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April/July 2011

Ontario Fire Service Messenger

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

Carol Gravelle, Editor, Office of the Fire Marshal, 5775 Yonge Street, 7th Floor, Toronto, ON M2M 4J1,
Tel: 416-325-3138, Fax: 416-325-3162, Carol.Gravelle@ontario.ca.

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Dan Hefkey
Commissioner of Community Safety

Include passion in your daily work

The Office of the Commissioner of Community Safety oversees a large and diverse portfolio that involves the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), the policing or Public Safety Division (PSD) and Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), where I recently served as Chief. As I settle into my new role as Commissioner, I have been asking myself what motivated me to this point – and how do I harness that motivation to fulfill what I would like to achieve while occupying this chair?

My primary motivation is passion and a strong belief that we are guided to do what we love. I should imagine this is especially true for the fire service community. Like all emergency responders, you must have a real passion for the job in order to carry out the extraordinary things expected of you.

I have always had the greatest respect for Ontario's firefighters. Early in my career as an Ontario Provincial Police officer, I helped build stronger relationships with the local fire services. As Chief of EMO, I worked closely with the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs and others to establish an Incident Management System to be deployed in emergency situations. I am proud to say that we now all speak the same language.

I will be drawing from these positive experiences – and the passion we bring to our jobs – to work together to build a more open, responsive and integrated Community Safety portfolio. My term for this is smart integration.

Smart integration respects the independence of the OFM, PSD and EMO mandates, but sees within that framework greater opportunities to work together to connect with Ontarians and deliver community safety related services more efficiently.

I am proud to have the ability to play a leadership role in bringing to life the vision of a smart, responsive and integrated Community Safety portfolio. A portfolio that is shaped by the ideas and passion of leaders in each of its divisions and in the organizations that represent our community safety

partners.

I look forward to meeting with, listening to and learning from many of you in the months ahead.

Toronto fire investigation complete

After a comprehensive fire investigation, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has determined that the cause of the fire that began in an apartment building in Toronto on September 24, 2010, was a discarded cigarette that landed on combustible materials on the balcony of an apartment in the building. "Though we are fortunate no one died as a result, this fire caused significant property loss and hardship for everyone who lived in the building," said Ted Wieclawek, Ontario Fire Marshal. "Ontarians are urged to contact their local fire departments if they are aware of dwellings where an excessive amount of combustible materials are present that may pose a fire safety risk." The tremendous growth and spread of the fire was a result of the excessive amount of combustible materials stored on the balcony and in the suite of origin. Therefore, the OFM is urging landlords and property owners to inform local fire departments of instances of hoarding where they believe it poses a fire safety risk. Local fire departments can help to address these instances of hoarding through the Ontario Fire Code and their partnerships with other community mental health and supporting agencies. In the context of this large multi-unit dwelling, the intensity of the fire hampered firefighting efforts of Toronto Fire Services and created a significant risk to first responders and those attempting to evacuate the building. This was due to the excessive amount of materials stored on the balcony, which well exceeded the height of the safety railing, and combustible materials that were stored at a significant depth throughout the apartment. Given the amount of these combustible materials, the dwelling was no longer being used for its intended purpose and could have physically trapped an individual inside. The OFM's investigative nine- member team looked into many factors that contributed to the fire including building performance, fire prevention records, occupant behaviour and fire safety planning and evacuation.

OFM Investigations unit takes it on the road



Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) fire investigator Jeff Minten shows students how investigators are able to use sifters at a fire scene to collect samples. These samples are later analyzed by the Centre of Forensic Science. Minten spoke to students at the International Emergency Response Day in Strathroy and the Emergency Response Day in Sarnia in May.



Below, Bruce Paterson, OFM fire protection engineer talks to Minten about the x-ray tool that investigators now use to assist them in determining origin, cause and circumstances in fire investigations. OFM staff were on hand at the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs conference in May to speak with participants about this technology.

Saugeen Shores Fire Department receives the VFIS award

At the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC) conference in early May, Saugeen Shores Fire Department was presented with the Volunteer Firefighters Insurance Service (VFIS) Retention and Recruitment Award. The award recognizes success in the retention and recruitment of members in emergency service organizations.

It was the first year the award was presented. To receive the award, a fire department must demonstrate how it has experienced positive results through a comprehensive approach to recruiting and retaining volunteer members. It is the only Canadian award that recognizes excellence in a volunteer fire department.

"Like every other department, we hired every year," said Saugeen Shores Fire Chief Phil Eagleson. "Finally we said, enough is enough, we have to start trying to keep these people."

In 2008, the department referred to the Office of the Fire Marshal's (OFM's) Recruitment and Retention program and obtained some good ideas from it.

They ended up recruiting 14 new volunteers through their efforts. To keep this stable volunteer platform, the department knew one of the main ways to sustain interest was to present new challenges to its members. Some of the challenges included training and preparing equipment to provide fire protection services at the G8 Summit, designing and constructing a modest training facility, training and preparing to achieve the Superior Tanker Shuttle accreditation and several other projects that would serve as team building exercises and to keep firefighter interest in their department high.

The largest employer in the community is Bruce Power. The department worked with Bruce Power to recruit firefighters and today Bruce Power employees make up 50 per cent of the volunteer firefighters.

Other efforts to retain firefighters included accommodating shift workers better.

"We realized that not all our training had to be done in one night," continued Eagleson.

Since the recruitment drive in 2008, Saugeen Shores Fire Department has not needed to recruit, orient or train new members. However, that doesn't mean they haven't been asked. In the past two years, more than 100 civilians have expressed an interest in joining the department. Interested community members regularly visit, email or call the fire station to ask if the department is hiring. In 2010, the department retained 100 per cent of its members.

"Thanks to our successful junior firefighters program, we are able to maintain a huge interest to join the department," says Eagleson. "The program sees children aged 9, 10, 11 years old taking part in this six-week course. Then we see 20 to 25 year olds coming in and telling me about what they remember about the program and how much fun they had."

In terms of age, the Saugeen Shores Fire Department is a very youthful volunteer fire department. In terms of enthusiasm, desire to serve, ability to perform and the courage to accept new challenges, the Saugeen Shores Fire Department is one of the most capable volunteer fire departments in Canada. Residents and visitors of Saugeen Shores can be very proud of the 53 volunteer firefighters that protect the community.

If other fire departments are interested in obtaining more ideas to enhance their recruitment and retention efforts, the OFM Guideline for Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Fire Service Personnel is available on the OFM website(www.ofm.gov.on.ca) under Fire Service Resources > Public Fire Safety Guidelines > Volunteer Recruitment and Retention

With files from the May 27, 2011 issue of the Saugeen Shore Times.



Saugeen Shores Fire Chief Phil Eagleson accepts the Volunteer Firefighters Insurance Service Retention and Recruitment Award from Tim Beckett, President of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC). Photo courtesy of the OAFC.

Fire service sees many changes in last 60 years

For 60 years, Keith Hawley has devoted his life to preserving the lives of others with the Central Frontenac Fire Department. Little did he know that one day this fire department would save him.

On June 9, 2011, Hawley received his 25 year medal and 60 year service bar at an investiture at Queen's University. It was six months ago to that day that he had been coming home from an evening at the local mason's lodge and had a heart attack, just steps from his home. A neighbour found him and immediately called 9-1-1. He had no vital signs. It was the Central Frontenac Fire Department that got to the scene first and began CPR. Hawley began to breath, then stopped. Once the ambulance arrived, a defibrillator was used and Hawley was transported to hospital. He was induced into a coma and was on life support for five days. He stayed a while longer in hospital and was home on Boxing Day with his wife Irene to look after him. Today he is feeling much better.

When he began with the fire service he was 19 years old. He remembers Herb Mallory of the Fire Marshal's Office who came to train his fire department in the days when mutual aid was introduced. Mallory spent hours training the crew and occasionally gave them some entertainment at their meetings; he was a concert pianist.

In 1959, Central Frontenac had the opportunity to buy a pumper truck from Burlington for \$4,500. He remembers he and four others firefighters signed a promissory note with a local bank to pay back the borrowed funds.

Speaking with Hawley, one could tell he was of very honest character. In his 60 years with the fire department, he was depended upon to fight intense fires. To this day, he still works at the South Frontenac Fire Department doing administrative duties one day a week. A grandson is following in Hawley's footsteps: he is training to become a helicopter pilot to fight fires in Petawawa.

Congratulations Keith!



A picture of Keith Hawley.

Retiring firefighters pass torch to younger colleagues

BY RON GIOFU

THE AMHERSTBURG ECHO

Firefighters with experience totaling roughly 193 years officially said farewell as the Amherstburg Fire Department held its annual awards and retirement banquet in May.

A packed house at the Knights of Columbus Hall helped honour the retirees and award winners. This year's group of retirees included retired chief Rick Murray. Murray retired after 45 years with the fire department, the last 20 years of which were as Chief.

"For 45 years, the Amherstburg Fire Department has been my passion," said Murray.

Murray started with the fire department January 1, 1966 when his father was deputy chief. He also had uncles and siblings with the department with whom he served and learned from.

There were many happy times during his 45 years with Murray stating there was camaraderie within the fire department. There have also been a number of community endeavours including the firemen's "Field Day" events as well as the J. "Wimpy" Tiefenbach Memorial Volleyball Tournament, the latter to be held again June 11.

Training and equipment have greatly improved over the years, he said. One of the challenges of the job was the amalgamation of the Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden fire departments in 1998 but those challenges were overcome to the point where Murray believes Amherstburg has one of the best fire services in the province.

"The fire chief is only as good as the firefighters under him and I think we have the best," he added.

In addition to Murray, Capt. Glen Murray was recognized for his 42 year career, Capt. Brian Ferguson retired after 36 years with the fire department, firefighter Roger Deslippe retired after 39 years of service and firefighter Paul Kelly retired after 31 years of service.

Three firefighters were recognized with their 20-year Exemplary Medals: Firefighter Brian Gibb, Capt. Don Deslippe and Capt. Bill Pillon.

Excerpted from the May 15, 2011 issue of The Amherstburg Echo.

Junior Firefighter's Day in York Region



A picture of the nine junior firefighters of York Region and the Fire Chiefs of the fire departments who chose them. The day-long event saw the junior firefighters participating in a variety of activities including a hose pull/bucket relay, fire extinguisher training, identifying fire hazards in a home and developing a home fire escape plan.



Georgina Fire Department Chief Bill O'Neill looks on as junior firefighter, Aiden Martin of Sutton Public School, uses a fire hose to douse mock flames in a house.

Newmarket homeowner charged

On June 14, 2011, the owner of a single-family home was charged on five violations of the Ontario Fire Code and fined \$4,250 with 12 months to pay.

The charges stem from an inspection of the property that took place on March 9, 2011. Located in Newmarket, the single-family home had previously been legally converted to a two-unit residential property and registered with the Town of Newmarket as such. The owner of the property subsequently converted the building to a three unit residential occupancy without advising the Town of Newmarket or Central York Fire Services (CYFS) staff. York Regional Police attended the property on March 9, 2011 for an unrelated matter and contacted CYFS fire prevention division to advise that the smoke alarms had been disconnected and removed at this property. Upon inspection by CYFS staff, it was determined that there were multiple Ontario Fire Code violations.

As a result, the owner was charged and fined with one count under 2.13.2.1.(2) for having an interconnected smoke alarm removed from the second floor hallway adjacent to the bedrooms (\$750), one count under 2.13.2.1.(2) for having interconnected smoke alarms removed from the basement unit adjacent to the bedroom (\$750), one count under 2.13.2.1.(2) for having interconnected smoke alarms removed from the ground floor hallway (\$750), one count under 2.2.1.1. for having a damaged fire separation between the basement apartment and the ground floor of the upper apartment (\$1,000) and one count under 2.7.1.7.(1) for having an obstructed (locked) principal means of egress from the basement apartment (\$1,000).

The Justice of the Peace gave larger fines than expected and explained that it was due to the serious nature of the offences and that they occurred in a rental property that the defendant was using solely as an income property.

Submitted by Tim Tustin, Fire Prevention Inspector with Central York Fire Services (Newmarket & Aurora).

Carleton Place landlord fined for smoke alarm violation

The Carleton Place Ocean Wave Fire Company's (OWFC) ongoing fire prevention program has led to a hefty fine against a local landlord.

On February 17, 2011, a fire prevention officer conducted a routine inspection of a three-unit rental property that revealed the building had no functioning smoke alarms. The Ontario Fire Code requires working smoke alarms on each floor of any dwelling and outside every sleeping area. Fire Chief Reynolds says "The code places the responsibility on the landlord to maintain smoke alarms."

The fire prevention officer immediately notified the property owners/landlords that they were in violation of the Fire Code and fitted the building with temporary smoke alarms. The building owner/landlord was subsequently charged with six counts of failure to maintain smoke alarms. The individual appeared in Perth provincial court on April 19, 2011 and pled guilty. The fine imposed was \$1,762.50, including surcharges. The landlord quickly moved to rectify the problem and later accepted responsibility for the mistake.

Chief Reynolds says "Property owners have a responsibility to know the law and make sure they are in compliance. We should be thankful this situation was discovered and remedied as a result of an inspection rather than after a tragedy."

Excerpted from the May 19, 2011 issue of the Almonte/Carleton Place EMC.

More convictions in Hamilton, two landlords, homeowner, care facility charged

The owner of a two-storey residential building with 11 apartments has been fined \$3,500 for violating the Ontario Fire Code. The fines stem from the owner failing to repair fire separations between the common

corridors and the exit stairwells (Division B, Article 2.2.2.1.) and failing to provide written records of the testing of the building's fire alarm system for review by the Chief Fire Official (Division B, Sentence 1.1.2.1.(1)). A guilty plea was entered for both charges.

The owner of a three-storey residential building with commercial units on the first floor and lodging rooms on the second and third floors was fined \$2,500. The owner was charged with failing to provide written records of the testing of the building's fire alarm system for review by the Chief Fire Official (Division B, Sentence 1.1.2.1.(1)). A guilty plea was entered for both charges.

The property owner of a two-storey residential building that was occupied as a single-family dwelling was fined \$500 for violating the Ontario Code by failing to install smoke alarms between each sleeping area and the remainder of the dwelling unit. (Division B, Sentence 2.13.2.1.(2)). The conviction was the result of a guilty plea by the accused. The presiding justice of the peace lowered the requested fine to \$500 for financial reasons.

The owner of a multi-storey residential care facility with a capacity of 115 residents was charged with failing to retain test records at the premises for examination by the Chief Fire Official (OFC Division B, Sentence 1.1.2.1.(1)). A guilty plea was entered and a \$2,000 fine was set.

Submitted by Robert Simpson, Fire Safety Officer with Hamilton Emergency Services – Fire.

Barrie homeowner charged

The owner of a three-storey boarding, lodging and rooming house was charged with three counts of violating the Ontario Fire Code and fined \$4,702.50 in March 2011.

The charges were the result of failure to have fire alarm and voice communication systems maintained and in operating condition (OFC 6.3.1.4. of Division B), failure to have a fire alarm system, with or without voice communication capability, inspected and tested (OFC 6.3.2.2.(1) of Division B) and failure to maintain means of egress to be in good repair and free of obstructions (OFC 2.7.1.7.(1) of Division B).

Each count carried a \$1,250 fine, plus victim surcharges.

Submitted by Deborah Grant, Fire Prevention Officer, Barrie Fire & Emergency Service.

Barrie industrial chemical recycler found guilty of Ontario Fire Code violations, again

On April 29, 2011, approximately one year after being found guilty of violating the Ontario Fire Code, a local chemical recycler and its officers have pled guilty to eight additional counts of Fire Code violations and received fines totalling \$30,000, including victim surcharge fees.

"As caretakers of our community, we are obliged to mitigate the risks that the storage of large quantities of flammable or combustible materials poses to the environment and the residents of Barrie", said Fire Prevention Officer Judith Myddelton. "When a company is reluctant to take the action that is required by legislation, we will pursue every avenue available to us to ensure the safety of our community."

The background on this case is such that the business is an F-1 occupancy, and the site is operated by tenants as a hazardous waste facility. Their current Certificate of Approval issued by the Ministry of the Environment allows for 188 tonnes of liquid industrial waste and not more than 443 tonnes of total waste at any given time. Although the building was sprinklered, it did not meet the design requirements of NFPA 30, and therefore was considered adequately protected.

The tenant's corporation, and each of its 3 officers, were each charged with 2 counts of failing to maintain the storage of flammable and combustible liquids at a height not exceeding 1.5 metres (OFC 4.2.7.5.(1)(a)(ii), Division B). In addition, all four of the accused were charged with failing to provide a means to control the overflow of spilled flammable and combustible liquids and firefighting water (OFC 4.1.6.1.(4) of Division B). The site had been designed to contain approximately 66,000 litres of runoff, but needed to contain approximately 200,000 litres of runoff.

Prior to this conviction, two officers of this corporation had been convicted in 2010 of failing to repair fire separations, ensuring sprinkler heads were free of corrosion, maintaining a fire hydrant free of

obstructions, and preparing and implementing an approved fire safety plan. On that previous conviction, the fines totalled \$7,500, not including victim surcharge fees.

On the count of failing to maintain the storage of flammable and combustible liquids to a height not exceeding 1.5 metres, each defendant received a penalty of \$1,000. On the count of failing to provide containment for firefighting runoff, each defendant received a penalty of \$5,000 for a total of \$20,000. The total penalties were \$24,000, not including the victim surcharge fees.

Submitted by Judith Myddelton, Fire Prevention Officer, Barrie Fire & Emergency Service.

Property owner fined in Meaford

The importance of working smoke alarms in Meaford is still as relevant as it was in 2009.

On September 9, 2009, the Meaford & District Fire Department firefighters responded to a working structure fire in the early morning hours. With no sounding alarms and false reports of two persons still in the building, Meaford firefighters conducted a primary search. During this search, both firefighters required assistance and were removed from the building by Rapid Intervention Teams. The injured firefighters were taken to hospital by ambulance and are now both back on active duty.

Further investigation showed the residents were both out of the building, and that a smoke alarm had not been installed. Owners of the Nelson Street property pled guilty to failing to maintain working smoke alarms and received a fine of \$500.

Following this incident, the Meaford & District Fire Department did postal drops with the Office of the Marshal's pamphlets entitled "Smoke alarm pointers to save your life" and "Install smoke alarms it's the law."

"This was one of those situations that certainly caught and held the attention of our community," said Meaford Fire Chief Mike Molloy. "We in turn did our best to use this event as both an education and prevention opportunity."

Woodstock restaurant owner and manager fined

On April 27, 2011, a numbered company and a manager of a Woodstock restaurant were fined a total of \$22,000, plus court costs, for numerous violations under the Ontario Fire Code.

In November 2010, Woodstock Fire Department fire crews responded to a fire at the restaurant. Firefighters were able to quickly extinguish the fire inside the rooftop kitchen exhaust system and limit the spread of damage. Over the course of the investigation into the cause of the fire, a number of Fire Code infractions were noted.

As a result, the following charges were laid:

- Failure to have the fire alarm tested annually (OFC 6.3.2.2);
- Failure to have the commercial cooking exhaust systems inspected (OFC 2.6.1.13);
- Failure to have the commercial cooking exhaust systems cleaned (OFC 2.6.1.13);
- Failure to maintain certificates of inspection and cleaning for commercial cooking equipment exhaust systems on the premises (OFC 2.6.1.13);
- Failure to check hoods and ducts at intervals not greater than seven days and failure to clean the accumulations of combustible deposits that created a fire hazard (OFC 2.6.1.3);
- Failure to install an 8-inch high steel plate between the fryer and surface flames from adjacent cooking equipment for two commercial cooking stations (OFC 2.6.1.12.(1));
- Failure to install a metal-type grease drip container for the grease drip tray at the central commercial cooking station (OFC 2.6.1.12.(1));
- Failure to install non-combustible closed and rainproof grease collection containers for two roof-top exhaust systems (OFC 2.6.1.12.(1));

Failure to provide means of automatic activation between the fire-extinguishing systems and the fire alarm (OFC 2.6.1.12.(1));

- Failure to prepare and implement an approved fire safety plan (OFC 2.8.2.1.(2)); and,
- Failure to affix a legible notice near each pull station with wording that the fire department is to be contacted (OFC 2.8.2.5.(3)).

On March 9, 2011, the numbered company and the manager entered guilty pleas to 11 charges and six charges respectively. During sentencing on April 27, 2011 Justice McMahon imposed total fines of \$18,000 for the numbered company and \$4,000 for the restaurant manager.

"While it is encouraging that the restaurant quickly corrected the Code violations, it should not take a fire and charges to remind owners of their responsibilities," said Fire Chief Scott Tegler. "When we are dealing with fire and life safety issues, we will continue to use all aspects of enforcement available, including charges, to ensure compliance."

Submitted by Lukasz Kasprzyk, Fire Inspector with Woodstock Fire Department.

Jail time for Fire Code violator

A Kawartha Lakes man will be spending more time in jail after he pled guilty to charges under the Ontario Fire Code for having a large-scale grow-op.

On January 24, 2011, Kawartha Lakes Fire Prevention Division accompanied the Ontario Provincial Police and the Office of the Fire Marshal to an address in Burnt River for a drug warrant that was issued. Subsequently, the Fire Prevention Division charged a man and a woman with two Fire Code violations each.

On April 26, 2011, the man pled guilty to having a large-scale agricultural illegal plant growing/cultivation operation in a building and for failure to having approved provisions in place to control the hazard. The man was sentenced to an additional 30 days concurrent to the time he was already serving for criminal code convictions. The second charges against the man and woman were withdrawn.

This was the first time that Kawartha Lakes Fire Prevention staff pursued jail time for a Fire Code violator.

"The building and property are located in a rural residential neighbourhood and these types of indoor agricultural plant growing operations pose an increased threat to their stability, peacefulness and security," said Fire Prevention Officer Mike Hannon. "Grow-ops are not only detrimental to the area but pose a significant danger to first responders."

Submitted by Brenda Stonehouse, Communications Officer with the City of Kawartha Lakes.

London violations carry fines and probationary sentences

A London landlord was convicted of multiple violations after a fire in his rental property sent a young man to hospital with second degree burns.

London Fire crews responded to a structure fire at a single-family home and discovered the property was being used as a boarding and lodging facility. The home was occupied by seven students of a nearby college. A subsequent inspection of the property showed the property had never been properly converted to a boarding lodging facility and did not meet the retrofit requirements in Division B, Section 9.3 of the Ontario Fire Code. It was also determined that the occupants were not living in the home as a "cohesive family unit".

Despite the owner's attempt to evade service, he was eventually tracked down with the assistance of a private detective agency and charged with 13 violations of the Ontario Fire Code.

In November 2010 the owner was convicted of failure to have an approved fire safety plan (OFC 2.8.2.1.(2)), failure to have floor assemblies constructed as fire separations with a fire resistance rating of 30 minutes (OFC 9.3.2.2.(1)), failure to have interior walls constructed to have a fire resistance rating

of not less than 30 min. (OFC 9.3.2.4.(1)), failure to have two exits from the basement floor area (OFC 9.3.3.3.(1)), failure to install an interconnected smoke alarm system (OFC 9.3.4.1.(1)), and failure to install a fire extinguisher on each floor (OFC 9.3.5.1.(1)). The additional charges were withdrawn as part of a plea bargain.

The owner was fined a total of \$3,500 and also sentenced to one year probation for failing to install an interconnected smoke alarm system. He was also sentenced to mandatory credit counselling as he claimed he did not have adequate resources to pay his fines.

Another London property owner was convicted and fined \$10,000 in December 2010 after multiple violations were noted during an inspection of a commercial/residential building. Although the buildings were equipped with an interconnected smoke alarm system, most of the detection devices had been removed or dismantled and did not function as required. This property covered two municipal addresses, and the owner was charged under both addresses. The owner was convicted of two counts of failure to maintain an interconnected smoke alarm system (OFC 6.3.2.6(2)), two counts of failure to maintain fire extinguishers (OFC 6.2.1.2.), and one count of failure to install an in-unit smoke alarm (OFC 6.3.3.2.(1)).

Submitted by Karen Dunster CFEI, Fire Prevention Inspector with the London Fire Department.

Fines reduced against landlord

On April 14, 2011, Ontario Court of Appeal Justice of the Peace J.A. Epstein dismissed an appeal from a landlord and his holding company on the grounds that they did not meet the requirements of Section 131(1) of the Provincial Offences Act.

The recent ruling was in relation to another ruling by an Ontario judge in September 23, 2010, who upheld a number of Fire Code convictions against a Niagara landlord, including violations stemming from a house fire in Thorold that claimed the life of a 39-year-old man.

The landlord and his holding company were convicted of 26 violations of the Ontario Fire Code following a trial in the fall of 2009.

The charges included not installing smoke alarms and other code violations at his properties in Niagara Falls and Thorold.

A local Justice of the Peace had imposed a \$355,000 fine against the landlord, a resident of Thorold, and additional fines against the holding company.

All told, \$430,000 in fines were levied.

The landlord appealed the convictions and the sentences, arguing the justice of the peace had erred in her ruling and that the financial penalty was harsh and excessive.

An appeal hearing between the landlord and the Regional Municipality of Niagara was heard in June 2010 in an Ontario Court of Justice.

Justice Harris upheld 16 convictions but also ruled such high fines for each count pertaining to a single building were inappropriate.

For that reason, he allowed the appeal against the sentence and reduced the fine amount to just over \$200,000.

Excerpted from an October 2010 issue of the Niagara Review newspaper.

Continuing to strengthen provincial preparedness for CBRNE / hazardous materials emergencies

The annual provincial CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives) team training took place at the Ontario Fire College (OFC) during the week of May 30 to June 3. The goal of this training was to strengthen collectively Ontario's CBRNE and hazmat response capability and mitigate events that may jeopardize public safety.

Participants included the provincial level 3 teams (Toronto, Ottawa, Windsor), level 2 teams (North Bay and Kitchener/Cambridge/Waterloo) and the OPP Urban Search and Rescue, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response team.

This year's training expanded to include other provincial and federal agencies with representatives attending from Health Canada, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, the Canadian Forces – Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit (CJIRU) and Simcoe County EMS. Georgian College students from the pre-fire service program were also involved playing the roles of casualties and first responders during scenarios.

The week long training consisted of hands-on workshops and presentations. The workshops focused on air monitoring, radiation monitoring, sampling procedures, technical and mass decontamination. Presentations included clandestine lab case studies, decontamination considerations and provincial response protocols.

The training culminated on Friday with a team exercise in which the Toronto HazMat team, with the support of a Level 2 team, was dispatched in real time to respond to a rail crossing accident staged at the OFC. The mock-up involved large vehicles including a tractor trailer, a school bus, a train and a road maintenance vehicle. The exercise gave team members an opportunity to practice the implementation of a common Incident Management System and Accountability System during a simulated emergency that involved a complex set of problems. They practiced a seamless multi-agency response to a major incident that included scene security and control, as well as the use of specialized radiation monitoring for the detection of radioactive hazards, rescue and decontamination procedures, in the mitigation of their response objectives.

The 2011 Provincial CBRNE MOU Partners training week once again identified unique and identifiable opportunities for learning, both in the context of an exercise and that of province-wide cooperation. Expert contributions from members of the provincial teams and other agencies accomplished the goal of educating and building the knowledge and skill base of our responders. The week proved to be successful. It reaffirmed the province's capability to ensure public safety in regards to CBRNE emergencies.

Submitted by Office of the Fire Marshal Fire Protection Services. See the next two pages for pictures taken at the training event.

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The week long training consisted of hands-on workshops and presentations. The workshops focused on air monitoring, radiation monitoring, sampling procedures, technical and mass decontamination. Presentations included clandestine lab case studies, decontamination considerations and provincial response protocols.

The training culminated on Friday with a team exercise in which the Toronto HazMat team, with the support of a Level 2 team, was dispatched in real time to respond to a rail crossing accident staged at

the OFC. The mock-up involved large vehicles including a tractor trailer, a school bus, a train and a road maintenance vehicle. The exercise gave team members an opportunity to practice the implementation of a common Incident Management System and Accountability System during a simulated emergency that involved a complex set of problems. They practiced a seamless multi-agency response to a major incident that included scene security and control, as well as the use of specialized radiation monitoring for the detection of radioactive hazards, rescue and decontamination procedures, in the mitigation of their response objectives.

The 2011 Provincial CBRNE MOU Partners training week once again identified unique and identifiable opportunities for learning, both in the context of an exercise and that of province-wide cooperation. Expert contributions from members of the provincial teams and other agencies accomplished the goal of educating and building the knowledge and skill base of our responders. The week proved to be successful. It reaffirmed the province's capability to ensure public safety in regards to CBRNE emergencies.

Submitted by Office of the Fire Marshal Fire Protection Services. See the next two pages for pictures taken at the training event.



A picture of the CBRNE partners training week scenario. They are mitigating a chemical spill from an overturned rail car.



A picture of the CBRNE partners training week scenario. They are mitigating a chemical spill from an overturned rail car.



Health Canada workshop sampling procedures.



A photo of the mass decontamination that was set up.



An overhead shot of the mass decontamination that was set up.



Radiation workshop with Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission instructor.



A photo of the incident management system business cycle briefing during the scenario. This scenario took place on the final day of training.



A photo of the mass decontamination EMS triage.



Checking for contamination during the technical decontamination workshop.



Detection and monitoring workshop.



A photo of the CBRNE teams using radiation monitors.



A photo of CBRNE teams using the technical decontamination line.



A photo of the CBRNE technical decontamination line.



A photo of the technical decontamination line setup.



A photo of the Toronto HazMat response truck that assisted during the training exercise.



A group photo of everyone who was involved in the training exercise.

New fire safety resource for child welfare professionals

BY DENISE WALLACE

OFM PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Given that residential fire is the leading cause of unintentional death for young children, fire safety and prevention is a concern for professionals whose mandate is to keep children safe. With the assistance of local fire services, local Children's Aid Societies (CAS) and other community agencies and families can learn how to reduce the risk of experiencing a home fire and how to safely escape if one occurs.

Recent OFM investigations into fatal fires have found that a disproportionate number of fatalities involving children occurred in homes that had received services from a Children's Aid Society.

As a result, a partnership was developed involving the OFM, the Office of the Chief Coroner, the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, the Ministry of Children & Youth Services and a representative from a Children's Aid Society to develop a resource titled *Fire Safety & Prevention: A Resource Guide for Child Welfare Professionals*. This guide will assist child welfare professionals to reduce the risk of fire in their client's homes.

The guide was developed to:

- increase the knowledge and awareness of child welfare professionals about the risk factors associated with home fires;
- identify fire safety and prevention strategies that can be used by families; and,
- provide a list of resources and options that are available to the child welfare professionals and to the families and children they work with.

It also provides the professionals with:

- background information on risk factors for home fires in Ontario;
- a brief overview of the Ontario Fire Code requirements for smoke alarms;
- what families can do to make their homes safer;
- partnerships that community services can develop to reduce the risk to children and families of preventable home fires; and,
- a list of fire safety resources for child welfare professionals.

A representative from the local Children's Aid Society may contact the fire service for:

- advice and assistance on educating families about fire safety and ensuring homes meet minimum smoke alarm requirements;
- educational materials to help raise awareness of fire safety in the home;
- assistance training child welfare professionals in identifying fire safety issues in the home, such as:
 - the location, maintenance and testing of working smoke alarms;
 - home fire escape planning;
 - ways to keep fire starting materials out of sight and reach of children; and,
 - other fire prevention issues including: staying in the kitchen when cooking, blowing out candles when exiting a room, keeping candles out of reach of children, keeping exits in the home clear and other fire safety issues.

The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies has sent out the Guide, in English and French, to all

Children's Aid Societies across the province. The OFM has posted the Guide on its website for fire departments to access.

The OFM is developing resources that the fire service can use to train local child protection workers on the fire safety issues identified in the Guide. Stay tuned for more information on these resources.

For more information about the Guide, please contact Denise Wallace, OFM Program Specialist at Denise.Wallace@ontario.ca or at (416) 325-1911.

Sprinklers douse fire at Defence HQ

BY JAMIE LONG

OTTAWA SUN

An early morning fire broke out at the National Defence Headquarters in downtown Ottawa on March 30. Fire crews were at the scene just after 3:30 a.m. after alarms rang in the building due to smoke in an office on the 9th floor.

Military police working in the building told fire crews there was also water on the floor from the sprinkler system. Fortunately, the sprinklers were able to extinguish the fire and limit the spread to just one room.

No one was hurt and damage was kept to \$5,000 for contents and \$5,000 for the building.

Fire officials are now investigating the exact cause of the blaze, but they believe it was related to electrical equipment.

This article was excerpted from the March 30, 2011 issue of the Ottawa Sun.

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.

Ontario Firefighter Tests – Review of French version

BY KAREN BAUMAN, M.Ed.

A/ACADEMIC MANAGER, OFM ACADEMIC STANDARDS & EVALUATION SECTION

The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), through the Academic Standards and Evaluation Section, developed the Ontario Standardized Curriculum for Firefighters. The Standardized Curriculum is the basis for the program taught in fire departments to volunteer and full-time firefighters. It is available to partnered community colleges and fire departments, so that they can offer the Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program to prospective firefighters.

Graduates of the program can take voluntary provincial tests called the Ontario Firefighter Tests. Among the 15 colleges offering the program, 14 colleges offer the program in English and La Cité Collégiale, in Ottawa, offers the program in French. In 2009, as the first graduates were finishing the program, the college requested that their graduates write the test in French. This was the first formal request to have the tests translated.

After discussion among ministers, ministries and advisory groups, the plan for translation was implemented. This required significant preparation and follow-up by Academic Standards and Evaluation staff.

An important part of the testing process was the validation of the translation, which ensures that the translated test items are suitable and appropriate for the Ontario fire service. This involved the assistance of nine fire service representatives including Robert Comeau (Quinte West), Rob Doucette (Barrie), Michel Massia (Hawkesbury), Marc Messier (Ottawa), Ghislain Pigeon (Hawkesbury), Rock Rice

(Timmins), Pierre Sabourin (Clarence-Rockland), Mitch Theriault (Greater Sudbury) and Mario Villeneuve (Casselman). Karen Bauman, from the OFM, facilitated the meeting. Claire Rosset and Dale Moore, also from the OFM, assisted the group.

The validation of the translation took place over a one week period and involved Ontario fire service representatives coming to OFM headquarters. Overall, the representatives enjoyed being able to work with other fire department representatives as part of this initiative and welcomed the opportunity to assist with future OFM projects.

For information about the news conference that took place at La Cité Collégiale to announce the launch of the French version of the Ontario Firefighter Tests, turn to the back page of this magazine.



Members of the fire service who were a part of the validation team and OFM staff gather for a group photo. The group gathered to validate the Ontario Firefighter tests in French in February 2011.

Ontario Fire Service Messenger: a greener alternative needed

BY CAROL GRAVELLE
OFM MESSENGER EDITOR

Due to the greening initiatives of the Ontario government, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) will be ceasing production of the hard copy *Ontario Fire Service Messenger*. This being the last issue, we thought it fitting to detail some of the magazine's milestones throughout its 19 year history.

In February 1992, a Fire Marshal's Communiqué was distributed to let the Ontario fire service know that the OFM would soon be initiating a magazine that would emphasize the priorities of the OFM, particularly those relating to fire prevention, public education, training and worker safety. The publication would also include information on fire department management and emergency responses. The format of the publication would allow for the easy removal of pages for storage in training or fire prevention manuals. An OFM Editorial Board was developed to work with an Editor to produce the magazine.

The first issue landed on desks in June 1992. Sparky was on the front cover and former Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard A. Moyle wrote the first editorial to introduce "The Messenger." He said that "This is a

publication for the fire service, about the fire service." In it he also spoke about a survey that had been conducted at a 1991 Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Conference. The results for the survey emphasized a strong desire for training and educational material that could be readily adapted to individual fire departments: this was the foundation of the magazine.

In addition to being a communications vehicle to highlight and promote the activities of the fire service, the *Messenger* communicated OFM activities and initiatives to the fire service. In the May/June 1993 issue, a story was written about the OFM's canine unit and the history of using dogs to find accelerants in investigations. At that time there were three investigators with dogs: Dave Marcellus and Pax, Tom Hutton and Duff and Bob Lock with Blaze.

The teaching plans, included in the magazine, were a big part of the *Messenger*. Some were derived from operational guidelines while others were based on courses that had been taught at the Ontario Fire College. These teaching plans were very beneficial to the fire service and could be used in departmental training exercises.

In addition to the teaching plans, articles were written that would assist the fire service in their daily roles. Article topics included the ins and outs of vehicle fire investigation, what to do if you're going to testify in Court, why fire departments should initiate a training and education program, how to recruit, motivate and retain volunteer firefighters, working together with municipal council and stories about public education initiatives that Ontario fire departments were undertaking.

As time marched on, the *Messenger* began to change. Janice Johnstone, who had been the Editor of the magazine since its beginnings, moved up to OFM Program Specialist role in the Public Education section. Editor Rodney Porter took over and shortly after, the cover began to include bigger and brighter pictures.

In 2001, nine years since its beginning, the cover depicted a memorial service at the Ontario Fire College. According to an article within that issue, it was the year when the most popular Halloween outfit in Canada was a firefighter, according to Wal-Mart because of the tragic events of 9/11.

In the May/August 2003 issue of the *Messenger*, a story was written about the four day emergency preparedness exercise that occurred at the Ontario Fire College. The exercise had been the result of the OFM arranging for a fire service CBRN Level 3 response capability through fire departments in Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor. It was the first exercise of its kind and demonstrated the importance of being prepared and taking precautionary measures as a result of the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

In 2004, the *Messenger* and its teaching plans went online. It was available to read in PDF and HTML. Even with this online capability, the magazine continued to be available in hard copy and was sent to 4,400 subscribers composed of fire departments, fire and life safety stakeholders and some media.

In the March/April 2004 issue, the fire service was informed about the expansion to the Ontario Fire College that would improve the province's capacity to respond to emergencies in Ontario. It meant an addition to the technology building would be added and a new fire station would be built.

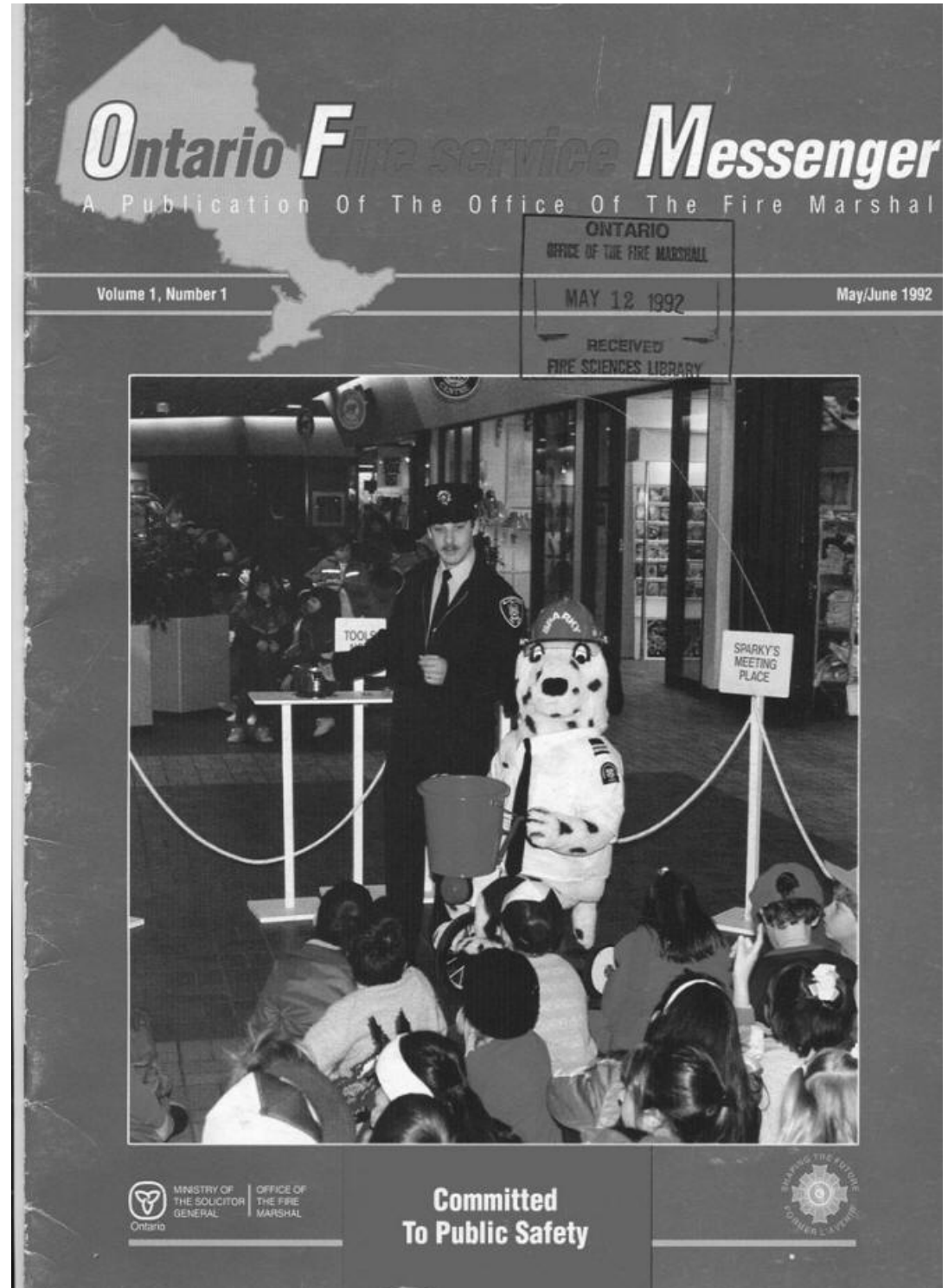
Other Editors came along including Catherine Lewis, Chris Slosser (who is now a Program Specialist in the Public Education section) and finally myself, in 2005.

Stories continued to be written about events and programs that were important to the fire service. One particular initiative was the *Install Smoke Alarms: It's the Law* campaign. That was in 2006 and as part of the campaign, fire departments were asked to send in stories about smoke alarm successes. Many were printed in the magazine and proved solid evidence of their effectiveness in Ontario homes.

In the last few years, articles have been written about the rise of social media and the benefits of using these mediums for the fire service. Each article that was published provided readers with a glimpse of new ways to communicate with bigger audiences in a more timely and environmentally-friendly way. To reach our intended audiences, the Ontario Fire Service *Messenger* must change as well.

It has been a pleasure putting these hard copy issues together for the readership. Going forward, the OFM is planning to initiate an online communications vehicle. As the current Editor, I have been asked to assist with the transition.

To remain relevant to the Ontario fire service, the OFM is interested in hearing from you on which sections you enjoyed or found most helpful. With this feedback, we will endeavour to include parts of these sections within the new communication vehicle. To provide feedback, contact Carol Gravelle at 416-325-3138 or carol.gravelle@ontario.ca.



The cover of the first Ontario Fire Service Messenger.

Lambton College Pre-Service Firefighter Program students assist Volunteer Fire Departments

BY STEVE KNIGHT

COORDINATOR/PROFESSOR LAMBTON COLLEGE

Lambton College Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training (PFET) students assisted the Alvinston and Warwick Fire departments in their respective home and travel trailer smoke alarm campaigns on May 14, 21 and 28.

Alvinston Fire Prevention Officer Mike Pilon supervised the students in completing the door-to-door survey and inspection of over 200 residences and 125 seasonal and transient travel trailers in the nearby A.W. Campbell Conservation Area.

"They were a welcome addition to our home smoke alarm program," said Fire Prevention Officer Pilon. "Going door-to-door is a little difficult for a lot of people, but the students all knew the importance of this type of program through their studies at Lambton College, so it seemed to be an easy fit for them."

The Warwick Campground was also surveyed under the supervision of Fire Chief Brad Goodhill, and over 70 seasonal campers were contacted during the program.

Alvinston Deputy Fire Chief Kris Redick and Captain Chris Knight headed up the campground program and found the experience for the students to be both educational and enlightening.

"Some of the students were tentative in talking to people at the start, but after a couple of times doing the 'cold call' at the door, they realized it was important and also a lot of fun," said Deputy Chief Redick.

Lambton College provides students to local volunteer departments upon request for fire-related community service activities as part of the Pre-service Firefighter Education and Training Program. This was the first year for the focused experience on fire prevention and public education for the students as part of their Pre-Graduate experience.

"Fire prevention and public education are critical components of maintaining fire safety, and having our students learn these skills as part of a well-rounded firefighter education will benefit the fire departments and communities where they are hired upon graduation from this program," notes Carol-Lynn Chambers, Chief & Associate Dean of the School of Fire Sciences and Public Safety at Lambton College.

Lambton College also offers a follow-up two-year Fire Science Technology program for graduates of all Pre-Service Firefighter programs. This program is unique in the province, and provides a more comprehensive learning experience to further prepare graduates for careers in the fire service and related occupations. Beginning in October 2011, Lambton's firefighter, criminal justice and paramedic students, along with industrial/commercial clients will benefit from the opening of the \$10 million new state-of-the-art Fire and Public Safety Centre of Excellence in Sarnia.



A picture of those who took part in the smoke alarm initiative at A W Campbell Conservation Area in May 2011. From left, in the front are Chris Knight, Alvinston Fire, Lambton students Nick Bolzon, Mike Delaney, Dylan Tupper and Jason Falloon. In the back row, from left, are Ruth Squire, camper, Mike Tizzard, A W Campbell Conservation Area Supervisor and Kris Redick, Alvinston Fire.

New in the OFM Library

BY MARISA MAHARAJ

A/LIBRARIAN, OFM FIRE SCIENCES LIBRARY & AUDIO VISUAL RESOURCE CENTRE

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

National Fire Code of Canada 2010 Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes. National Research Council of Canada, 2010.

Highway Scene Safety by Leslie J. Greenwood. Delmar Cengage, 2012.

Fire Dynamics by Gregory E. Gorbett and James L. Pharr. Pearson Education, Inc., 2011.

Collapse of Burning Buildings: A Guide to Fireground Safety by Vincent Dunn. PennWell Corporation, 2010.

Kirk's Fire Investigation by John D DeHaan and David J. Icove. Pearson Education, Inc., 2012.

Web Resources

Firefighting in Canada Trainers Corner: Disentanglement Drills <http://bit.ly/kWrcr9>

NIOSH Creates New Web Resource for Tornado Response Safety <http://1.usa.gov/jooUSx>

Fire Engineering: Robotics Reducing Firefighter Injuries: Now and Potential <http://bit.ly/kK2miO>

New Videos and DVDs

Tactical Perspectives. Program One: Command (2011)

Covers fire department administration and leadership as well as incident command strategies at residential structure fires. Discusses the roles and responsibilities for fire department personnel including incident safety officer and public information officer.

Tactical Perspectives. Program Two: Attack (2011)

Discusses size-up, correct hoseline use, water supply, and tactical strategies at residential structure fires. Includes specific operational and firefighter safety considerations for room and contents fires, basement fires, attic fires, and garage fires.

Tactical Perspectives. Program Three: Ventilation (2011)

Looks at size-up, ventilation strategies, and safe roof operations at residential structure fires. Examines horizontal ventilation, vertical ventilation, and positive pressure ventilation. Demonstrates safe and effective chainsaw use and three ventilation cuts: standard 4 X 4 cut, modified louver cut, triangle (inspection) cut.

Tactical Perspectives. Program Four: Search (2011)

Focuses on safe and efficient primary search, secondary search, and perimeter search techniques for residential structure fires as well as firefighter safety and survival strategies. Includes specific operational and firefighter safety considerations for room and contents fires, basement fires, attic fires, and garage fires.

The Fire Sciences Library & Audio-Visual Resource Centre is 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: our address is 5775 Yonge Street, 7th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M2M 4J1. 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.

Hoarding: more than just 'stuff'

BY SUSAN PHYPERS R.N. B.Sc.N. & CAROLYN CRISP R.N. B.Sc.N, PHN
HEALTH HAZARD PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT, OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH

Perhaps by now you have caught a TV show about hoarding or have read about it in the paper. It grabs your attention and it fascinates the observer, but what defines this behavior, how did it get to that point and what can be done about it?

What is hoarding?

Hoarding affects people from all walks of life but most severe hoarding cases are discovered in older adults and seniors. Hoarding has three main components: 1) acquisition of and failure to discard a large number of items that appear useless or of little value, 2) items clutter living spaces which preclude activities for which those rooms were designed, and 3) items cause distress and impairment in day to day activities.¹

Currently, the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM – IV)" lists compulsive hoarding as a "subset" of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Discussions that are underway (2013 edition DSM-V) may sever the link of hoarding with OCD and identify hoarding as an independent "disorder".² Co-morbidities of hoarding often include social anxiety, depression, Attention Deficit Hyper

Disorder (ADHD), Impulse Control disorder, and personality disorders.³

Based on U.S. statistics, up to 5 per cent of the population could be affected. Hoarding behaviours can begin in the teenage years and become a lifetime disorder.⁴ It may not become an identified problem until later in life, as the persons' independence decreases and/or more supports are required in their home. The behaviour can often become exacerbated after losing a family member or a spouse who either facilitated or kept excessive accumulation under control.

Is hoarding a risk to health?

The hoarded home environment presents significant health and safety risks including poor air quality, rotting organics, mould, infestations, and potential for fire and falls.

Older adults in these situations are at greater risks for:

- Falls as they navigate narrow 'goat paths' within high volumes of accumulations.
- Fires due to excessive volume of combustibles encroaching on cooking areas or other heat sources. Blocked access and exits in the home can impede rescue efforts. Aging electrical fixtures, wiring and extension cords also increase likelihood of fire.
- Food-borne illnesses caused by improper food handling and consuming expired foods.
- Infestations, as they provide a good environment in which rats, bed bugs, mice and cockroaches can hide unnoticed until the material is disturbed.

How to help?

From health and safety perspectives, a multi disciplinary response involving community partners at many levels is required. Link the resident with key services to assist with identification of the issue and begin the resolution process. Engage the resident with the health care system where there will be assistance to assess the root cause of the behaviour and severity of their problem, and link mental health and de-cluttering support services. Assessment tools and visual clutter scales are available at the links below. Assistance with exterior hoarding conditions is available from your City bylaw and property standards departments. Clean ups may be ordered or required and payment options can be arranged.

Work to ensure a consistent approach and resolution using standard operating procedures or protocols (SOP). This is essential when working with community partners. Consistent messaging and follow through serves to heighten clarity, reduce the possibility of manipulation by the client and improve the likelihood of compliance.

Links for Assessment tools and visual clutter scales:

1. Hoarding Fact Sheet: www.ocfoundation.org/hoarding/fact_sheet.aspx

2. Clutter Imaging Rating Scales:

www.science.smith.edu/departments/PSYCH/rfrost/Hoarding_Images.htm

3. Strategies for Hoarding Situations fact sheet: This factsheet is available from Ottawa Public Health and can be access at

http://ottawa.ca/residents/health/support/professionals/update/index_en.html#P700_81383

Referral options

A holistic assessment is important – physical, emotional, mental, financial. An assessment of the resident's mental health is essential. Geriatric services (if appropriate), counselling, and social work services are also helpful. On-going support and monitoring post clean-up will prevent client relapse and allow for early identification of return pattern to past behaviours.

Private companies providing clean up, professional organizing and long term support are available. Once accumulation is reduced, assistance for housekeeping may be available by contacting the client's local

Community Health or Resource Centre. The City of Ottawa Home Help services are also an option. Patients must call (613) 560-6000 directly to be assessed for financial eligibility.

Ongoing monitoring by community partners such as property managers or in-home service providers assists with early identification and maintaining safe and healthy environments.

Public health nurses from Health Hazard Prevention and Management (Ottawa Public Health) are available for in-home assessments to link patients to appropriate community supports by calling the Ottawa Public Health Information Line at 613-580-6744. Public Health Inspectors are an integral part of the team to identify and recommend removal of public health hazards with enforcement as required. Check what resources are available in your local area.

Additional Links and Resources

- Professional Organizing Services in Ottawa: www.ottawaorganizers.com
- Help for Children of Hoarders: www.childrenofhoarders.com
- Compulsive Hoarding:
<http://harthosp.org/InstituteOfLiving/AnxietyDisordersCenter/CompulsiveHoarding/default.aspx>
- Smith's College Resources – Link to research initiatives on hoarding by Dr. Randy Frost:
www.science.smith.edu/departments/PSYCH/rfrost/
- Randy O. Frost; Gail S. Steketee. (2007) Compulsive Hoarding and Acquiring, Therapist Guide and Workbook. Treatment that Works Series, Oxford University Press
- International OCD Foundation, From Dante to DSM-V: A Short History of Hoarding.
www.ocdfoundation.org. Retrieved February 22, 2011.
- Randy O. Frost; Gail S. Steketee. (2007).
- Randy, O. Frost; Smith College. Dec 10, 2010 Power point presentation on Hoarding, Ottawa, Ontario Canada.



A picture of a room in a hoarder's home.

OFM News Update

Art Booth returned to his home position as operations manager in Fire Protection Services on May 2. Art was acting corporate services manager.

Clair Rouse returned to his home position as program specialist in Fire Protection Services on May 2. Clair was acting operations manager.

Nancy Macdonald-Duncan left the OFM on May 25 to join the City of St. Catharines Fire Services. Nancy had been with the OFM since June 2008 as a program specialist, Prosecutions, with the Community Safety Enhancements Unit.

Marjorie Wright, who was on secondment with the Ministry of Education, returned on May 16 to her

OFM position as H.R. administrative assistant.

Yosh Imahori began on May 24 as a fire protection engineer in the Applied Research section. Yosh comes to the OFM from the Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) Waste Management Branch where he was a senior environmental approvals engineer.

Brent Sterling was the successful candidate in the recent competition for a program specialist competition and began on April 11. Brent had previously been with the Tay Township Fire Department.

Marisa Maharaj began on May 9 as the librarian at the library and AV resource centre. She is backfilling Martha Murphy's secondment for the next 10 months. Marisa comes to the OFM from the Ministry of Consumer Services where she was a communications intern.

Andreea Moraru joined the Academic Standards and Evaluation Section on May 2 to manage the testing unit. Andreea was most recently working at the Greater Toronto Airport Authority doing educational development of online and paper based courses and testing.

Apple Lee, former program manager of Human Resources and Finance at Emergency Management Ontario, joined the OFM as manager, Resource Management Services on June 13.

Tom Deforge retired as an instructor at the Ontario Fire College (OFC) in May. He played a large role in the development of the Officer Diploma programs, and has been a key part of delivering them and establishing their credibility as post-secondary level courses.

Ed Gulbinas retired on July 14 after 16 years with the OFM, and a total of 33 years with the Ontario Public Service. Ed worked in the Ministry of Labour before joining the OFM. Prior to becoming the section manager of Applied Research, Ed worked as a fire protection engineer.

Anne Miller retired on June 17 after 20 years with the office. Anne was the Coordinator of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council.

Jane Wazinksi, administrative assistant with Fire Protection Services, retired on May 31 after 17 years with the Office of the Fire Marshal. Jane was part of the northwest team working out of the Thunder Bay regional office.

Passing of LaSalle Fire Chief

LaSalle firefighters, town staff and community members are mourning the death of Fire Chief Ken Day. Ken succumbed to his courageous and dignified battle with cancer Friday July 22, 2011. He was 47 years old.

Chief Day was a well-respected fire service leader and an active member of the OAFC, serving as a Zone Rep. for Zone 1, as well as a member of the Rural-Suburban Committee of the OAFC. His visionary contributions to the Ontario fire service will be missed.

Chief Day was diagnosed with cancer in May of 2010. He remained active in the strategic direction and daily operations of the department despite periodic medical leaves until shortly before his death.

"Ken's genuine compassion and concern for everyone he met in the course of his day was an inspiration to all. If we all treated each other with that level of respect, this world would be a much more enjoyable place," expressed Deputy Fire Chief Dave Sutton. "Ken's passing will certainly leave a void in the municipal organization. As has been said with other great leaders, someone will eventually fill the position, but no one will replace him."



A photo of the late LaSalle Fire Chief Ken Day.

Show of support for fallen firefighters in Listowel

Raymond Walter and Ken Rea of the North Perth Fire Department, died tragically while serving their community, on Thursday, March 17, 2011.

A funeral was held on March 24 in Listowel. Hundreds of fire service personnel, friends and family attended to pay their respects and provide support for these fallen heroes.



A picture of members in the Toronto Fire Services Pipes and Drums Band.



Members of the fire service march down the main street of Listowel on the day of the funeral to show their support.



A photo of the late Raymond Walter

Raymond followed in his father's footsteps and joined the North Perth Fire department in 2008. He continued to give back to his community by serving as vice-president of the Listowel Kinsmen. Ray was employed at Ward & Uptigrove in Listowel since 2004, receiving his CGA designation in 2008. He was an avid golfer, curler, ball player for the Danamoes, CPA pool player, and Leafs fan.



A photo of the late Ken Rea

Ken Rea resided in Atwood. As a founding member of the Atwood Fire Department, Ken was a dedicated volunteer firefighter for 37 years serving as Deputy District Fire Chief (Atwood Station). He was a board member of Victim Services, enjoyed hunting, but mostly cherished time spent with his family.

Thank you to Mike Strapko of Toronto Fire Services for providing pictures from that day.

Educational Messages Advisory Committee

In June, the National Fire Protection Association's Educational Messages Advisory Committee got together for their yearly meeting where they reviewed proposals to modify or change existing messages.



In the blue shirt, is the Office of the Fire Marshal's Bev Gilbert, who is Chair of the Committee.

Ontario Firefighter Tests now available in French at La Cité Collégiale

In February, the Ontario Fire Marshal spoke at a news conference in Ottawa to announce that Francophone students enrolled in the Services d'incendie - programme préparatoire (Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program) at La Cité Collégiale would be permitted to write the Ontario Firefighter tests in French, effective March 1, 2011. This test had previously only been available in English.

"A noticeable trend in the Ontario fire service is that many fire departments give preference to those who have written this test and received the certificates," said Ontario Fire Marshal Ted Wieclawek. "In addition, the certificates also increase the attractiveness of candidates for hire when applying for firefighter positions (in other jurisdictions)."

While it is still up to each community to determine hiring requirements, provincial firefighting tests allow firefighters to demonstrate their knowledge of the subject matter contained in the Ontario Standardized Curriculum for Firefighters. It also makes them eligible for several certificates from the OFM, seals from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) and certificates from the National Fire Service Professional Qualifications Board (Pro Board).

The news conference was attended by a number of English and French media outlets. Also attending the event were current and past students of the pre-service firefighter program, Fire Chiefs from surrounding communities, fire service members of the group that assisted the OFM in validating the French translation of test questions and the OFM's Karen Bauman and Dale Moore.

After the news conference, Alain Charpentier, Director of the Emergency Service Institute at the college, hosted a tour of the new 9-1-1 Institute that was being constructed on the campus and a lunch at Les Jardins de La Cité, the restaurant where student chefs hone their skills. It was a very positive and important day for everyone involved.



Ontario Fire Marshal Ted Wieclawek speaks at the news conference.



Ontario Fire Marshal Ted Wieclawek accepts an award from La Cité Collégiale president Lise Bourgeois and a student from the pre-service program.

