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Fire Safety is Everybody's Business

President's Message



Seasons Greetings! It just doesn't seem right saying this yet, however the Santa Claus Parade has come and gone and the retailers have their shops filled with festive displays.

As 2003 draws to a close, I want to say thank you for your continued interest in the CFSA and wish you all the best over the holidays and into the new year.

Recent CFSA activities included two very successful technical sessions summarizing some of the proposed technical changes to the Ontario Building and Fire Codes by representatives from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ontario Fire Marshal's Office respectively. On November 18, 2003 I represented the CFSA on the technical review committee charged with providing feed back to the OFM on proposed changes to Parts 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9 of the OFC. Stay tuned for further updates as the code review cycle continues and other administrative changes occur to implement objective based codes.

It is with sadness that I report upon the passing of a CFSA member in October 2003. Peter Colquhoun, 55, a Director of Arencon Architects and Engineers passed away suddenly and is survived by his

wife Anne and three sons (Andrew, Michael, and David). Peter will be remembered as a participant in CFSA activities as well as for his dedication to the architectural profession.

Our newsletter committee is attempting to stimulate informal discussions pertaining to exciting (and/or controversial) Code related topics. Look for the "Code Corner" section of upcoming newsletters and please feel free to submit commentary on Building or Fire Code and or Standard oriented issues. Your input is appreciated.

Lastly, the CFSA acknowledges Canada Post's commemorative stamp to honour Canada's volunteer firefighters. With Canada Post's permission, the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council have produced a limited edition print of the stamp. Funds raised selling these prints will be used to support public fire safety education and fire prevention programs nationwide.

As we head into the holidays I wish you all Season Greetings and look forward to seeing you in 2004.

David Johnson, C.E.T. CFSA President



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CFSA Dinner Meetings & Technical Sessions

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

Feb. 4, 2004

Electromagnetic Locks and the Ontario Building Code.

Speaker: Jeff Stoner, Account Executive Rutherford Controls Int'l Corp.

March 10, 2004

Diesel Generator Emergency Power

April 7, 2004

The Use of ULC listed designs

Speaker: Tony Crimi, AC Consulting

CFSA ANNUAL EDUCATION FORUM April 21, 2004



DINNER MEETINGS January 21, 2004

TRA

February 18, 2004

March 24, 2004

Other Events for 2004

May 2-7, 2004

CIB World Building Congress Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto, Ontario

June 20-23, 2004

14th World Conference on Disaster Management by the Canadian Centre of Emergency Management

Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario

May 23-26, 2004

NFPA World Safety Conference and Exposition Salt Lake City, Utah



Editor: Janet O'Carroll

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All advertisements are required to be camera ready.

Closing dates for submissions are as

follows:

Issue #1 - May 20 Issue #3 - Nov. 19 Issue #2 - Aug. 19 Issue #4 - Feb. 17 All general enquiries and advertising materials

should be directed to the

CFSA office at

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Your comments, suggestions and articles are welcome. Please send them to the attention of:

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CFSA Chapters

Interested in forming a new chapter? Call CFSA at (416) 492-9417.



The Toronto Fire Service website (www.city.toronto.on.ca/fire) provides these safety precaution tips when using decorative holiday lighting and candles.

Decorative Lighting

Indoor lights

- Examine light strings for wear or damage each year before reusing them. Replace worn sets.
- Before replacing burnt out lights, unplug the light string.
- Unplug all decorative lighting before you go to bed or leave your home.
- Only use light strings, bulb reflectors, electronically lit decorations and extension cords that bear a CSA label and are marked for indoor use.

Outdoor lights

- Only use CSA labeled light strings and cords that are marked for outdoor use.
- Turn off electricity to the outlet before working with outdoor wiring.
- Use insulated tape, not nails or tacks to hold strings of lights in place.
- Don't tape cords over, under or along metal eaves troughs.
- Run all outdoor cords above ground, keeping them out of puddles and snow.
- To prevent moisture from entering bulb sockets, turn the bulbs to face the ground.

Candles

- Always stand candles in stable, non-tip candleholders before you light them.
- Keep candles away from combustible decorations and displays.
- Never leave candles burning unattended or within reach of pets or small children.
- Extinguish candles by wetting their wicks before you leave a room or before going to sleep.

On behalf of the CFSA, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season.



visit our Web site at

www.canadianfiresafety.com

for all the latest news and events, including online reservations for:

Dinner Meeting reservations, technical sessions, and much more.

Proposed Amendments to the Ontario Fire Code

This article was provided by Geoff Bretzler, a 3rd year student enrolled in the Fire Protection Engineering Technology program at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology

Anyone who has ever held the current *Ontario Fire Code* (OFC) in his or her arms and tried to whisper sweet nothings into its ear will know that the OFC is a cold, rigid, and demure document. It is unyielding, and fond of neither experimentation, nor new techniques. It is a staid and conservative taskmaster who knows what it likes and expects its requirements to be obediently observed. It is almost entirely impervious to seduction.

Alas, what is an individual engaged in the field of fire protection in the province of Ontario to do with such a frigid and unimaginative fire code? Fear not friends, for on the horizon looms the figure of a flexible and fearless fire code; one which has eschewed the prescriptive dogma of the past for the malleable objective-based design of the future.

On October 1, 2003, the Canadian Fire Safety Association (CFSA) hosted a technical presentation at which the proposed amendments to the coming objective-based OFC were discussed. Al Suleman, P. Eng. and Krystyna Paterson P. Eng., both employed by the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), spoke to a sold-out crowd of inquisitors about the coming changes to the OFC.

Mr. Suleman began the presentation by discussing the structure of the new fire code, which is expected to be released in 2005. The new OFC will be separated into three parts: Division A, Division B, and Division C.

Division A will contain the applications of the code, along with the code's objectives and functional statements. It is anticipated that this section of the code, once released, will remain static.

Division B will include lists of Acceptable Solutions that will reference existing technical requirements. Furthermore, Division B will contain Functional Statement and Subobjective tables. The OFM foresees the need for regularly updating Division B so that the new OFC can reflect changes occurring within the industry.

Division C will contain the Alternative Solutions process, as well as the administrative provisions and information concerning required documentation. It is the interaction between Divisions A, B, and C that will make the new OFC a phenomenon of flexibility.

After discussing the format of the new OFC, Mr. Suleman explained the manner in which compliance would be assessed. Essentially, there are two possibilities:

- 1. There is compliance with an Acceptable Solution found in Division B.
- 2. An Alternative Solution is proposed.

Compliance following the Acceptable Solution path is a straight forward process, but the Alternative Solution track is more elaborate and much more exciting. The Alternative Solution process will involve the following:

- Chief Fire Official will have authority to approve alternative solutions.
- Alternative solutions will require professional signatures/seals.
- Testing and maintenance must be addressed where different from that found in Division B.

Documentation pertaining to the alternative solution must be retained on site.

Eventually, a national and/or provincial registry of alternative solutions may be produced. However, a Chief Fire Official would not necessarily be obliged to accept an alternative solution simply because it appeared on such a registry.

Mr. Suleman completed his part of the presentation by walking those assembled through an example of the alternative solution process.

Krystyna Paterson followed Mr. Suleman's stimulating speech, and focused on the technical changes that would appear in the new OFC. She explained that some of the technical changes that were made to the objective-based OFC arose from changes that have been made to the new, objective-based National Fire Code (NFC). However, the creators of the new OFC were not required to include all the changes adopted by the NFC; hence, any NFC changes that disagreed with OFC philosophy were dismissed.

The committee charged with the responsibility of reviewing the numerous proposed technical changes to the OFC gave priority to those stemming from inquest recommendations. Importance was also placed upon those proposed technical changes that arose because of:

- provisions with significant enforcement/ compliance difficulties,
- technological changes,
- interest in harmonizing with Ontario Building Code and other provincial regulations,

• interest in harmonizing with NFC (editorial changes).

In total, the committee reviewed 221 changes proposed for the NFC, and processed 157 for possible adoption by the new OFC. Furthermore, 57 Ontario-initiated changes were processed.

Deletion of the term "institutional occupancy" is an example of the type of technical changes that have been made to the new objective-based OFC. In place of "institutional occupancy" the new OFC has adopted more specific terminology such as "care or detention occupancy", "detention occupancy" (B1), care and treatment occupancy" (B2), and "care occupancy" (B3). A change of this sort will allow the new OFC to better target intended occupancy types, while simultaneously reducing the confusion that arises from the use of vague terminology.

Another example of the technical changes

that will appear in the new OFC relates to bowling alleys and floor resurfacing. Currently, specifics relating to floor resurfacing are found within the Bowling Alley section of the Code. The new OFC will delete floorresurfacing specifics from this section and reference a new section that will be more widely applicable.

All of the coming technical changes were posted on the OFM website and made available for comment. There were no adverse responses to these technical changes originating in Ontario however; some of the changes were received negatively at the national level. Consequently, some of the proposed technical changes may be revoked. Those changes, which were greeted with silence at both the provincial and national level have been deemed "God-like" in their potency and infallibility.

The new objective-based OFC is scheduled for release sometime in 2005. Provincial and national feedback to the proposed

technical changes to the OFC has been consolidated and is undergoing analysis. It will be reviewed by CCBFC standing committees and Ontario advisory committees leading towards the formal drafting of the regulation, but the ultimate release of the new OFC is not solely dependent upon the time required for drafting. The stakeholder reaction, coupled with the need to coordinate the new OFC and the new OBC will influence the code's release date.

The release of the new OFC will necessitate training programs, and such programs are being developed at the national level with input from the provinces. The time required to get these training programs off the ground might also influence the release date of the new OFC.

The arrival of the objective-based OFC is tantalizingly near. Those who find the wait unbearable are encouraged to persevere; as soon will come the dawn of a new era.

November Technical Session

Proposed Amendments to the Ontario Building Code

This article was provided by Geoff Bretzler, a 3rd year student enrolled in the Fire Protection Engineering Technology program at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technologies

On November 5, 2003, the Canadian Fire Safety Association (CFSA) hosted a technical presentation at which a brave and brazen firebrand by the name of Alek Antoniuk, O.A.A., informed a gathering of OBC enthusiasts that the OBC would be changing. The new OBC will be an objective-based code, and the world (or at least Ontario) will never be the same.

Mr. Antoniuk, Coordinator of Code Development for the Building and Development Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs (previously the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing), explained

that the movement towards establishing an objective-based building code in Ontario began in 1995. The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC), the body responsible for the model *National Codes*, has been working tirelessly with the provinces and territories toward replacing the current model codes with objective-based codes. While Ontario has been a key participant in this joint process, differences between the national and provincial building codes necessitated a uniquely Ontarian code development process.

Mr. Antoniuk explained that the CCBFC



and the government of Ontario held joint public consultation www.objectivecodes.gov.on.ca/obcc.html on the objectives of the National Codes, the OBC, and the Ontario Fire Code (OFC) between October of 2000 and March of 2001. The public consultation focused on the structure that was proposed for the objective-based versions of those Codes and the length of the code cycle.

Then between February and May of 2003 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs hosted a public consultation on the OBC. This was coordinated with the CCBFC and ministries in other provinces/territories that were engaging in similar consultations. People generally supported the idea of adopting an objective-based design, and numerous proposed technical changes emerged from the public consultation process.

In the spring of 2003 the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing released a version of the 1997 OBC in an objective-based format. The intent was to allow the public to "test drive" the objective-based design. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing received little response, but silence was interpreted as unabashed awe.

The new, objective-based OBC will be separated into three parts: Division A, Division B, and Division C.

Division A will contain: the conditions necessary to achieve compliance with the OBC; master lists of the objectives and functional statements; the limitations on the application of objectives and functional statements. It is anticipated that this section of the code, once released, will remain static.

Division B will resemble the current OBC. It will include lists of Acceptable Solutions that will reference existing technical requirements. Furthermore, Division B will contain Functional Statement and Sub-objective tables. The OFM foresees the need for regularly updating Division B so that the new OBC can reflect changes occurring within the industry.

Division C will contain the administrative provisions currently found in Parts 2 and 12 of the OBC, as well as new provisions necessary for the implementation of the objective-based format.

Along with changing the fundamental for-

mat of the OBC, Mr. Antoniuk explained that there were a host of proposed technical changes that required consultation and decision. Between September and October of this year, the CCBFC engaged in standing committee meetings to make decisions concerning the new NBC. Technical committees meeting to discuss changes to the OBC were privy to the CCBFC debates, and were able to draw upon lessons learned at the national level to assist with their own decision-making.

All told, there were more than seven hundred (700) proposed technical changes to the OBC. These proposed changes reflect input from previous consultations, code advisory committees, industry, and the public. The OBC technical committees reviewed all the proposals, and subsequently made recommendations to the government.

Mr. Antoniuk graced those who attended the CFSA information session with some delectable tidbits of information pertaining to the coming technical changes. He focused exclusively on technical changes that would affect Part 3 of the current OBC.

Below is a short list of some of the technical changes that Mr. Antoniuk revealed:

• Firewalls requiring a two-hour fire resist-

ance rating (FRR) will be allowed to be constructed of materials other than masonry or concrete.

(Apparently this change is largely the result of tireless lobbying by the gypsum board boys.)

- Party walls will no longer be required to be firewalls.
- There will be a new occupancy classification: B-3 Light. It will cover small care facilities in which there are no more than ten occupants, and no more than two of these occupants require evacuation assistance.
- The alert time (the time between the sounding of the alarm and the commencement of voice communications) for 2-stage fire alarm systems has been reduced to 10 seconds for hospitals, and 30 seconds for all other occupancies.

This is but a small sampling of what the future holds for the OBC.

But when will this future be upon us? Well, publication of the new OBC is planned for 2005, and it is scheduled to come into force some time in 2006.

Mark your calendar now and consider yourself forewarned.

Ontario Construction Guide for Farm Buildings



The new 2003 Ontario Construction Guide for Farm Buildings is now available from Orderline. This guide explains and illustrates the special requirements necessary for human health and safety in and around farm buildings and is intended to be used in conjunction with its parent publication, the National Farm Building Code of Canada, 1995. Topics covered include structural design, fire safety, foundations, wall and roof systems, and more.

For more information or to order this document, visit www.orderline.com.



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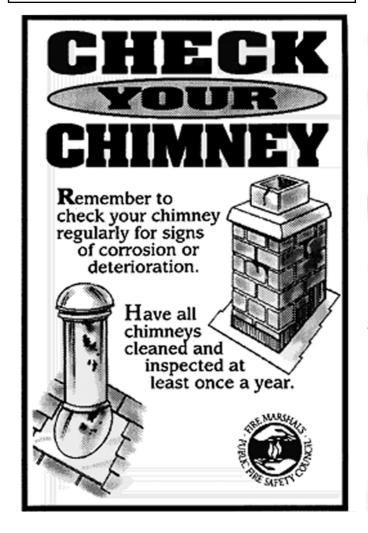
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> For more information, contact: Stu Evans, Seneca College, School of Mechanical & Fire Protection Engineering Technology 416-491-5050, ext. 2394



Education That Works

Living with Terrorism

This article was provided by Geoff Bretzler, a 3rd year student enrolled in the Fire Protection Engineering Technology program at Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology

3,256 dead 37,214 injured

This is the devastation that domestic terrorism has wreaked on Northern Ireland in the 25 years between 1969 and 1994.

On September 24, 2003 the Canadian Fire Safety Association (CFSA) hosted a meeting at which Mr. Harold Whan, a Belfast fire-fighter and paramedic from the age of 18, provided a first-hand account of the personal and professional toll these tallies have exacted. Mr. Whan spoke compellingly as he set out to make those gathered understand what it means to live with terrorism.

The violence in Northern Ireland, referred to by the people of Northern Ireland as "The Troubles", began with terrorist actions and rioting in Belfast in 1969. Mr. Whan avoided discussing the circumstances that prompted the outbreak of terrorism in Northern Ireland. Instead, he focused on explaining the manner in which average citizens and emergency services personnel dealt with the violence that ensued.

The violence and damage wreaked by terrorism was initially centered in Belfast. This put a tremendous strain upon the emergency services personnel in Northern Ireland's largest city. Firefighters and police officers from neighbouring rural communities were brought in to assist those who served in the city. Mr. Whan's family lived in Dremore, County Down, a predominantly rural district outside Belfast. His father, a Dremore firefighter, was one of many who left home to assist the emergency per-

sonnel in Belfast. These re-stationed emergency services personnel were often forced to spend days and even weeks away from their families. This placed a tremendous burden on their families, and also left rural communities' emergency services severely understaffed. Nevertheless, the men and women who volunteered their time and abilities were dedicated to the ideal of assisting others, and were willing to make personal sacrifices.

The terrorism that rocked Belfast eventually spread to the countryside. In 1976, in Dremore, an incendiary device was planted by a terrorist group in a drapery store. Three people who lived above the store were killed, all as the result of smoke inhalation. Suddenly residents of Dremore, who had believed that "The Troubles" were a Belfast phenomenon, were forced to face the threat of terrorism in their own community. Security gates appeared, and Dremore was lockdown once night had fallen. These security precautions were adopted by towns throughout Northern Ireland as the threat of terrorism became more pervasive. Upon entering shops, people were subjected to body searches and searches of their personal belongings. Storekeepers were encouraged to thoroughly search their stores regularly, and grills and grates began to appear on windows and doors where goods had once been displayed.

Then, at a popular Dremore restaurant, another fire was deliberately set by terrorists. Twelve people were killed, and nightlife was thereafter significantly reduced. Fear was wide spread as it became evident that the terrorists were getting better at their trade. Mr. Whan explained that these local attacks were often far more psychologically damaging to

Dredmore's emergency services personnel than those that responded to in Belfast, because in a community like Dremore, people were much more likely to know each other. Hence, a death in Dremore was likely to be felt much more personally by the emergency personnel who responded.

While the emotional toll that terrorism took on emergency services personnel was often more acute in small towns, the physical danger that these people exposed themselves to was far greater in Belfast. In Northern Ireland's most populated city, terrorist groups targeted police officers, and emergency services personnel often found themselves in danger as a result. Often, initial explosions were little more than a lure, designed to attract the attention of the police. Secondary explosive devices were planted in areas where terrorists assumed the police would establish staging areas for the investigation of the initial explosion. Firefighters and paramedics would generally set-up their own staging areas in close proximity to the police. As a result, once the secondary device was detonated, firefighters and paramedics often found themselves in the line of fire. Once it became clear that terrorists were employing such tactics, firefighters and paramedics began establishing their respective staging areas at a "polite" distance from the police force's staging grounds.

Despite the ever-increasing brutality of the terrorist attacks, Mr. Whan explained that emergency services personnel (not including the police) were generally considered off limits by the perpetrators of the voilence. Radicals on both sides realized and valued the difficult work that emergency services personnel were required to perform. Consequently, they were free to carry out their responsibilities without fear of retribution. The protection that emergency services personnel were afforded caused Mr. Whan to regard his high-visibility coat as a shield that protected him from the violence that surrounded him.

Despite their protected status, emergency services personnel could not avoid depression and feelings of hopelessness. There was a sense throughout all of Northern Ireland that the rest of the world cared little about their plight. Adding to this sense of isolation was the fact that those who investigated and bore witness to the horror – firefighters, police officers and paramedics received no counseling. This would eventually change, but even once it was offered, many emergency services personnel held a dim view of such assistance.

The violence continued.

Occasionally, ceasefires were declared, and optimism would reign, and complacency amongst emergency services personnel would set in; but the ceasefires would eventually be broken and the attacks would begin anew, and the people of Northern Ireland would again find themselves trapped in a machine fueled by hatred.

Mr. Whan stressed that whether a small incident or a large one, when living and dealing with terrorism, all events have the same debilitating effect on those involved from shopkeepers to firefighters, paramedics to bartenders, police officers to apartment dwellers. Time away from work is often the most effective remedy for emergency services personnel who feel overwhelmed by the pressures of their occupation, but time away from work is a rare commodity in a country besieged by terrorists.

A lasting ceasefire in Northern Ireland was eventually reached in 1998, in what has become known as The Good Friday Arrangement. Peace has reigned in Northern Ireland since this accord was concluded. Today in Belfast and the surrounding countryside, there is considerable optimism.

Mr. Whan's message was both instructive and hopeful. There are lessons that can be learned from the experiences of the people of Northern Ireland. We can never offer too much assistance to those whose lives have been affected. There can never be too many tools and resources given to those whose lives are devoted to mitigating the effects of violence.

The violence should never be forgotten; nor should the efforts of the emergency services personnel who dealt with the aftermath of that violence. Hope resides in sacrifice.

Toronto Firefighters' **Sport and Toy Drive**



Pumper 233 Crew picking up toys from Roywood P.S. on December 18, 2003.

The various Fire Departments that make up today's Toronto Fire Services have been involved with humanitarian initiatives during the Holiday Season as far back as the 1950's. Their involvement began when firefighters fixed bikes and used toys to give as Christmas gifts to needy children. Five decades later, the Toronto Firefighters' Sport & Toy Drive has grown into a much larger operation.

Firefighters receive donations two ways. People drop off most

gifts at the 80 Fire Stations or another popular way is when a group has a party and collects gifts for the Sport & Toy Drive from friends and coworkers. Gifts for infants & teenagers are most needed. As a result, numerous off-duty firefighters, retirees, City workers, students and civilian volunteers visit Fire Stations, and Christmas Parties, sometimes with Santa and Sparky collecting bundles of donations.

All eighty Fire Stations welcome new, unwrapped sporting goods, arts, crafts, toddler clothing and toys until noon Tuesday, December 23. The Sport and Toy Drive accepts gifts for children of all ages, from infants to teens in their seventeenth year.

It is sad to report that each year attracts an escalating demand for gifts. Fortunately, we are able to keep pace with an increasing number of donations. The main recipients from the Sport and Toy Drive are emergency shelters, hospitals and various children's organizations.

If you require further information on the Sport and Toy Drive initiatives or how to donate toys you can contact Doug Sargent (Retired District Chief) at Tel: (416) 395-1076 or visit their website: www.operationchristmastreeinc.org.

Lessons Learned from the Fire at Woodbine Racetrack

On October 22, 2003, Bill Hiscott from the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshall presented information and lessons learned from investigations into the fire that occurred at the Woodbine Racetrack on August 4, 2003. Bill has investigated over 650 fires including large fires such as USC Hickson and 2 Forest Laneway.

On Sunday August 4, 2003 the Toronto Fire Services (TFS) received a call from 555 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto (Woodbine Racetrack), as well as many calls from citizens, the monitoring company and landlines from the barn, stating that there was a fire in Barn 7/7A. Twenty-one (21) staff members from the TFS on six (6) different apparatus responded to the alarm.

Less than 7 minutes later, a second alarm was initiated and additional TFS staff and apparatus responded, for a total of 62 staff members on 7 pumpers, 3 rescues, 2 platforms, 4 aerials, 3 chief vans and 1 command post (20 vehicles in total) on site.

The construction of Barn 7/7A was H-shaped with 64 non-combustible stalls comprised of 4 in. cinder block with plywood on the lower portion of the inner stall wall. Large timbers supported the roof with 1 in. thick plywood plank covered by steel. Stalls were were comprised of steel doors and dirt floors layered with rubber matting and sawdust or straw. Feed rooms were located on all four (4) outer corners. The centre of the H included offices, washrooms, tack room and sleeping quarters was comprised of non combustible block, wood doorways and frames, wood windows with glass and had fire protection in the rooms.

Damage was estimated at \$1.5 million dollars for property, \$463,000 for contents

and \$2.6 million dollars for lost horses. In total, 34 horses were lost including 29 horses removed from the debris, 2 put down from other barns and 3 put down from the date of the fire. Five (5) horses were injured.

The OFM has developed the following recommendations to reduce the likelihood and impact of another fire occurrence in a racehorse stable at Woodbine Racetrack:

- In order to control the spread of fire and smoke, the stables should be sprinklered.
- Until the stables are sprinklered, only non-combustible materials should be permitted in the shedrow of the barn.
- 3. Storage bins for hay, straw and wood should be provided.
- 4. Standpipe and hose system should be installed.
- Hydrant system be repaired or upgraded to meet water pressure requirements
- Audible alarm should be added to the strobe light system to warn of an emergency.
- All trash cans should be constructed of non-combustible material with a self closing lid.
- 8. Smoking should not be permitted within 25 ft. of the barn and signs to this effect should be posted at every exterior exit and storage container area.
- The Racetrack should establish additional designated smoking areas with proper receptacles.
- 10. All electrical devices should must with *Ontario Hydro Electrical Code*.

- 11. GFI plugs should be added in the "shed rows", one plug every 2 stalls to eliminate the use of extension cords.
- 12. A fire safety plan should be developed for the backstretch, outlining items in the *Guideline*.
- 13. "In Case of Fire" posted signage should be installed near pull stations.
- Staff working in the backstretch should be provided with annual training on fire extinguishers and suppression equipment.
- 15. An evacuation plan should be formulated for the safe removal of all horses.
- 16. A security sticker program for all electrical items to be used in the barn should be established, only allowing approved items on site.
- 17. Security officers and prevention staff should patrol for maintenance issues.
- 18. There should be increase security staff during off hours.
- 19. Lightning rods should be used to prevent lighting strikes.
- 20. Fire breaks should separate the tack room, offices and sleeping quarters to control the spread of fire.
- 21. Beam smoke detectors should be installed which would be connected to the fire alarm system.

Some of the above recommendations can be found outlined in the Guideline issued by the OFM in 1993 in response to the Mohawk race track fire of 1992 and the Woodbine Racetrack fire in barns 7/7A in 1993. Visit the OFM website at www.ofm.gov.on.ca to review the full *Guideline*.

Is Your Family Safe from Fire?

On November 19, 2003, Doug Crawford, Deputy Fire Chief for the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) discussed strategies and priorities of the OFM, fatal fire statistics for October 2003 and how families can keep themselves safe from fire.

Residential fires in Ontario account for over 50% of all fires and over 90% of all fire fatalities. It would appear that we are safer at work than we are in our own homes. In order to decrease and hopefully one day eliminate these fire statistics, the OFM identifies the following key priorities:

- Prevent fire through education.
- Take responsibility for your fire safety.
- Effecient and effective emergency response.
- Continue to learn from fire.

The OFM has also identified strategies such as the use of Risk Watch (an injury prevention program) in all Ontario schools in the short term and encouraging the use of residential sprinkler systems in the long term.

Fatal Fire Statistics in October 2003

In October of this year, five people (2 adults, 2 seniors and 1 youth) were killed in five different fires. Each occurrence is described below with the information that is currently available, (most are still under investigation).

Occurence #1 happened in a 2-storey attached dwelling with a working smoke alarm and involved an elderly woman. The woman left the 2nd second level bedroom in reaction to the smoke alarm but did not make it out of the home.

Occurence #2 involved a woman in a single storey dwelling where the fire started in the sofa due to careless smoking. The woman had a history of previous incidents due to carless smoking.

Occurence #3 involved a disabled female youth in a single storey attached dwelling. The fire started due to lit tea candles in a bedroom. A smoke alarm was present in the

home, however it was not known if the smoke alarm was functional.

Occurence #4 involved an adult male in a single storey detached dwelling.

Occurence #5 happened in a multi unit dwelling and involved an elderly woman. The fire was started in an area where several electrical items were located and it was not known whether the smoke alarm operated.

Fire Statistic from 1995 to 2002

Between 1995 and 2002, the number of preventable fires (excluding incindiary fires) can be broken down into the following categories:

fireworks are kept out of reach of children, candles are blown out before leaving the room or going to sleep and flammable and combustible liquids are stored away in a safe location, etc. Detection includes devices such as battery or hard-wired smoke alarms installed on every level of the home and outside sleeping rooms. Escape includes creating and practicing a home escape plan before a fire occurs.

The video includes a clip from the reconstructed fire that occured in Camp Borden where a five year old boy died. The reconstructed fire was set up in the attached dwelling, where the OFM replicated the orig-

Area of Origin:	Cause:	Ignited item(s):
311 in the living room	168 from smoking	132 for upholstered furniture
130 in the kitchen	122 from cooking equipment	62 for apparel
127 in sleeping quarters	62 from matches	57 for bedding
	26 from heating	29 for flammable/combustible liquids
	22 from candles	21 for wood
	19 from electrical	
Victim's Physical Condition:	Smoke Alarm Operation:	Non Operational Smoke Alarms
28% unknown	36% operated	74% battery removed or dead
22% impaired	28% did not operate	10% removed separate from fire
16% physically disabled	19% operation unknown	10% disconnected
15% normal	15% no device present	6% tampered with
	2%device presense undertermined	
14% asleep		
14% asleep 4% infant	2 Augustee presense undertermined	

Where children were involved in fires, 20% died due to the fire being caused by matches, lighters or fireworks. The remainder died in fires due to smoking, electrical or heating.

Adults 65 and older were involved in more fires where clothing was ignited by smoking articles or cooking equipment and more victims were physically disabled than in the adult and youth categories. It is projected that due to the baby boomer generation the number of adults 65 and older will triple in the near future.

The OFM created an information video identifying the three (3) key factors of home fire safety: Prevention, Detection and Escape. Prevention must include every day activities including ensuring that lighters, matches and

inal fire. Among much other valuable information obtained from this testing, the video shows the home reaching flashover conditions in less than three (3) minutes. On average, once the fire department receives a fire call, it will take the responding vehicle approximately four to five minutes to reach the location. Since it was proven that a home can flashover in less than three minutes, the fire department would not be able to save someone trapped within the home. Therefore it is important for everyone to take responsibility for fire safety in their home.

In today's age, it is unacceptable to believe that we cannot mitigate or control fires occuring in our homes. Education, planning and technological advances are available at our finger tips, regardless of our finanical status.

Blackout 2003: The Importance of Preparedness

In the last few years, it seems that there have been many days that we will never forget due to unforeseen events. The blackout that occurred on August 14, 2003 that left southern Ontario and many parts of Quebec and the Northeastern United States in the dark, happens to be just one of them.

Residences, businesses and hospitals among others, all went without power from a few hours to a few days. Many businesses and families lost whatever food was stored within their fridges and freezers and there were long line-ups for essential services such as gasoline and food. Buildings without generators were in the dark after 30 to 60 minutes.

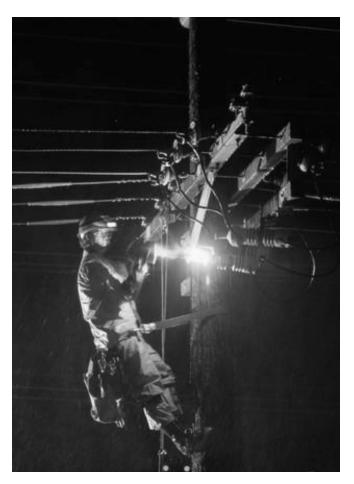
Only the businesses and homes that had emergency power supplied by generators were able to continue to operate with limited lighting. The emergency power lasted as long as the generator fuel supply. In a number of cases, generators failed, plunging the buildings into darkness.

This brings many issues to mind.

Emergency Preparedness

Many business and home owners understand the importance of planning for a fire by developing procedures to be taken if a fire were to occur (fire safety plan) but few recognize the importance of planning for other kinds of emergencies. However, with recent events, this topic has been gaining more and more attention.

Last year the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) put together sample emergency procedures that could be used by building owners in emergency events such as bomb threats, suspicious packages, explosions, hazardous materials, natural gas leaks, carbon monoxide, floods, severe weather conditions, medical emergencies and power failures. The procedures listed under each heading include those for building management and building occupants.



Unlike fire safety plans, emergency preparedness plans are not mandatory documents required to be provided by building owners. However, having such a document in place would better prepare many building management staff members and occupants as to what to do during any type of emergency. Preparedness is the key to any event, emergency or not.

Emergency Power

Emergency power is extremely important for the continuous operation of life safety systems (such as emergency lighting, fire alarm systems, fire pumps, etc.) for various lengths of time as required by the applicable Building Code. These systems require emergency power in order to provide for safe evacuation of all persons from the building within a specific period of time.

For small buildings, a back-up battery supply will suffice, while large buildings and high-rises may require the use of a generator. Some business have determined that emergency power is also required for their business functions. For example, the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) can continue to operate its trading floor with emergency power from a generator and UPS system.

It is important to ensure that generators are maintained, inspected and tested in accordance with CSA 282, "Emergency

Electrical Power Supply for Buildings", and the manufacturer's instructions. Regular maintenance and testing will help to ensure that generators will operate when needed. There is one controversial issue in regards to the annual full emergency load testing reguired for 2 hours by CSA 282. Many building owners will have full emergency load testing conducted by a contractor who uses load cells. Although this type of testing may meet the requirements, it does not provide for adequate testing of equipment on the emergency power system. The generator may be able to provide full emergency load but does the fire pump or diesel fuel pump actually work on emergency power?

This brings me to another point. It is important to ensure that all necessary equipment is actually connected to the emergency power system. For example, not connecting the diesel fuel pumps to emergency power may cause some problems when the generator day tank runs out of fuel. As absurd as it might sound, it has actually happened.

Emergency Lighting

Emergency lighting is critical to safely evacuating a building during a power failure, as some learned on August 14, 2003. Just like emergency power systems, emergency lighting must be maintained and tested in accordance with the applicable fire code to be effective.

Ensuring that sufficient lighting and ade-

quate lighting levels (measured in foot/candles or lumens) is just as important as maintaining existing systems. Buildings where emergency lighting was installed 20 to 30 years ago may not meet today's requirements. Even though these buildings are not required to meet today's requirements, how adequate is the existing emergency lighting?

There are additional safety measures that building owners could take advantage of, such as:

- Photoluminescent strips in stairwells. These strips will absorb emergency from the surrounding lighting and will "glow-in-thedark" when the lighting levels are low or non-existent.
- Supplying Fire Wardens with flash light or glow sticks. Glow sticks are an excellent source of light and do not require batteries.

I could probably go on for days, but it is critical for everyone (not just building owners) to recognize the importance of being prepared before an event occurs. This doesn't necessarily mean that we need to run out and create underground bunkers at our homes, but it does mean that we can adequately address most situations before they occur.

In our homes it means we have a spare supply of can foods, water, batteries, flashlights, portable radios, etc. Items that we consider (or should consider) to be essential. In our workplace it means having procedures and equipment in place to be able to safely and efficiently evacuate the building or if necessary, protect personnel by remaining within the building.

Something to think about ... before the lights go out.

The following is a brief description of key Ontario Fire Code changes. Additional detail can be obtained from the consultation website at http://www.objectivecodes.gov.on.ca/2003consultation.html which continues to exist for reference purposes only.

Subject	Description
Interconnected Smoke	Qualifications for individuals who install, repair and test interconnected smoke alarms in all residential buildings (except dwelling units and accessory apartments) and new testing obligations
Smoke Alarms in Dwelling Units	Smoke alarm required on each storey in addition to current provisions requiring smoke alarm near sleeping areas
Textile Flammability	Expanded application of flame resistance provisions to include netting and similar materials
Care Occupancies (B3)	Harmonization with Ontario Building Code definitions and enhanced emergency planning for care occupancies
Indoor/Outdoor Amusement Activities	Specific controls on the use of combustible materials and enhanced emergency planning for indoor and outdoor public amusement activities
Floor Finishing Operations	Enhanced fire safety precautions and expanded application to all occupancies
Fire Alarm Monitoring	Specific owner and service provider obligations where monitoring for fire alarm systems is provided by central stations
Fire Alarm Testing	Exemption for verification documents on existing systems, allowance for use of generic testing equipment and obligations for record keeping
Fire Escapes	Protection of openings exposing fire escapes (on residential buildings) broadened to include windows
Explosion Protection	Exemption for small systems and additional options for compliance

The above information ws provided by AI Suleman from the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal.



Please use the Member's Forum to submit your thoughts and comments on CFSA Programs and events or to let us know what you would like to see as future dinner or technical session topics. Please use the form below to update the CFSA office of any change in address or member information. Don't forget to let us know your e-mail address and website URL (if applicable). We look forward to hearing from you. **Send your comments and suggestions to:**

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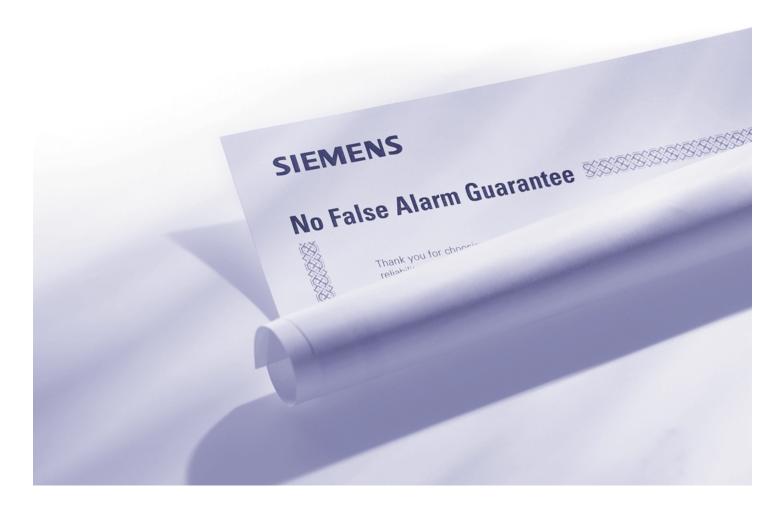
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