



CFSA NEWS

CANADIAN FIRE SAFETY ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2009/2010



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Editor: Matteo Gilfillan

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Leo Grellette

President's Message

Thank you to the membership for entrusting me with the responsibility of being your President through to April 2010. The industry that we are part of will see the coming into force of the requirement for sprinklers in residential buildings over three storeys in height. This has been too long in coming.

As we move forward, the CFSA Executive continues to support the principle of sprinklers in residential homes.

The Annual Education Forum held in April was a tremendous success thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Susan Clarke and her team. In fact, I must congratulate all the members of the Executive for being there for support when requested. The Board members give tirelessly and the Association's success is very much a result of this.

An extremely informative technical program was put together and I would like to extend my appreciation to all the speakers. As in the past, seven awards were distributed to very deserving students who have chosen to pursue careers within the fire related industry. These awards would not be possible without the continued support of our education sponsors: namely Leber/Rubes Inc., Nadine International Inc., Randal Brown and Associates Ltd. and Underwriters Laboratories of Canada.

Educational events and technical sessions not only require a dedicated team of volunteers but also depend on financial support from the community. I would like to extend a sincere appreciation from the Board of Directors to the following sponsors:

Platinum: Safety First Fire Prevention Inc., and Ontario Power Generation

Silver: Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario, Seneca College, and University of Waterloo Faculty of Engineering

Bronze: Randal Brown and Associates Ltd., Fire Consulting Services Ltd., and Tyco/Thermal Controls

One special highlight of this year's event was a special tribute to Rich Morris, a founding father of the Canadian Fire Safety Association. Al Speed, former Fire Chief for the City of Toronto and former Board member of the CFSA gave an emotional tribute to Rich that touched the hearts of all that were in attendance. Thank you Al and thank you Rich for all that you have given to the fire industry.

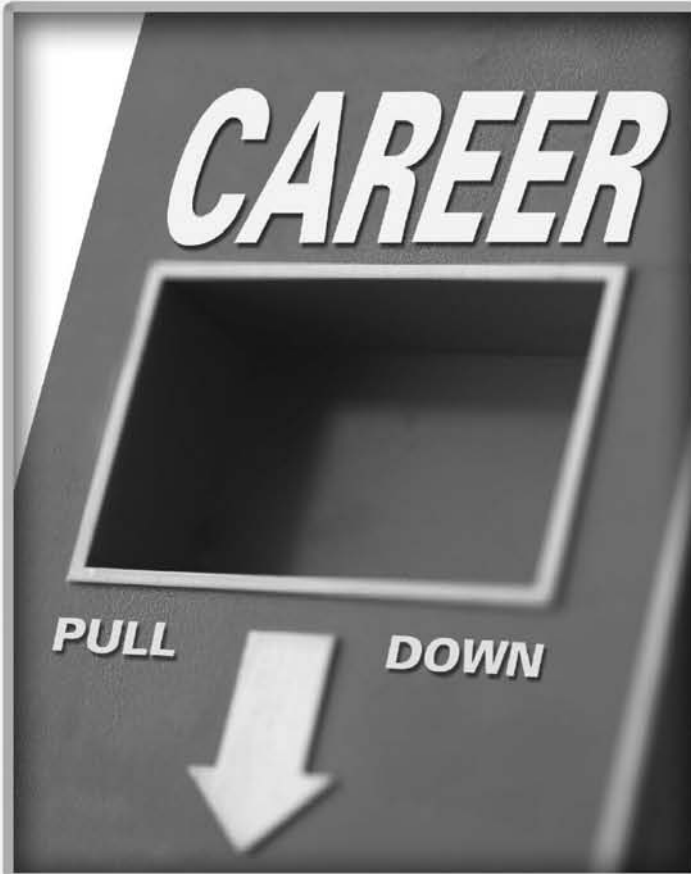
We will continue to provide meaningful technical sessions throughout the year and encourage you all to forward topics that may be of interest to you.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Grellette'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'L'.

Leo Grellette
CFSA President

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Matteo Gilfillan

Editor's Note

In recent past, we have attempted to apply a theme to each edition of the CFSA News. However, this edition of the CFSA News is themeless (if you do not count the underlying "fire and life safety" theme!).

You may be wondering why we did not choose to focus on residential sprinklers with the upcoming Code changes coming into affect as of April, 2010. Well, as you may recall, the CFSA provided extensive coverage of the O.Reg. 205/08 Code amendment with some very informative articles by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that provided details on the upcoming requirements for sprinklers in residential buildings in our Winter 2008 edition of the CFSA News.

As such, instead of revisiting the topic of residential sprinklers, this edition of the CFSA News tackles a broader scope of the fire and life safety industry, featuring articles on various subjects including Information Technology (IT) and its role in today's firefighting, fire safety of green roofs, Fire Prevention Week (this year's message is "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned"), and Project Zero (a carbon monoxide and smoke alarm door-to-door inspection program conducted by the Toronto Fire Services).

This edition of the CFSA News also features a summary of the CFSA's Annual Education Forum (AEF) which was held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at the Delta Markham Hotel in Markham, Ontario. This year's theme at the AEF was "Fire Safety Isn't Just a Checklist" or "Getting the Big Picture".

I personally found the day to be quite informative and the presentations to be topical. I would like to extend thanks to all of our presenters, who made the AEF the success that it was.

The CFSA News journal committee is always looking for articles and topics for articles from our membership. If you are interested in providing an article or would like to see a specific topic discussed in the CFSA News, please contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Gilfillan", written in a cursive style.

Matteo Gilfillan, C.E.T., CFPS
CFSA Editor

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Fighting FIRE WITH IT

Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services overhauls its data management

By Stefan Dubowski

To battle a blaze, firefighters must co-ordinate countless resources — everything from trucks, hoses, and safety suits to personnel, dispatch, and details on the location in distress. Synchronization is the key. All aspects of the fire safety and rescue mechanism had better work together, or else.

So, when the Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services went to implement a lot of new technology, they decided to do it all at once. "It's like flying an airplane. Everything had to be working at the same time," says consultant Dave Mitchell, the project manager of Vancouver's IT upgrade, which would count as the most complex project he'd ever encountered in his 32 years working with the department.

How did Mitchell and his team manage it? The solution would be a matter of combining the organization's firefighting know-how with a fearless approach to IT.

The end of HAL

Vancouver needed new technology. Designed by a now-defunct company, its records management system was old, and it was proving difficult to maintain. It was also hard to extract information from the software, and even harder to analyze the data, such as where fires were occurring and why. And the department needed these details to help them identify trends and develop solutions to help prevent fires.

"Its time had come and gone," says Steve Laleune, assistant chief for communications. Like Mitchell, Laleune is a Vancouver veteran with 27 years under his ladder belt.

Mitchell has an even more colourful way of remembering the previous data management platform. "We were calling it HAL, and it was getting cranky," he says, referencing HAL 9000, the homicidal computer in the book and movie *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

But records management wasn't the only issue. The department also needed a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system to ensure that the information contained in the records management



database went out with the call to action. New workstations for the fire trucks would be required as well, so the firefighters would have access to life-saving applications, including software to control tools like the jaws of life, which are used to carefully cut people out of crushed vehicles. The old workstations provided nothing more than basic information, such as a rudimentary map to help firefighters find the building. The monochromatic, three-by-five-inch screen wasn't exactly rich with detail, and the integrated software was difficult to upgrade for new functions.

You're fired

And Vancouver Fire wanted something more than the standard CAD and records-management template. "In many other departments, these are not integrated, so when the firefighters come back, they have to collect all of the call information and enter it into the records management system," Mitchell says. "There was a significant risk that

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the information would not be entered correctly.”

In 2005, Vancouver Fire began planning its attack. The organization connected with North Vancouver, B.C.’s FDM Software Ltd., which specializes in records management systems for emergency services. Working with FDM, Vancouver Fire soon took a hands-on approach to customizing the platform.

While FDM’s original solution incorporated the supplier’s own knowledge of fire safety services — FDM’s software is used by 200 agencies across North America — nothing beats the end-user’s perspective, especially in such a rarefied field as firefighting. Considering FDM’s base template, Laleune and the Vancouver crew knew they could make the software work better for their particular requirements. For instance, while the original system included countless modules covering everything from incidents and inspections to permits and training, Vancouver wanted a more streamlined system to start with.

With help from FDM, Vancouver Fire headed into the program to switch things up. The main challenge: “Mapping out how to ... make it look the way we wanted,” Laleune recalls. The team whittled the interface down to just a handful of tabs leading to information about particular issues, including motor-vehicle incidents, details on trucks and ladders, firefighter skills development, medical information, and of course, fires. And the organization also rearranged the interface to support pull-down menus, simplifying the data for users.

Hosing the code

“In testing, we kept breaking it,” Laleune says. “There were certain constraints in the system we had to work around.” Hard-coding made it somewhat difficult to coax the interface into operating exactly as desired. And, in certain cases, the organization couldn’t solve the problems. Rather than waste resources trying to perfect the interface, the department took a pragmatic approach in the end, deeming those matters “a user-training issue, and we just moved on,” Laleune says.

“I’d say we were in there for about a year, reworking the system,” he says, adding kudos for the supplier. “(FDM) embraced the changes we made.”

Co-ordination was a constant issue. Vancouver Fire wasn’t only updating the records management system; the department was also tackling the CAD software, and equipment inside the trucks as well. Add the fact that Vancouver had also invited other fire departments to participate in the project, laying the groundwork for a single hosted system across a larger region, encompassing areas outside of Vancouver, and you have the raw ingredients for an IT backdraft.

“There were 13 fire departments, five software vendors, a whole bunch of people,” Mitchell says. “Everyone was involved in what the system would look like.”

It would be a challenge for any project manager, but with tenacity and good humour, the team got through it. “There was not a cross word from anybody. There was a lot of laughing, a lot of it at me, I’ll bet,” Mitchell says.

User training went relatively smoothly, although Vancouver experienced the usual resistance to change. It wasn’t a matter of age or experience. “It’s really interesting,” Laleune says. “We were concerned with the senior firefighters, but they’ve embraced it.”

By November 2008, nearly three years after starting the project, Vancouver Fire’s new technology was online. “It’s a major improve-

ment,” Mitchell says. “You no longer have to do multiple data entry. It’s a one-write system.” That means life-saving details about buildings — information about where the master electrical panel is, the location of the water shutoff and the standpipe connections — are easily accessible, and easily updated.

This allows the firefighters to crunch the information, and help keep people safe. “Every time you go to a call, everything is tracked,” Mitchell says. So, for instance, if in a couple of years a firefighter falls ill, the department can mine the data to see if there were any hazardous materials involved in any of the fires the employee visited, or if the firefighter came into contact with someone with a communicable disease.

The system also helps Vancouver track skills training. Which firefighters need to take a new high-angle rescue course? Who’s in line to learn the latest spinal immobilization techniques?

Out of the frying pan for good

All of the IT systems must support that safety mandate, and now they’re doing it better than ever. The new information management system is coupled with an advanced CAD platform and robust new computers in the trucks themselves. Gone are the three-inch screens, replaced by 15-inch monitors and richer software. It’s simpler to see trends in the data that could profoundly impact citizen safety. “We can go back to specific groups and let them know, ‘Hey, we’re having a problem with power bars, baseboard heaters, or grass fires,’” Laleune says. In one case, the department realized a specific kind of baseboard heater was causing fires since there had been six calls in a short period of time. Vancouver sent the information to the Canada Standards Association (CSA). “A month later, they came back with a recall,” says Laleune. “It’s all about public safety.”

That the system incorporated the end user’s requirements made it applicable across the board, and other departments are considering how Vancouver’s platform will help them keep people safe as well. “Whistler, Sunshine Coast, Delta, New Westminster and Richmond are now on board ... because it is developed from the firefighter’s point of view,” Laleune says.

What’s next? “The project isn’t over,” he says. Vancouver is considering adding new modules for deeper information access, although the organization will have its hands full very soon with the 2010 Olympics, scheduled to begin in Vancouver next February.

For Vancouver, IT success depended on bringing that firefighter’s point of view into the equation, a move that helped the organization ensure its technology supported its own way of working, where attention to detail is crucial. “It’s a hard enough job, and it’s getting harder,” Mitchell says. “Buildings are taller, material can burn hotter. Anything we can do to simplify things is a step forward. ■



2009 CFSA Annual Education Forum Summary

The Canadian Fire Safety Association's (CFSA) Annual Education Forum was held on Friday, April 17, 2009, at the Delta Markham Hotel in Markham, Ontario. This year's theme at the AEF was "Fire Safety Isn't Just a Checklist" or "Getting the Big Picture". The following is a brief summary of the presentations and events that took place at this year's AEF.

Application of Objective Based Codes -Architectural Features and Code Requirements

Speaker: Gary Robitaille, Leber-Rubes Inc.

This presentation outlined the general methodology for applying the objective-based Building Code to building design, utilizing a project in Alberta, Canada, as a sample case study of objective-based solutions.

Retirement Facilities - A Review of the Various Types, Risks, and Code Requirements

Speaker: Randal Brown, Randal Brown & Associates Ltd.



This presentation discussed the various types of retirement facilities being constructed in Ontario and the potential threats to consider in regards to the design of these facilities. Focus was provided on upcoming National Building Code changes related to the construction / design of retirement facilities.

Registered Interior Designers (or ARIDO Members) Are Firefighters Too!

Speaker: Tamara Dvorsky, Stantec Consulting Ltd.

This presentation discussed the roles and responsibilities of an interior designer with respect to creating fire and life safe interior designs and complying with the Ontario Building Code. Ms. Dvorsky also touched on common issues that may result in lack of compliance with the interior finish requirements of the OBC.

Precious Seconds: A Review of Various Fire Investigation Cases

Speakers: Chris Williams, Office of the Fire Marshal



This presentation outlined various fire investigation cases, using some very descriptive visual aids (videos) to assist in providing an eye-opening understanding of the conditions faced in a real life fire scenario.

Detection of Moving Fires

Speaker: Ajwad Gebara, Nadine International

This presentation discussed the creation of a unique and innovative fibre optic linear detection by Nadine International Inc. to address concerns with fire detection along a 44 km long conveyor belt at a coal plant.

Installation and Services for Fire Signal Receiving Centres and Systems

Speakers: Dave Currie, Damar Security Systems

This presentation addressed the prevalent issues associated with fire signal receiving centres and systems from a Code perspective, and the importance of successfully integrating these systems in the design of a project.

Recent Building Code Amendments - Residential Sprinklering

Speakers: Nadim Khan,
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing



This presentation addressed the upcoming changes to the Building Code in relation to sprinkler protection in residential buildings.

Safety First - Product & Services Review

Employees of Safety First Inc. provided a brief presentation on products and services offered by their company, with specific focus on kitchen fire suppression systems and the importance of proper maintenance.

Office of the Fire Marshal CBRNE Support Unit Tour



Following the Student Awards Presentation and Lunch, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) conducted tours of the CBRNE Support Unit for the AEF participants. The CBRNE Support Unit is used to support the Ontario fire services during chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive (CBRNE) situations.

Markham Fire & Emergency Services Portable Fire Extinguisher Training Session

Also following the Student Awards Presentation and Lunch, the Markham Fire and Emergency Services conducted a live-fire portable extinguisher training session for the AGM participants.

The participants were given a brief lesson on the proper method of operating a fire extinguisher (i.e., P A-S-S methodology) and then, participants were provided the opportunity to operate a charged portable fire extinguisher on a controlled fire.

Office of the Fire Marshal CBRNE Support Unit Tour

Following the Student Awards Presentation and Lunch, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) conducted tours of the CBRNE Support Unit for the AEF participants. The CBRNE Support Unit is used to support the Ontario fire services during chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive (CBRNE) situations.

Tribute to Mr. Rich Morris

Mr. Al Speed, former Fire Chief of the Toronto Fire Services, honoured Mr. Rich Morris with a touching speech of congratulations on an outstanding career in the field of fire and life safety.



Mr. Morris was a Founding Director of the Canadian Fire Safety Association (CFSA-1971), and has played a large part in the success of this organization during the 37 years that he has participated on the Board. He has served as President and has chaired the Public Education and Scholarship Committees. Over the years Mr. Morris's work has caused an increase in the number and value of scholarships awarded to students studying Fire Prevention at college level.

Mr. Rich Morris has worked in the fire prevention industry in Canada for more than 55 years. He was the main driving force that brought smoke alarms to Canada, a device that has saved, and will continue to save, the lives of thousands of Canadian residents experiencing the horror of fire.

CFSA Scholarship Awards

The CFSA has and will continue to support the top students in the field of fire protection who show leadership, motivation, technical skills, and overall academic proficiency. In order to create a fire safe environment for Canada in the future, we must encourage those students to one day become leaders in their field.

CFSA Peter Stainsby Award
(\$1000.00)
Bahareh Taghvaei



Presented by the CFSA to the TOP GRADUATE of a three-year Fire Protection Technology course, who has excelled with outstanding leadership, motivation, and technical skills and an overall academic proficiency.

CFSA Fire Safety Award
(\$850.00)
Clifford Zarudny



Presented by the CFSA and funded by Leber/Rubes Inc., Randal Brown & Associates Ltd., and Nadine International Inc. to the TOP STUDENT having completed year 2 of a 3 year Fire Protection Technology course with outstanding leadership, motivation, and technical skills and an overall academic proficiency.

Randal Brown & Associates Ltd. Award
(\$850.00)
Aleem Rahman



Presented to the TOP year 2 student of a 3 year Fire Protection Technology course with exceptional overall skills in Codes/Standards Technology and an academic proficiency of 3.25/4.00 GPA.

Leber/Rubes Inc. Award
(\$850.00)
Omar Abdullah



Presented to the TOP year 2 student of a 3 year Fire Protection Technology course with exceptional overall skills in Fire Alarm Technology and an academic proficiency of 3.25/4.00.

Nadine International Inc. Award
(\$850.00)
Minbum Lee



Presented to the TOP year 2 student of a 3 year Fire Protection Technology course with exceptional overall skills in Fire Suppression Technology and an academic proficiency of 3.25/4.00.

Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada Award
(\$500.00)
Kristen Niles



Presented to the TOP year 2 student of a 3 year Fire Protection Technology course with exceptional academic skills in Codes and Standards and an academic proficiency of 3.25/4.00.

Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada Award
(\$500.00)
Alana Burgler



Presented to the TOP first year student of a 3 year Fire Protection Technology course with exceptional academic skills in all subjects and an academic proficiency of 3.25/4.00.

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CFSA Scholarship Donators

The Canadian Fire Safety Association would like to thank all of our corporate and individual members who made donations to the scholarship fund this year. Your generous donations help the CFSA to support and encourage students in the fire protection industry.

Green Roofs and Fire Safety

This article was prepared by Mr. Matteo Gilfillan, C.E.T., CFPS, Assistant Project Manager at Randal Brown & Associates Ltd.

Introduction

Green roofs, while considered common in Europe and (to a lesser degree) the United States, are a relatively recent concept in the Canadian construction industry. They have been publicized as having substantial social, environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits, including reducing energy consumption and cooling costs for buildings as well as providing a more aesthetically appealing environment in the "urban jungle".

On May 26, 2009, the City of Toronto adopted a Green Roof By-Law (which comes into effect as of January 31, 2010, for residential, commercial, and institutional buildings, and January 31, 2011, for industrial buildings), mandating that all new developments above 2 000 m² in gross floor area allocate a portion of the available roof space to green roof coverage.

With the advent of this By-Law, many questions and concerns have arisen regarding whether all aspects of green roof design have been considered. Many articles have been published that discuss concerns regarding the structural integrity of green roofs (with respect to water leakage and resulting structural damage), potential insurance claims (resulting from environmental hazards, improper construction, and failing to deliver on promised incentives (e.g., energy savings)), and the impact on condominium corporations (higher maintenance costs associated with reserve funds (roof membrane replacement), roof leakage concerns, etc).

Of specific note - and the topic of this article - is the concern regarding the potential fire safety issues associated with green roof design.

Green Roofs and the Building Code

Acceptable green roof design and construction methods are outlined in the Toronto Green Roof Construction Standard, which can be found in Article IV of a new Chapter to the Toronto Municipal Code (to be introduced prior to the effective date of the By-Law). The Standard - which can be viewed at www.toronto.ca/greenroofs/construction-standards.htm - indicates that the measures described in the Article are considered an acceptable solution deemed to comply with the objectives of the Ontario Building Code (OBC).

At the present time, while Standards for fire safety regarding green roof design are apparently under development by the Single Ply Roofing Industry (SPRI), an approved fire testing for green roof assemblies does not exist.

That said, the Toronto Building Department expects that the Standards under development by SPRI will be adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), at which point the Toronto Technical Advisory Group will reconvene to determine whether these Standards will be included in the Toronto Green Roof Construction Standard.

Green Roof Fire Safety Requirements

As it stands, the extent of fire safety specific regulations in Article IV of the new Municipal Code Chapter is the requirement for a vegetation-free border as a fire break where roof penetrations, intersecting walls, parapets, upturns or mechanical equipment are clad with combustible materials.

Green Roofs: A Fire Safe Alternative?

There are those in the green roof industry who, although admittedly biased, offer strong arguments to suggest that with the proper design, a green roof can be equally or inherently more impervious to fire damage than a standard combustible roof covering as permitted by the OBC. Generally speaking, these arguments consist of two primary components: (1) the type of growing media, and (2) the plant selection. The Toronto Green Roof Construction Standard does not provide regulations for either of these components.

Growing Media

A growing mix, when blended to FLL standard (FLL is the German Landscape Research, Development and Construction Society, an independent non-profit organization - in the European green roof industry, FLL standard mixes are considered the preferred growing media) consists primarily of inorganic calcined materials, with approximately 6-10 per cent of the mix (by dry weight) being comprised of organic matter.

While an official testing of this material has not been conducted by Canadian authorities, the composition of an FLL standard mix is generally not considered to contain enough fuel to propagate a fire, even under severe dry conditions.

In many regions of the U.S., the base of the mix used in green roof applications is expanded clay, a material similar to brick, which is known to have stability at high temperatures and a relatively low thermal conductivity.

Plant Selection

When striving to design for low fire risk, the obvious choice is considered to be succulent plants such as Sedums, Alliums, Sempervivum which retain a high level of water content. Grasses and perennials are not expected to fare so well in a fire condition (i.e., considered fire propagators).

However, in combination with the use of a non-combustible or limited combustible growing media, green roof specialists argue that grasses and perennials can be safely integrated with succulent plants to create a green roof with minimal flame-spread, some even suggest capable of complying with ULC S107-03.

Conclusion

The City of Toronto has taken a strong first step in the regulation of green roofs on buildings, which is becoming a popular design component of new projects. That said, based on the Green Roof report dated March 27, 2009, issued by the Chief Planner and Chief Building Official to the Planning and Growth Management Committee, the City appears to be aware that further review of the fire testing criteria for green roofs is required. date these conditions.

In this writer's personal opinion, there are other fire safety issues, aside from standardized testing, that need to be considered for a green roof prior to the implementation of the By-Law, such as what requirements are to be implemented in the case of occupied green roofs, how to prevent the plant material from drying out and increasing the fire hazard at the green roof, and how the Building Code requirements which are not specifically addressed in the Standard are to be applied (e.g., is fire hose coverage required to the occupied green roof?).

The By-Law only touches on these topics and at this time doesn't state specific requirements (e.g., indicates that the intent to occupy the green roof has to be declared during the permit process; requires a maintenance plan has to be submitted, etc.), leaving the designers to question how to accommodate these conditions.

For more information regarding the Toronto Green Roof Construction Standard, you can contact Dylan Aster, Technical Advisor, Office of the Chief Building Official, Toronto Building, at (416) 338-5737 or daster@toronto.ca. ■

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Visit our website for more information

www.innovativefire.com

Background – Building Code Examination Update

Obtained from the Ontario Building Code website (www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca)

The Building Code examination program was first introduced in 2003 as part of a package of changes to the building regulatory system. The Building Code Statute Law Amendments Act, 2002 (former Bill 124) amended the Building Code Act, 1992 and the Building Code to establish qualification and registration requirements for building practitioners.

Building practitioners affected by these requirements include building officials, certain classes of designers, staff from Registered Code Agencies (RCAs), and on-site sewage installers. The successful completion of the examination program is one of these qualification requirements. Building Code qualification and the examination program help ensure that the building regulation system is efficient and effective.

Prior to November 17, 2008, the examination program was based on the 1997 Building Code as amended by O. Reg 305/03. The examination program has since been updated to reflect the changes introduced in the 2006 Building Code. In 2006, the Province introduced a new Building Code written in an objective-based format. The 2006 Code also included over 700 technical changes from the previous Code. The examination program has been amended to reflect the 2006 Building Code (O. Reg 350/06), as amended by O. Reg. 205/08.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing sought the input of building practitioners as part of the process of updating the examinations.

In the Spring of 2008, peer-based panels met and provided the Ministry with advice on adjusting the examination syllabi to address the new Code's objective-based structure and technical changes.

Building practitioners had the opportunity to provide further input when the draft syllabi were posted on the Building Code website for industry review in Fall 2008. The input received through the peer-based panels and the industry review of the examination syllabi played an important role in updating the examination program.

This examination program update will affect only new practitioners and those wishing to expand their area of practice. Qualified building practitioners will not be required to re-qualify until after the release of the next version of the Building Code, expected in 2011. As previously committed, the Ministry will consult with building sector stakeholders on the details of re-qualification as part of a broader consultation on the content of the next edition of the Code.

New practitioners and those wishing to expand their area of practice will have a choice between the 2003 and the 2006 examinations until May 31, 2009. From June 1, 2009 onwards, practitioners qualifying for the first time or who wish to qualify in a new category must pass the 2006 examinations. This transition period is necessary to allow practitioners who have prepared for the 2003 examinations to write those examinations. ■

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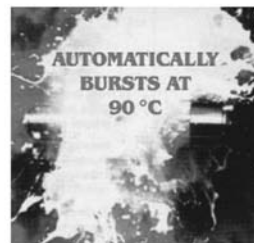
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Fire Prevention Week 2009 October 4 - 10, 2009 "Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned"

Obtained from the NFPA website (www.nfpa.org)

This year's campaign focuses on keeping homes fire safe, with emphasis being placed on the prevention of painful burns. Additionally, fire safety educators are promoting the proper methods for planning and practicing escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

The following is a list of some of the information that is being relayed during Fire Prevention Week:

- keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- have a 3-foot "kid-free" zone around the stove.
- never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, oven, irons, lamps, heaters.
- install tamper-resistant receptacles to prevent a child from sticking an object in the outlet.
- never leave a child alone in a room with a lit candle, portable heater, lit fireplace or stove, or where a hot appliance might be in use.
- wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- set your hot water temperature no higher than 120 degrees.
- install anti-scald valves on shower heads and facets.

For more information, visit www.nfpa.org. ■



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Project Zero



Toronto Fire Chief Bill Stewar launched a new public education program in March of 2009 aimed at reducing residential fire deaths to zero. Project Zero is the first program of its kind

in the City of Toronto. Fire Inspectors went door to door in the community ensuring that there are working smoke alarms on every storey and at least one carbon monoxide alarm in every home visited, and that homeowners are provided with the necessary information to help keep their homes and families safe. No one should die ever in a home fire.

Inspections

Teams of Fire Inspectors, who were in uniform and carried proper identification, first began inspections in the area bounded by Dovercourt Rd. and Jefferson Ave. to the east, Bloor St. W. to the north, Colborne Lodge Rd. to the west, and Lakeshore Blvd. to the south; this area was identified as having the most number of fires, fire deaths and fire related injuries in 2008. Seventeen people died in fires in Toronto in 2008; 12 of those deaths were in residential occupancies.

The inspection staff stressed the need for home escape planning and practice. It is common for children and seniors to be disoriented when they hear an alarm sounding in the middle of the night. Escape planning and practice will reduce this problem and ensure they are better prepared when a fire happens. The inspectors also provided materials to assist residents in the escape plan process.

For more information visit the Toronto Fire Services website; www.toronto.ca/fire. ■



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Investigation Completed, Charges Laid Against Orillia Retirement Residence Owners Highlights Importance of Ontario Fire Code

Obtained from OFM website (www.ofm.gov.on.ca)



The two owners of Muskoka Heights Retirement residence in Orillia, where four people died as a result of a January fire, have been charged with seven violations under the Ontario Fire Code.

After a comprehensive fire investigation, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) has concluded that the cause of the fire has been classified as undetermined and that there were contraventions to the Ontario Fire Code. As a result of these findings, Orillia Fire Department has charged the property owners with:

- failure to ensure original or a copy of records be retained at the building premises;
- failure to ensure exterior passageway or fire escape in occupied building be maintained;
- failure to ensure supervisory staff be instructed in the fire emergency procedures as described in the fire safety plan before given any responsibility for fire safety;
- failure to implement the fire safety plan provisions for conducting the required monthly tests of the building's fire alarm system;
- failure to prominently post and maintain on each floor area at least one copy of the fire emergency procedures;
- failure to implement the fire safety plan provisions for conducting fire drills for supervisory staff; and,
- failure to conduct annual maintenance and testing of portable extinguishers.

The OFM's investigation looked at many factors that contributed to the fire including building performance, fire prevention records, staff and occupant behaviour and fire safety planning and evacuation. Based on these findings, an investigative report will be sent to the Ontario Fire Marshal for review. Once reviewed, the Fire Marshal will provide his recommendations to enhance fire safety in these facilities to the Ontario government.

QUOTES

"This fire demonstrates the importance of ensuring that these facilities comply with the Ontario Fire Code," said Ontario Fire Marshal Pat Burke. "The Code provides the minimum level of fire safety in existing buildings to ensure they are safe in which to live and work."

"The Orillia Fire Department is committed to the safety of its citizens," said Orillia Fire Department Chief Ralph Dominelli. "We will continue to work with building owners and operators to ensure they understand their responsibilities with respect to fire safety and emergency planning." ■

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 Denise Sebastian
 John Gunn
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 March 3, 2010 – TBA
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