat to life" that may be remedied by taking prompt action as outlined under Section 15 of the FPPA?

Before taking action under Section 15, it must be established that an immediate threat to life exists. An immediate threat to life must involve a determination that two elements exist as follows:

- a) a risk of fire, and

- b) that human life would be placed at serious risk should a fire occur.

The first critical element that must be established when determining that an immediate threat to life exists involves identifying an imminent risk or high probability of fire. Combining the elements of an ignition source in close proximity to combustibles, such as commonly found in hoarding occupancies are examples of conditions that pose a high risk of fire.

Determining that human life would be placed at serious risk if a fire were to occur is the second crucial factor that must be confirmed when verifying that conditions pose an immediate threat to life. The lack of an operable smoke alarm in the dwelling, or the nature of stored materials that would prevent the occupants from escaping quickly in the event of fire are examples of situations where human life would be placed at serious risk if a fire were to occur.

In applying Section 15, where an Assistant to the Fire Marshal has encountered a situation where he/she believes that circumstances pose an immediate threat to life, the measures that can be taken are generally temporary, readily implemented and limited in scope. As outlined under clauses 15(1)(a) to (g) in the FPPA, the Assistant to the Fire Marshal may:

- a) remove persons on the land or premises;
- b) post a fire watch;
- c) remove combustible or explosive material or anything that may constitute a fire menace;
- c.1) dispose of any material or thing that was removed under clause (c) in accordance with any directives issued by the Fire

Marshal; (Refer to *Fire Marshal's Directive 02-001*)

- d) eliminate ignition sources;
- e) install temporary safeguards, including fire extinguishers and smoke alarms;
- f) make minor repairs to existing fire safety systems;
- g) do any other thing that the Fire Marshal, an Assistant to the Fire Marshal or a Fire Chief has reasonable grounds to believe is urgently required to remove or reduce the threat to life.

Under the provisions of clause 15(1)(g), the fire service has been given a measure of discretion in deciding what action should be taken. If the actions specified in clauses (a) to (f) of subsection 15(1) are not adequate to reduce the threat to life, the officer may undertake different work. The measures selected to reduce the threat to life must be in line with the measures specified in the FPPA; that is, they should be temporary, readily implemented and limited in scope.

Once the conditions are identified that make the building or conditions within the dwelling unit especially liable to fire and endanger persons therein, the Assistant to the Fire Marshal can enter the land or premises and can take immediate action to remove or reduce the threat. The person undertaking the work must conduct his/her activities in accordance with subsections 15(2) to (5) and sections 16 and 17 of the FPPA.

The person who enters on the land or premises to carry out the work may call on police officers and use force as necessary to make the entry. In addition, they

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have authority to call on any other persons he or she considers advisable to assist.

On the request of the owner or occupant of the land or premises, the person who enters under the provisions of Section 15 shall identify him or herself and shall explain the purpose of their entry.

Under Subsections 15(2) and (3), the person doing the work shall promptly, after carrying out the work, give notice to the owner and post a copy of the notice on the land or premises. The notice must contain the information specified under Subsection 15(4).

In closing, fire department staff should identify a course of action based upon their analysis of all information and available options. When a fire official is involved in dealing with issues of this nature, it is important that they focus on the presence or absence of fire risks within the dwelling unit. Where applicable, they need to consider the potential impact on neighbouring exposures and responding firefighters when undertaking a comprehensive approach to mitigating these occupancies. Fire officials also have to recognize that in many instances, remedies won't be instant and that there may be a variety of factors contributing to the problem, many of which are beyond the control of the fire official. Contacting your local mental health and social support agencies and establishing community partnerships may be very effective in helping to provide solutions.

"Many people don't understand why you have an issue with their stuff or how their many belongings could possibly hurt them," says Roberts. "To them, these items are their most important possessions."

Consider short-term and long-

term objectives and outcomes of possible approaches for dealing with the issues. The severity of the hazard(s) identified through a fire safety inspection will impact on the decision and course of action with which the Assistant to the Fire Marshal undertakes. The occupant's or owner's ability and/or willingness to cooperate in a timely manner to rectify identified hazard(s) will also impact on the approach that may be taken.

Fire departments are encouraged to develop operational guidelines to assist in dealing with these situations and to ask for the assistance of police and local social and mental health-services serving your area. The occupant of the dwelling unit may also have a cooperative family member or friends that could be of assistance in dealing with the individual or problem identified.

The information contained in this article about the options that are available to Fire Prevention Officers through the FPPA as it pertains to hoarding was written by Bruce Weaver, OFM Fire Protection Specialist and Tawnya Roberts, OFM Fire Protection Adviser. Weaver has since retired from the OFM.

Other documents that may provide assistance to Fire Prevention Divisions about hoarding include the Fire Marshal's Directive 02-001 and the Immediate Threat To Life Form in English and French found under the *Legislation, Directives and Technical Guidelines* link from OFM website.

Stay tuned! In the April/July issue of the *Ontario Fire Service Messenger*, Ottawa public health professionals will talk about what they are doing to help mitigate hoarding issues. The article will

provide suggestions on how fire departments can use partnerships in their communities to decrease the threats to life safety that hoarding poses.

The aftermath

Fortunately no one died in the fire at 200 Wellesley Street East, even though it impacted more than 1,000 people. In its aftermath, it posed significant challenges including:

- The inability to move people back into their units (during their search and rescue efforts firefighters had to enter all apartments to ensure no one was inside and doors with extra door locks had to be compromised);
- Those with medications needed to be reissued;
- A large number of pets left in the building had to be regularly fed and watered (one tenant had up to 300 birds in her unit); and,
- Those who needed to re-enter to collect necessary items such as identification needed be allowed back in.

To date, the OFM investigation continues into what caused the fire, though hoarding may be indicated as a factor in why it burned so hot and for so long.

In other fires, where hoarding has been issue, occupants have not been so fortunate to escape.

National CBRN Standard to help protect first responders

To help protect Canadians, it is essential that first responders right across Canada have access to the right protective equipment in the event of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRN) incident. On January 25, 2011, CSA Standards (CSA) and Public Works and Government Services Canada's Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), in cooperation with other federal stakeholders announced Canada's first national standard for protective equipment for front-line fire, police and paramedic workers during a CBRN event.

"It is crucial for first responders to have the tools they need to respond to CBRN threats. This standard will help guide the acquisition of equipment and ultimately enhance our first responders' ability to respond effectively to threats – whether accidental or intentional," said the Honourable Vic Toews, Canada's Minister of Public Safety. "Firefighters, police, paramedics and health care workers all need

the best personal protective equipment possible when they are working to protect and help Canadians in these extraordinary incidents."

CBRN refers to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material used deliberately or intentionally. During a CBRN incident, Canadians rely on fire, police and emergency medical services to respond. The CAN/CGSB/CSA-Z1610, Protection of first responders from chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) events standard specifies requirements for the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE) for first responders to a CBRN incident, including deliberate attacks/releases and contagious outbreak events.

Most first responders in Canada have hazardous material (HazMat) or dangerous goods (DG) standards to guide them in responding to a CBRN incident. Now, for the first time, emergency services personnel will have a

national protective equipment standard specific to CBRN incidents recognized across jurisdictions to help guide and protect them in their vital work.

"Canada's front-line emergency workers form the backbone of our society by answering the call of duty without question when people are in need," said Bonnie Rose, President, CSA Standards.

"The work that CGSB and the CSA technical committees have done in developing this voluntary national standard is a model of cooperation and one that will help lead to improved protection for our heroic first responders across jurisdictions from coast-to-coast."

CGSB's Director, Terrence Davies, added "I am proud of this joint effort in which CGSB and CSA have developed this national standard in support of emergency preparedness, public safety and national security. The commitment of the project partners and the members of the CGSB/CSA Technical Standards Committee, representing private and public interest stakeholders, who reached consensus on this very important standard, is also to be commended."

The new national standard will have a significant impact in assisting first responder organizations in the selection, use, capabilities and limitations of CBRN personal protective equipment, enabling them to do their jobs more safely and with greater protection and functionality. The standard identifies requirements for protective CBRN equipment, such as respiratory protection and whole-body protection. It also addresses the elements of a CBRN incident in order to understand how equipment guidelines may differ.

Funding for the development of this new Canadian national standard was provided by the Government of Canada's CBRN Research and Technology Initiative (CRTI).

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This and the following pictures depict how police, fire and paramedics worked together to mitigate the CBRN scenario at the news event using standardized equipment. From the initial contact, responders worked to assess the environment where the chemicals had initially begun to spill and then decontaminate the woman who had inhaled the unknown chemical.

Continued from previous page

In kind contributions of personnel and facilities were made by Public Safety Canada and many other stakeholders representing first responders, industry, government and research, testing and education organizations.

Government of Canada

The response to a CBRN incident entails shared responsibilities and contributions across various levels of Government, sectors and specializations. The province or territory where a CBRN incident occurs has the main responsibility to manage its consequences. They are also responsible for working with municipalities. If needed, a province or territory can request additional assistance from the Government of Canada.

About CGSB

For over 75 years, the CGSB has provided standardization services, both in standards development and conformity assessment, in support of stakeholders' regulatory, economic, health, safety and environmental interests.

About CSA Standards

CSA Standards is a leading standards-based solutions organization serving industry, government, consumers and other interested parties in North America and the global marketplace. For more information visit www.csa.ca.



Custodians arm themselves with knowledge on school fire alarm systems

BY JENNIFER DELANEY
FIRE INSPECTOR
CLARINGTON EMERGENCY &
FIRE SERVICES

At the beginning of February, Clarington Emergency & Fire Services held a four-hour training session for head custodians at Kawartha Pine Ridge School Board. The goal was to have all of the 26 custodians understand their responsibilities as they are outlined in the fire safety plan for their schools and to understand some of the Fire Code requirements behind them. After reviewing some of the common inspection issues and some challenges that were discovered in the fall term fire drills at schools, a template for the training became clear.

The first part of the training was to educate our head custodian students about the basic elements of the fire safety plan and who was responsible for them. The custodians were taught about common methods and processes for checking alarms, devices, extinguishers and specialized systems. By providing this information, it was hoped that every custodian would have the same knowledge regarding fire safety plan requirements, regardless of the school in which they would be working.

To better facilitate the training, a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation was designed to go through the basic information on general fire safety, fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, fixed extinguishing systems and extinguishers. As the presentation progressed the presenter would discuss further details, if need be, about a particular system or device and why the Fire Code structured the



Participants from the four-hour training session pose for a picture in the school where they received their training.

requirements the way that it did.

Through other public education initiatives, we knew learners tended to go away from training with a higher comfort level with the information if they were not only told the information, but had been able to apply it with some 'hands-on' activities. We wanted this to be the case in this training too.

For the hands-on training, the presentation training topics were broken down into three practical sessions to include a fire alarm system station, sprinkler system station and a combination station on fixed extinguishing systems/exits, exit lighting/fire extinguishers. The three station sessions were geared to cover the basics: what to do, who to notify, what the responsibilities in the plan are related to that equipment, frequency of checks/tests and some alternative measures that may involve the fire safety equipment. The challenges with this training were to make the information meet all of the levels of knowledge in the room; some staff were newer

in their roles than others and/or were still becoming familiar with new equipment. Keeping the presentation interactive, providing different presenters for a change in voice, a new face and a new delivery style also assisted us in keeping everyone attentive. Going the extra mile and having industry specific items built into icebreakers and playing amusing and related video jokes, also helped keep everyone feeling included and ready to learn the next topic.

The benefit of the custodian training to the fire department was threefold. It provided us with a better understanding of what challenges the custodial staff face with some of the groups they interact with: teachers, students, principals, facilities staff etc. Second, the training provided them with a forum to question certain parts of the fire safety plan and talk about the challenges they face in meeting

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Fire Code requirements. Lastly, the training allowed them to become familiar with alternative measures they could use, should there be an alarm, particularly in the instances where it may have been accidental (i.e., work being done in the school that caused the activation).

Educating the head custodians on their responsibilities as outlined in the fire safety plans of their school will help us with our response: being able to downgrade the alarm once it is known there is no fire. The training also helped the head custodians who now hopefully feel more comfortable about

asking questions about alternative measures they can use or how to handle difficulties with a particular part of the system that they are checking as outlined in the plan. As a whole, the training enhanced the communication between everyone and opened the door to information sharing and resourcing Clarington Emergency & Fire Services for various things. At the end of the session we all felt we had gained some new knowledge from each other, made some new contacts and came away with a better understanding of each other's jobs and what we do within the schools.

The Clarington Emergency

& Fire Services Fire Chief and deputy chiefs were happy to hear that we had been successful in conducting this kind of training session to the Kawartha Pine Ridge School Board. In the future it is hoped that this kind of training will grow to include both boards and all custodian staff. As a first step into this type of training, the Clarington inspection team is very excited to have had the chance to create, implement the training and to have partnered with a group that directly influences the safety of our young people today. We look forward to working with them again in future training sessions.

Lillian Public School gets lesson from 'Firefighters in the Community'

On March 8, students in the Seneca College pre-service firefighting program visited Lillian Public School in Toronto. The students went to the school as part of their 'Firefighters in the Community' a component of the pre-service program. Organized by Seneca College Professor Kris Gillis (also a Toronto firefighter), the pre-service students taught the younger students about becoming a firefighter, what firefighters do in the community and how to



stay safe in a fire (i.e., **Stop, Drop and Roll**). The Lillian Public School students ranged in ages from Grade 1 to Grade 5.

At top, Raymond Cromarty, Adam Doerner, Mitchell O'Shea and Jason Borman talk to Grade 5 students about how they use the Jaws of Life in car crashes.

At left, O'Shea shows a girl how a firefighter uses a waterhose and how its nozzle can adjust to suppress fires.

flickr™

for the fire service

BY MARTHA MURPHY, HBES
MLIS

OFM FIRE SCIENCES LIBRARY
& AUDIO VISUAL RESOURCE
CENTRE

In 2008, the photo sharing site Flickr was first used by the OFM Librarians for purposes of providing fire related photos for the web-based newsletter *Fire News*. The librarians were unsuccessful at obtaining a large quantity of pictures through staff and industry contacts, which would be required to keep the newsletter fresh and visually appealing. Flickr came to the rescue and is a resource of choice for three reasons, it is free, has an established Creative Commons for copyright and is a popular photo sharing site with both amateur and professional photographers. At recent count, Flickr has over 40 million users and more than 5.4 billion photos have been posted and tagged. One search of word *firefighter** yielded 243,443 pictures. A similar search in Google's Picasa yielded just 44,388 pictures.

Flickr is a form of social media as a photo sharing site in that it allows the user to store, sort, search and share photos online as well as make them public or privately available to friends, family or the broader community. Photos can also be grouped together by event, date, and location for easier searching.

The fire service can leverage the use of photos on Flickr in the following ways: public safety education campaigns, firefighter

recruitment, community events, showcasing specific programs and safety messages. Photos can also be a marketing tool and shown as a slideshow or photostream on departmental website, Facebook account or Blog.

Flickr is also a great tool for finding pictures to use in training and presentations. The library staff uses Flickr to enhance presentations and training sessions. The library searches Flickr under the Creative Commons category and uses only photos where there is an attribution licence giving permission to use and crediting the photographer. Photos that are used in a presentation, report or brochure are referenced for copyright and fair use reasons. For copyright reasons, it is suggested that a bibliography be created at the end of the document with links to the photos referencing the photographer.

To get started with Flickr, use the following steps:

Create an account with Flickr either using a Yahoo, Gmail or Facebook login. Flickr also allows the user to create an email account direct from webpage. Flickr has seven choices to upload photos from computer, mobile phone, USB key¹:

1. Use the Flickr Uploader, a program that is downloaded to PC or Mac – ideal for large

uploads with a drag and drop interface

2. Use the upload webpage at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/upload>
3. Use plug-ins or apps for iPhone, Aperture and Windows XP (or the Flickr App store if you use iPhone)
4. Use the "basic" uploader at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/upload/basic>
5. Email the photo to your account
6. Use third-party desktop programs
7. Use the Flickr API available at <http://www.flickr.com/services/api/upload.api.html> for batch uploading

One of the superior features is the ability to "tag" photos after upload. Tags are another word for labels. For instance a photo of a fire safety house trailer at an arena for Fire Prevention Week could have four tags "fire safety house, Mooretown Arena, Fire Prevention Week 2011, St. Clair Township Fire Department" which allows your community and colleagues to search your public photos using the tags. Notes can also be added to a photo and when users mouse over the photo the note will appear. Interested visitors can leave comments on the image, add additional tags, request permission to copy and make you a contact by mousing over your "buddy icon." This allows Flickr

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¹ Tomaiuolo, Nicholas. "U-Content Make It Snappy: Photo-Sharing with Flickr." Searcher, November 2010. pg. 12.

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to be social and enable connections with citizens and other members in the fire service.

Flickr has over 1,100 groups with the name *firefighter** in the title. Joining one of the groups leads to participation in discussions, sharing photos and replying to comments.

Flickr has both a free and Pro account option. The basic free version allows storage for 200 photos and two video uploads per month. The Pro account is reasonably priced at \$24.95 a year and allows the user to upload an unlimited number of photos and videos per month. The Pro account is the best choice for fire service personnel who are actively committed to using Flickr.

This article wouldn't be complete without mentioning copyright. If Flickr is used to post photographs and you are the copyright holder, consideration should be given to attribution licenses whereby permission is given for others to use the photo. Flickr provides six Creative Commons licences with 8-10 million photographs allowing the user to retain full copyright. Creative Commons is the place to search for photographs that can

be used in publications, websites, and presentations (<http://www.flickr.com/creativecommons/>). The images in the Creative Commons are uploaded by the copyright holder giving permission for use. It would be prudent to only search in the attribution and non-commercial sections of Flickr to obtain photographs that are licensed for re-use.

A word of warning regarding photographing people - you must obtain their consent before publishing a photograph for marketing or promotion. The legal issue surrounding the use of photographs involves the rights of privacy and publicity. Photographs that are taken at a fire safety event with the aim of showing high attendance, consider taking the picture where faces are not identifiable and it is a large crowd shot. Use caution when showing photostreams on your department's website or PSAs, ensure pictures don't include identifiable pictures of citizens.

Flickr is the website of choice for OFM librarians, however, there are other great places to obtain free images. Notably Google Images <http://www.google.com/imghp>, has

an advanced search option with a choice for filtering by license type ie. Commercial use, reuse with modification. Image Chef <http://www.imagechef.com/>, lets the user modify and create their own images and remix with graphics. Free Public Domain Photos <http://www.public-domain-photos.com/> has a large collection of free photos and clipart that appear to be by amateur/professional photographers. Web 2.0 Badges <http://web20badges.com/>, has a wide range of badges to highlight a message on a website.

In conclusion, Flickr is a revolutionary photo storage tool that is social media friendly. It allows users to manage photos, share, organize, tag and post in a collaborative process. It's a great tool to engage your community in fire safety.

Editor's Note: As of March 2, 2011, Martha Murphy has been working, on a temporary basis as Head Librarian, with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Appeals Tribunal Library.

The Ontario Fire Service Messenger is going GREEN!

As part of the Ontario government's efforts to reduce the amount of paper it uses, the April/July issue of the *Ontario Fire Service Messenger* will be the last hard copy issue distributed to the Ontario fire service. The submission deadline for this issue is June 10.

Going forward, the Office of

the Fire Marshal (OFM) will be looking into alternatives for the *Messenger*. Send us your email address so that we may continue to inform you of our progress!

If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions on how you would like to be able to read and access the *Messenger* in the future, let us know by

contacting the *Messenger* Editor, Carol Gravelle at carol.gravelle@ontario.ca or by telephone at 416-325-3138.

For more information about the Ontario government's greening initiatives visit <http://news.ontario.ca/mof/en/2011/02/saving-almost-16-million-by-reducing-paper-and-office-equipment.html>.

New in the OFM Library

Check out our sample of new books and audio-visual materials. We provide current resources to support the Office of the Fire Marshal as well as fire departments, emergency services and fire related industries. A full listing of new resources are available on our website!

BY MARTHA MURPHY, HBES
MLIS
OFM FIRE SCIENCES LIBRARY
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CENTRE

New Videos and DVDs

Leaders of Character: Leadership - The West Point Way (2003)

Graduates of West Point discuss how the leadership lessons taught at West Point Academy apply equally well in the business world. A leader of character must do more than speak about ethical behaviour, or teach it, they must live it, and role model a higher ethical standard. Program emphasizes the importance of: ethics, communications, teamwork, delegation, planning and failure.

What you are is where you were when...again! (2005)

Program presents a framework for understanding and working with a diverse group of people. In this program, Dr. Morris Massey investigates the role of the past by explaining the three self-programming periods each young individual goes through in developing a value system. Includes a comprehensive guide containing four exercises, questions for discussion, training advice, and an extensive glossary of terms.

Pride & Ownership: a Firefighter's love of the job: Full day seminar (2011)

Throughout this one-of-a-kind presentation, Chief Lasky offers upfront and honest criticism on the need to reignite the love of the job at every level, from chief down to probie. Discusses the mission of the fire service, the role of the firefighter; company officer; fire chief, the importance of family values in the fire service, sweating the small stuff, and the importance of 'making it all happen and taking care of number one.

New Books

First responder critical incident guide. Red Hat Publishing, 2009

Fire dynamics. Pearson Education, 2011

Technical rescue Series: water, rope, confined, trench levels I and II. Delmar Cengage Learning, 2010

Chemicals used for illegal purposes : a guide for first responders to identify explosives, recreational drugs, and poisons. John Wiley & Sons, 2010

Fire and life safety educator. Delmar, Cengage Learning, 2011

Display fireworks manual. Natural Resources Canada, 2010

Web Resources

UL Fire Courses – Online Training 1. Behavior in a Single Family Occupancy 2. Comprehensive Fire Protection 3. Performance of Special Extinguishing Agents www.ul.com click on Industries>Building Materials>Fire Engineering

Multiphase Study on Firefighter Safety and Resource Deployment. Commissioned by CFAI, IAFC, IAFF, NIST, WPI. www.firereporting.org/studyreports.php



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.

Fireman Sam teaches lessons through cartoons

Ever complained about having so many channels, but having nothing to watch on television with your children? *Fireman Sam* may be an option. The animated program is geared to boys and girls aged 2 to 5. Its purpose is to educate children about fire safety by providing a starting point for dialogue with parents and caregivers.

"It's [*Fireman Sam* is] an opportunity to open a dialogue for larger messaging about safety within every preschooler's own home," said Andrea Carpenter, Vice President, Canada, at HIT Entertainment. "We hope that the messaging in the program really compliments things the child would be learning at home, particularly for a preschooler or in a classroom if they are going to preschool classes."

Originally developed in the 1980s in Kent, England by two firemen, the idea for a children's show about fire safety was promoted to a Welsh television station. It was developed into a series, which at first began with a series of books. Today, the stories can be purchased on DVD or subscribed for through on demand video on the Treehouse network in Ontario or Quebec. Similar to the books, the stories detail Fireman Sam's adventures in the Welsh town of Pontypandy.

In addition to the episodes, Carpenter recommended parents visit the Fireman Sam website at <http://parents.hitentertainment.com/blog/?CID=FromFiremanSamUK> to help teach their children everything from learning how to make a home fire escape plan, visiting the local fire station and meeting the firefighters, to

learning that before lighting any campfire, a pail of water must always be nearby.

When asked about whether the show caters more to the interests of boys or girls, Carpenter said "I think they are universal. I really feel that the idea of the show is about action, adventure and awareness. And again, we always hope that when children, particularly preschool and up, have the opportunity to be engaged by our programming that it creates a dialogue...between child and parent or child and caregiver."

While the show does depict characters with British accents, Carpenter said she believed hearing an accent is very commonplace for Canadians and the accent was actually part of Sam's charm. And, getting back to the subject matter of the show, she said "To the best of my knowledge Sam is the only firefighter-themed show out there for preschoolers."

Fireman Sam has been on airing on the Treehouse On Demand network for two years in Ontario and one year in Quebec. Given their target audience, it is very difficult to assess the show's effectiveness; in fact there isn't even a rating scale to capture 0-5-year-old children.

One of the most important aspects of public relations is to get people talking about a subject or issue. While *Fireman Sam* may be geared to a younger audience who is learning to talk, the scenarios of the show are certainly geared to providing parents and caregivers with an avenue for discussing fire safety.

The show is broadcast in 25 different languages in more than 150 countries around the world.

Smoke alarm credited with saving lives in blaze

A smoke alarm roused residents from their slumber on February 22, alerting them that their house was on fire.

"The smoke alarms probably saved their lives," said Deputy Fire Chief Dave Forfar.

When emergency crews arrived at the house fire, they found flames shooting through the roof. Forfar said it took crews about three hours to control and extinguish the fire. About 20 firefighters were on the scene.

"It burned so hot, there's not much left of the upper floor," said Forfar.

Firefighters have determined that one resident had put clothes in the dryer and then fell asleep. He later awoke to the sound of the fire alarm and quickly alerted the residents of the house.

They got out safely and alerted officials. But the three residents, who are believed to be renting the house, have likely lost nearly everything.

The cause of the fire is not considered suspicious.

Excerpted from the February 24, 2011 issue of the Barrie Examiner.

"I am doing this for my family"

BY RYAN BETTS
PROGRAM SPECIALIST
OFFICE OF THE FIRE
MARSHAL

On April 19, 2010 Terry Ablett of North Bay was driving to the construction site to check progress on his new home on the outskirts of the city. As he got closer to his lot, he noticed a huge plume of smoke somewhere up ahead. He immediately feared the worst: that his new home was on fire. When he arrived at the construction site, he was initially relieved to see that his home was not on fire. However, those feelings of relief were quickly overridden by distress as he observed a neighbour's home two lots away that was fully engulfed in flames. Ablett watched in horror as the building burned to the ground. Despite a swift response from the North Bay Fire Department, the fire had grown and spread so quickly that they were not able to save the structure. It was at that point that Ablett was certain he had made the right choice by deciding to install residential sprinklers in his new home.

With the safety of his young family in mind, Ablett had pressed architects and builders to incorporate residential sprinklers into the construction of his new home. It's a sentiment that North Bay Fire Chief Grant Love wishes more people would take to heart.

"Sprinklers have been proven to save lives and reduce property loss and damage from fire," said Love. "And the current trend to build further and further from town centres adds distance and time to the response of many fire departments. Sprinklers can control the spread of fire and toxic

gases which can provide additional time to safely escape. In addition, sprinklers can often extinguish the fire, and because they react in the early stages of a fire they do it with a lot less water than a fire hose."

Having previously suffered a devastating house fire, Ablett is all too aware of how quickly one's life can literally go up in flames.

"I am doing this for my family," Ablett said. "I have a young family and I want to make sure that they are safe in their own home." Ablett indicated that the cost of installing the sprinklers during the construction of his home worked out to approximately \$2 per square foot of floor space.

More information about residential sprinklers can be found at www.firesafeontario.com, www.firesprinklerinitiative.org and/or www.homefiresafetycoalition.org.



Residential sprinkler piping installed during construction: The red cap protects threads where a sprinkler head will be mounted in ceiling once drywall is installed.



Sprinkler heads can be covered with decorative caps as indicated here by homeowner Terry Ablett.

Fire sprinkler save in Brampton

At 9:15 a.m. in January 26, 2011, Brampton Fire responded to a commercial dryer fire at a retirement home in the area.

"Our response time to the home was three and half minutes," said Assistant Division Chief Gary Jarrett. "Initially the fire was reported in the kitchen, but it was discovered by our crews that it was actually in the laundry room. There was no entry into the laundry room until 9:30 a.m. because the fire was contained within a compartmentalized room. There was no concern that it would spread beyond this point with a wet pipe sprinkler system inside."

Captain Dave Clarke, was with the first arriving crew and he determined that the fire

doors to the room of origin not be opened until the residence was successfully horizontally evacuated to the adjoining wing.

Once clear to enter, Captain Clarke and his crew encountered heavy smoke in the room and a little flame contained to the interior of the commercial dryer. One sprinkler head located directly above the appliance had operated and had successfully controlled the fire until firefighters entered the laundry room. The smoke was ventilated outside.

Execution of the evacuation procedures and fire safety plan measures were followed perfectly by the manager of the home.

On further investigation, it was found that the fire originated inside of the appliance and items

unknown ignited inside of the tumbler. The appliance was left to be examined by the insurance representative. The manager reported that the appliance was only one year old.

Damage was estimated at \$20,000.00 as water had permeated to the corridor and carpeting. FPO Dean Patterson attended post fire to ensure that the manager had contacted contractors to return the systems to operable condition.

The activation of the sprinkler head in this story demonstrates how effective sprinklers can be in limiting the spread of fire and decreasing the amount of fire loss.

If your fire department has any fire sprinkler save stories, please email them to *The Ontario Fire Service Messenger* Editor, Carol Gravelle at carol.gravelle@ontario.ca.

Fire sprinklers compulsory for all new homes in Wales

Wales will become the first country in the world where sprinklers will be compulsory in all new homes.

The law will apply to newly built houses and blocks of flats, as well as care homes and university halls of residence.

It was passed unanimously by Welsh assembly members after being proposed by Labour backbencher Ann Jones.

She said the legislation would save lives.

"It won't go off if you burn your toast. It won't go off if the pizza's burning. It will only go off when there is a fire and when it goes off that saves those lives. Not many of the votes we pass here save lives -

that one did," said Ann Jones Vale of Clwyd AM.

"It saves the lives of the people, it saves the lives of firefighters having to go into burning buildings and it just makes sense to get on and do it now."

She added that sprinklers had been in existence since 1885.

The building industry had its chance to fit sprinklers in all new homes, but it was now time to legislate "so we can make people's lives in Wales a lot safer", she said.

The measure was backed by Wales' three fire and rescue services, the Chief Fire Officers Association (UK), the Fire Brigades Union and many sprinkler



A picture of how one sprinkler system with capped head looks on a home's ceiling.

campaigners, including the National Fire Sprinkler Network.

Excerpted from a news story found at www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-12477983 on February 16, 2011.

Bravery, strength, quick thinking lead two firefighters to safety

BY CURTIS RUSH, VALERIE HAUCH & JAYME POISSON
TORONTO STAR

Strength, courage and quick thinking under pressure guided two firefighters to safety after they fell into a wall of flames and thick, black smoke during the six-alarm blaze at Yonge and Gould Streets in the early morning of January 3. Just after 4 a.m., as flames shot above the old, abandoned Empress Hotel, two firefighters tried to navigate the icy roof of the adjoining HMV building.

It was so cold that many firefighters' uniforms were covered in ice. Rows of icicles caused by streams of water shooting from five aerial water canons hung off their visors.

Just before 5:30 a.m., the two firefighters on the roof lost their balance and fell five metres into the burning building. One suffered a back injury; the other was almost overcome with smoke.

The fallen firefighters radioed "Mayday, Mayday." A rapid intervention team was deployed.

Toronto Fire Chief Bill Stewart described it as a "very intense time," and "very horrific" for the firefighters.

With so much urgency, the team didn't have time to drop a ladder.

Instead, they used a risky maneuver called the "Through the Roof Hose Line Rescue." They dropped a 38-millimetre fire hose line filled with water down to the trapped men. The water-filled hose formed a U-shape, with one loop coming up on the other side of the building. One by one, the firefighters stood on the bottom of the hose and gripped the hose line on each side of the "U."

Enormous strength and teamwork was needed since one firefighter weighed at least 240 pounds. The first firefighter was hauled out 24 minutes after the first Mayday had sounded and the second firefighter was rescued about four minutes later.



A picture of the demolition efforts at Yonge and Gould Streets in Toronto to tear down a historic building. The first day, Toronto Fire Services firefighters were on stand-by to extinguish any remaining hot spots.

It was a traumatic event, but "this is the type of situation" that Toronto firefighters train for, Captain Strapko said.

"This was a case of excellent training and excellent teamwork," Strapko said. "Everybody did the right thing at the right time."

Three firefighters were taken to hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and minor injuries. All three have since been released from hospital.

Excerpted from the January 5, 2011 issue of the Toronto Star.

Fire Service Calendar 2011

Apr. 17 - 21	55 th annual Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officer's Association Training & Educational Symposium	Niagara Falls, ON
Apr. 26 - 27	Annual Blueline Trade Show and Training	Markham, ON
Apr. 30 - May 4	59 th annual Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Conference and Trade Show	Toronto, ON
Nov. 2 - 4	19 th annual Fire and Life Safety Educators' Conference	Markham, ON

Dryden Fire educates target groups and many more

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011

THE DRYDEN OBSERVER



Emergency and Education Officer for Dryden Fire Service, Reagan Breeze displays a smoke alarm taken from a home in the Dryden area, and explains to the Grade 7/8 Pinewood students why the alarm was such a hazard to the homeowner.

Photo by Ally Dunham

DFS teaches safe cooking for teens

By Ally Dunham

Grades seven and eight students at Pinewood School were educated on safety in the kitchen by Dryden Fire Service's Reagan Breeze, Emergency and Education Officer.

"There are a lot of fires that happen in the kitchen because of unsafe cooking, horseplay, grease fires from people

cooking at high temperatures, and we're trying to eliminate that by this being implemented to the children."

The demonstration covers a power point presentation, video footage and photographs of actual kitchen fires, as well as examples of things that have caused fires in homes, such as melted extension cords, or burnt

cooking utensils from being left unattended.

Breeze says his target audience is the high school students, as they are soon off on their own, going to college and moving out.

By starting the education at middle school and high school ages, it gets the students off to a good start with the knowledge they need to stay safe in

their homes.

Breeze is running three different seminars at Pinewood, and will hopefully be able to educate some of the other students in the neighbouring schools around the area.

For more information on fire safety, call the Dryden Fire Service at 223-1177.

The Dryden Fire Service has been undertaking public education opportunities within their community to get fire and life messages out to their target audiences. It has paid off. The local media has covered their sessions and helped to educate even more people within their community. The following are some of the stories that were printed in their local newspaper.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2011

THE DRYDEN OBSERVER

Cause for alarm

Dryden Fire Service urges residents to install and maintain smoke alarms

By Chris Marchand

Officials with the Dryden Fire Service have taken note of a disturbing trend in residences in Dryden — a lack of proper smoke alarms.

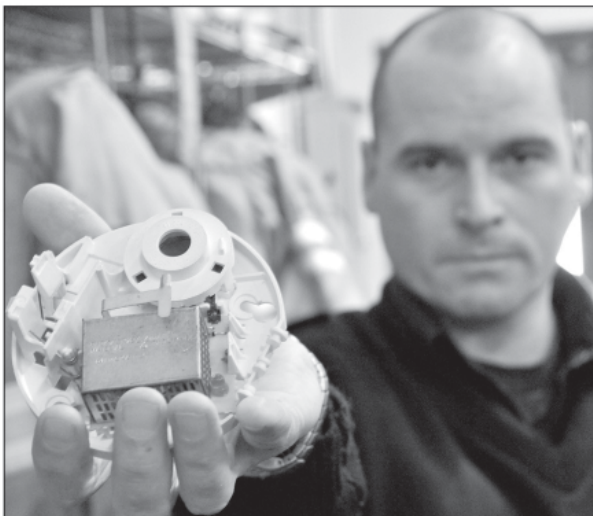
Dryden Fire Service Emergency and Education Officer Reagan Breeze says they are uncovering an increasing number of antiquated and inoperable smoke alarm systems that provide no protection for families and could easily lead to an avoidable disaster.

"It is very disturbing for the Fire Service to respond to a fire emergency to find a family outside of their home residence and not hearing the

smoke alarm going off inside the house," said Breeze. "It puts the residents' lives at risk as well as the firefighters."

The Dryden Fire Service reminds homeowners that they legally require a working smoke alarm on every storey of their home and one located outside every sleeping area. Failing to comply with this section of the Ontario Fire Code could land you a \$235 fine.

The Fire Service itself says they have adopted a 'zero tolerance' attitude towards residential and landlord non-compliance. Landlords who fail to com-



If you have one of these, you need a new smoke alarm. Dryden Fire Service's Reagan Breeze displays an example of an old and inoperable smoke alarm removed from a local residence during a fire call.

Photo by Chris Marchand

ply can face penalties of up to \$50,000.

Breeze says residents should resist the urge to remove the batteries from their smoke alarms due to nuisance alarms. If nu-

isance alarms are a problem, he suggests moving smoke alarms out of kitchen areas or looking into photoelectric type smoke alarms which tend to produce fewer nuisance

alarms.

Batteries should be changed twice yearly. It can be handy to use daylight savings time as a reminder to change the batteries.