



In a fire, seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between residents of our community escaping safely from a fire or having their lives end in tragedy.

That's why this year's Fire Prevention Week theme: "Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!" is so important. It reinforces why everyone needs to have a home fire escape plan. It prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds.

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.

During Fire Prevention Week participate in the quiz to test your knowledge about home fire escape planning and other fire safety topics at www.firepreventionweek.org

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.

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.

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

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.

Other Things to Consider Preventing Fire in Your Home

- Keep matches and lighters out of the sight and reach of children.
- Always blow out candles before leaving the room.
- If anyone in the home smokes, smoke outside.
- Ensure items that can burn are one metre away from space heaters.
- Avoid overloading the electrical outlets. Extension cords should be used only as a temporary connection.

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.

On behalf of the Carlow and Mayo Recreation Committees, local churches and the Little Mississippi Seniors Citizen Club, would like to thank everyone who donated towards the Community Christmas Dinner scheduled for Saturday December 16, 2017.

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