



## COVID-19

### Hand Sanitizers

- Follow manufacturer's instructions regarding the safe use of hand sanitizers. Typically, hand sanitizer labels indicate that the product is flammable and should be kept away from open flame and sources of heat. When using hand sanitizers, the public are encouraged to rub their hands together until they are dry. Once dry, hands are safe. People should be especially careful if attempting to smoke immediately after applying hand sanitizer. It is recommended that containers should be kept in an upright position and properly sealed to avoid spillage. As an added precaution, containers of hand sanitizers left in a vehicle should be kept out of direct sunlight to avoid leakage from over-pressurization of the container. These products are flammable and it is imperative that you read and follow directions and warnings on the labels.

### Face Masks

- Should not attempt to decontaminate or sterilize face masks for re-use by heating them in a microwave oven. This practice is a potential fire hazard. People should follow the advice and recommendations of medical and health professionals when it comes to the use, care and maintenance of personal protective equipment (PPE).

### Fire Prevention Reminder

The Township of Carlow/Mayo **does not have a fire department**. The Township of Carlow/Mayo does have a Municipal Forest Fire Management Agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources to extinguish grass, brush and forest fires. If you have or see a fire please call 9-1-1 for the appropriate authorities to be notified.

### Fire Bans

Fire Bans are done in conjunction with the Town of Bancroft. When a complete Fire Ban is in effect it will be advertised on the Moose 97.7 radio station and notices will be posted on our Fire Signs as well as at our Municipal Office, both Municipal Waste Sites, Cunningham's Country Store, Carlow Community Centre, Mayo Community Centre and on our website. What does a Fire Ban mean? A fire ban means absolutely **No Open Air Burning**. You cannot have a camp fire for cooking or warmth, you may not set off fireworks, you may not burn garbage, etc. If no Fire Ban is in effect then the regular rules apply. **April 1 to October 31** there is **No Day Burning Permitted** (except for cooking or warmth). Burning is **only** allowed between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. **Please watch what and where you burn!**

**Fire Prevention Week is October 4 to 10, 2020.** "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" is this year's Fire Prevention Week theme. It's aimed at educating everyone about the simple but important actions you can take to keep yourselves and those around you, safe in the kitchen. Unattended cooking is the number one cause of fires in Ontario.

### Cooking Fire Safety

- Always stay in the kitchen when you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.
- Keep a proper fitting pot lid near the stove when cooking. If a pot catches fire slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. Do not move the pot.
- Wear tight-fitting or rolled up sleeves when using the stove. Loose dangling clothing can easily catch fire. If your clothing catches fire, stop, drop to the ground and roll over and over to put out the fire.

### Barbeque Safety

#### USE BBQS OUTDOORS ONLY!

They produce **carbon monoxide**, a poisonous gas that can lead to unconsciousness and even death. Never use or store propane cylinders inside any structure, including garages.

#### Take these steps when starting a BBQ:

- Open the hood.
- Turn on the gas release valve on the tank.
- Turn on the grill controls or heat settings.

- Take a step back.
- Push the igniter button.
- If there is no igniter button, insert a long match or BBQ lighter through the side burner hole first, then turn on the heat control knob.
- If the burner does not ignite right away, turn the gas off and wait five minutes, keeping the hood open, before repeating the procedure.

At the start of the BBQ season, do this **THREE-STEP SAFETY CHECK** of your BBQ:

#### **CLEAN**

Use a pipe cleaner or wire to ensure burner ports are free of rust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.

#### **CHECK**

Examine the hose leading from the tank to the burners. Replace it if cracked or damaged.

#### **TEST**

Find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to propane cylinder connections and hoses. If bubbles appear, tighten the connection and/or replace the damaged parts and retest.

- Never leave the BBQ unattended when in use.
- Make sure grease does not build up on the burners or at the base of the BBQ. This could cause a grease fire.
- Never throw water on a grease fire – this will only spread the flame.
- DO NOT place the BBQ close to wooden fences or walls, vinyl siding, or anything that can burn. The area behind your BBQ must be free of anything that can ignite – this is where hot gases escape.
- Keep loose clothing away from a hot BBQ.
- Keep children and pets at least one metre (three feet) away from a hot BBQ.
- When finished barbecuing, turn the gas valve off first, then turn off the burner controls so no gas is left in the connecting hose.
- Allow the BBQ to cool completely before closing the cover.

### **Cottage Fire Safety Tips**

To minimize the risk of fire and burn injury, the municipality recommends the following cottage fire safety tips:

- Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. It's the law for all Ontario homes, cottages, cabins and seasonal homes to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. Test smoke alarms at least monthly or each time you return to the cottage. Pack a new smoke alarm and extra smoke alarm batteries in case they need replacement.
- Install and ensure carbon monoxide alarms in your cottage if it has a fuel-burning appliance.
- Develop and practice a home fire escape plan to ensure everyone knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Know your cottage's emergency 9-1-1 number in case of emergency.
- Clean barbecues before using them. Keep an eye on lit barbecues and ensure all combustibles, as well as children and pets are kept well away from them. Fires can happen when barbecues are left unattended.
- Keep barbecue lighters and matches out of sight and reach of children.
- Remember to bring a flashlight with extra batteries.
- Check heating appliances and chimneys before using them.
- Check with your municipality or Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry to determine whether open air burning is permitted before having a campfire or burning brush. If open burning is allowed, fires should be built on bare soil or on exposed rock. Remove leaves and twigs from around the fire to keep it from spreading. Always keep a bucket of water, sand, or even a shovel close by and supervise the fire at all times.
- If you must smoke, do so outside. Keep a large can with water nearby so cigarette butts can be safely discarded. If you drink, do so responsibly. Tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption are contributing factors in many fires and can lead to serious injuries.
- Burn candles in sturdy candleholders that will not tip and are covered with a glass shade. When you go out, blow out!

### **Campfire Safety**

You can never be too safe.

Sitting around a campfire is fun. Whether you're camping, hiking, berry picking or picnicking, be safe with your campfire. If your campfire starts a wildland fire, you could be fined and held responsible for the costs to put the fire out. Follow these safety tips for building a safe campfire!

- Check for any fire restrictions
- Be aware of current fire restrictions in your area.
- Visit [ontario.ca/forestfire](http://ontario.ca/forestfire).
- Choose a site carefully
- Find a site on bare rock or on an area free of combustible material.
- Build the fire where you have easy access to water and it is sheltered from high winds.

- Prepare the site
  - Clear a 1 metre space around the site.
  - Remove needles, grasses, leaves and twigs.
  - Clear low overhanging branches.
  - Keep the campfire small
  - Fires must not exceed 1 metre in height and diameter.
  - Small fires are easier to control.
- **Stay nearby to tend the fire**
  - Always have adult supervision.
  - Keep a pail of water and shovel nearby.
  - Put your campfire out
  - Soak the campfire with water.
  - Stir ashes with a stick to uncover hot coals and soak again with water.
  - Make sure the fire is completely out.

### How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home, with all members of your household, show all doors and windows, marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit. Mark all of the smoke alarms in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- All windows and doors should open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- Pick a family meeting place outside. It should be in front of your home. Everyone will meet at the meeting place.
- 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. Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- 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. Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Make sure your house number can be seen from the road.
- Close doors behind you as you leave – this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.



### Here's what you need to know about smoke alarms they are a key part of a home fire escape plan!

- 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.

### 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.

**SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.**

**Combo voice warning smoke and CO alarms are available at the municipal office for a very low cost.**