



This year's key message, for Fire Prevention Week, October 9 to 15, 2016, is to replace smoke alarms every 10 years. Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home and to find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of the manufacture on the back of the alarm, the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date. 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.

Develop a home fire escape plan today. It could save your life tonight!

If a fire occurred in your home tonight, would your family get out safely? Everyone must know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds. Take a few minutes with everyone in your household to make a home fire escape plan, following the instructions below.

1. Draw a floor plan of your home.
 - You should draw a plan for each level of your home.
2. Include all possible emergency exits.
 - Draw in all the doors, windows and stairways. This will show you and your family all possible escape routes at a glance. Include any features, such as the roof of a garage or porch, that would help in your escape.
3. Show two ways out of every room, if possible.
 - The door will be the main exit from each room. However, if the door is blocked by smoke or fire, identify an alternate escape route, which could be a window. Make sure that all windows can open easily and that everyone knows how to escape through them to safety. If windows have security bars, equip them with quick-releasing devices.

4. Does anyone need help to escape?

- Decide in advance who will assist the very young, older adults or people with disabilities in your household. A few minutes of planning will save valuable seconds in a real emergency.

5. Choose a meeting place outside.

- Choose a meeting place a safe distance from your home that everyone will remember. A tree or a neighbour's home are good choices. In case of fire, everyone will go directly to this meeting place so they can be accounted for.

6. Practice your escape.

- Review the plan with everyone in your household. Walk through the escape routes for each room with the entire family. Use this walk-through exercise to check your escape routes, making sure all exits are practical and easy to use. Then hold a fire drill twice a year and time how long it takes. In a real fire, you must react without hesitation as your escape routes may be quickly blocked by smoke or flames.

Remember:

- Plan two ways out of every room, if possible
- Hold a fire drill twice a year
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside all sleeping areas

Carbon Monoxide Safety

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas which cannot be seen or smelled. 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. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning. You must install a **carbon monoxide alarm** adjacent to all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace or an attached garage. Ensure all fuel-burning appliances in your home are inspected annually. Install and regularly test, at least once a month, carbon monoxide alarms. Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm and for replacing the CO alarm. 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.