



This year's key message, for Fire Prevention Week, October 4 to 10, 2015, is to install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement. **When it comes to smoke alarms, it's about "location, location, location."** Smoke alarms save lives. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly. Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. Test your knowledge by participating in the Fire Prevention Week quiz and more safety information is available at www.firepreventionweek.org

Here's what you need to know!

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of your home, including the basement. Larger homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Replace your smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks each spring and fall.
- Replace all smoke alarms in your home every 10 years.
- When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside.

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. We recommend during Fire Prevention Week all households to practice their home fire escape plan. It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. If you do not have a home fire escape plan take a few minutes with everyone in your household to make a home fire escape plan.

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas which cannot be seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide. **CO alarms** should be installed outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm and for replacing the CO alarm. Test CO alarms at least once a month. Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected and it will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm. If the battery is low, replace it. If the CO alarm sounds make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. **Tips to prevent CO poisoning:** When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away; during and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up and debris; a generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors and vent openings; Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside; Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in; Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation; and never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

Tips for Safe Winter Heating – Flue Fires can lead to house fires!

Inspect and Clean your Chimney Regularly

The Ontario Fire Code requires homeowners to maintain the safety of their chimneys and inspect them once a year. Your chimney could have a problem you cannot see. If in doubt, consult a WETT certified chimney sweep.

Check for Creosote

Creosote can form quickly and is a major cause of chimney fires. Check chimney and flue pipes often and clean when necessary – never let creosote or soot build up. Warm weather, cold weather may result in quicker creosote buildup.

Check the Chimney Cap for Blockages

A cap and screen should be installed on top of all metal and masonry chimneys. If you have a spark screen around the chimney cap, inspect it regularly for blockage.

Watch for Smoke Coming into the Room

This could indicate a blockage in the chimney or a faulty damper control mechanism. Check it out!

Regularly Check for Signs of Problems

Your heating appliance, flue pipes and chimney can deteriorate over time. Look for corrosion or rust stains on the outer shell of a metal chimney and check for bulges or corrosion in its liner.

Loose bricks, crumbling mortar, broken liners, dark stains or white powder indicate problems with masonry chimneys. These should be fixed immediately by a qualified mason.

Place ashes in proper metal container with lid and dispose of in a safe place.

If you require this newsletter in a larger print format please contact the municipal office.