



# CFSA News

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Fall 2003

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## President's Message



It's hard to believe that yet another summer has come and gone. But the good news is that we will soon be setting our clocks back for an extra hour of sleep!

Don't forget to change your smoke alarm battery and test your home carbon monoxide detector when the clocks go back.

The past few months have been challenging ones for all in the fire protection community across the country. Our fire service professionals in the Greater Toronto Area have had to deal with new standard operating procedures to protect themselves from the effects of SARS. Natural Resource Firefighters in Western Canada have been challenged by hundreds of wildland fires in British Columbia. The August 14, 2003 blackout in Ontario, Quebec and the Northeastern States also proved to be challenging for Emergency Service personnel as persons without lights or power turned to candles for illumination, causing several fires.

The summer was not all doom and gloom. Your CFSA board continued to organize this year's events and instigated a review of our Strategic Plan, last updated in 1995. A task group has met three times over the summer and will be preparing

a questionnaire for inclusion in the Winter Newsletter. The questionnaire is intended to seek input from the membership on CFSA activities, services and opportunities.

The Board welcomes a renewed representation from the Toronto Fire Services – Deputy Chief Rick Simpson. Rick has a 30 year history with the fire services and will continue a longstanding relationship between the CFSA and the Toronto Fire Services in the interest of fire safety.

October 5-11, 2003 marks Fire Prevention Week. This year's slogan is "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay out!" and supports two themes – install and maintain home smoke alarms, and develop and practice home fire drills. Don't forget to participate in your community fire safety events.

The CFSA has been invited to again sit on the Technical Review Committee for parts 1,2,6,7, 8, and 9 of the Ontario Fire Code. I will be representing the CFSA at the November 18, 2003 committee meeting and will report back to the board in January 2004.

I look forward to another CFSA season and hope to see you soon.

David Johnson C.E.T.  
President



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# O AFC


## Presents Rich Morris with A.J. Stone Award



At the annual Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) meeting and training session on May 7, 2003, Rich Morris, Director of Education and Scholarships for the CFSA was presented with the A.J. Stone award, recognizing his lifelong commitment to fire safety across North America.

Rich has long been an advocate for fire and life safety education, working with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote many of the programs now used in educational institutions in Canada today (i.e. Risk Watch) and has made many other contributions in the fields of fire prevention and fire detection technology, as well as to the Ontario Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office Public Safety Council, to name only a few.

Rich has been, and continues to be, a key member of the Canadian Fire Safety Association board of directors. We would like to congratulate Rich on receiving this well deserved award from the O AFC.



**Welcome to the following  
New Individual Member**

**Aileen Ng**



**CFSA  
News**

**Editor:** Janet O'Carroll

The CFSA Newsletter is published 4 times per year – June, September, December, March

**Advertising Rates**  
(per issue, GST extra)

Back cover	\$250
Full page	\$200
1/2 page	\$100
1/4 page	\$50
Business Cards	\$25

10% discount for CFSA Corporate Members.

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 2175 Sheppard Ave. E., Suite 310, Toronto, Ontario M2J 1W8

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

The Editor

Canadian Fire Safety Association

2175 Sheppard Ave., E., Suite 310

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Views of the authors expressed in any articles are not necessarily the views of the Canadian Fire Safety Association. Also, the advertisements are paid advertising and in no way recognized as sponsored by CFSA.

#### CFSA Chapters

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

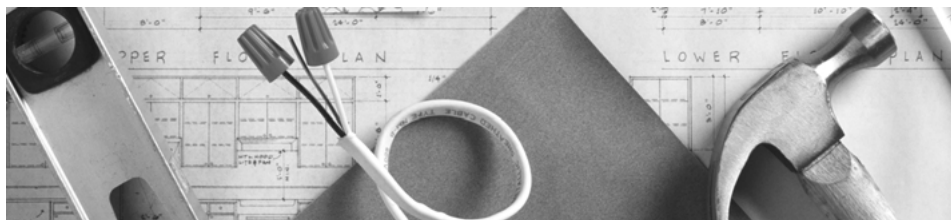
# Bill 124: Coming into Force

On July 25, 2003, Ontario Regulation 305/03, required to implement the Building Code Statute Law Amendment Act, 2002 (Bill 124) was filed.

There will be two steps (effective dates) to Bill 124 and the supporting regulations:

**September 1, 2003**, where certain provisions will come into force including:

- Provisions allowing building officials and other building practitioners to take examinations related to Building Code knowledge.
- Provisions that govern the qualifications of on-site sewage inspectors and installers who are already required under the Building Code Act, 1992, to have qualifications (in order to allow for a smooth transition).
- Provisions which provide for certain "housekeeping" changes.



**July 1, 2005**, where most provisions of Bill 124 will take effect, including:

- Qualifications for building officials, which become mandatory on this date.
- Mandatory registration for certain classes of designers and private building inspectors, known as Registered Code Agencies (RCA's) including mandatory qualifications and professional indemnity insurance.
- The use of a common building permit application form.
- Time frames within which decision must be made on issuing a building permit.

- Stages of construction when a building must be inspected.
- Authority to allow municipalities to appoint RCA's or to allow certain building permit applicants to appoint their own RCA.
- New rules governing building permit fees to enhance transparency.
- An expedited route to the Ontario Municipal Board in case of site plan disputes.

For more information, visit the Building and Development Branch website at [www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca](http://www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca) or call (416) 585-6666.

## scheduled events

### CFSA Dinner Meetings & Technical Sessions

#### TECHNICAL SESSIONS

##### October 1

Proposed Amendments to the Ontario Fire Code presented by Krystyna Paterson of the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office

##### November 5

TBA

##### December 10, 2003

Ventilation Control and Fire Protection of Commercial Cooking Operations presented by Nicholas Shannon of Interduct Inc.

#### DINNER MEETINGS

##### September 24

Living with Terrorism, presented by Harold Whan, Senior Emergency Planning Development Officer for Northern Ireland

##### October 22

TBA

##### November 19

TBA

### Other Events for 2003

#### September 21-25, 2003

Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs - Annual Conference  
Delta Meadowvale Resort and Conference Centre, Mississauga, ON

#### November 20-21, 2003

11th Annual Fire / Life Safety Educators Conference  
Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre, St. Catherines, Ontario

#### December 3-5, 2003

Construct Canada 2003  
Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario

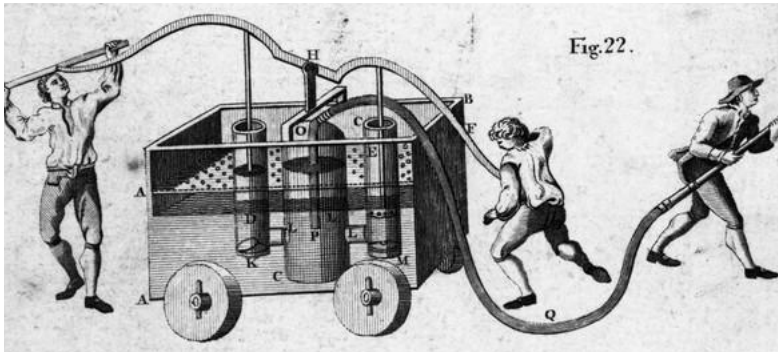
#### May 2-7, 2004

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, Toronto, Ontario

# A History of the Toronto Fire Services 1874 – 2002



A 400 page hard cover book titled *"A History of the Toronto Fire Services 1874 - 2002"* is being sold by the Works & Emergency Services, Fire Services, Fire Prevention & Public Education Division of the City of Toronto.

The book details the histories of each of the six former fire departments (North York, York, Toronto, East York, Scarborough and Etobicoke), from the earliest of the volunteer fire brigades to the final days prior to Toronto's amalgamation. A separate section records the events of the first five years of amalgamation and is complemented by two fold-out maps, colour photos of all the fire stations, apparatus lists, a complete personnel list, documentation of major amalgamation multiple alarm fires, as well as a 62-page colour pictorial of all staff.

This book is available from the Toronto Fire Services for \$70.09 (not including GST). For more information, visit their website at <http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/fire>.

## Test Drive the New Objective Based Codes

Public consultation on the new objective based format for the *National Building Code of Canada* (NBC) and the *National Fire Code of Canada* (NFC) ended May 31, 2003.

Prototypes of both the NBC and NFC in printable and online versions are available on the National Research Council Canada's, National Codes website: [www.nationalcodes.ca](http://www.nationalcodes.ca).

In addition to the prototypes, consultation material and objective and functional statements can also be viewed online.

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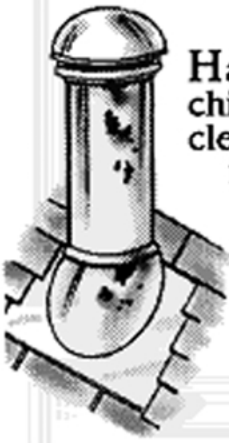
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# Fire Prevention Week

## October 5-11, 2003



# When Fire Strikes: Get out! Stay out!

The campaign theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week (October 5 to 11) is "When Fire Strikes: Get Out! Stay Out!", teaching two very simple and potentially life-saving lessons:

- Install smoke alarms and test them regularly, and
- Develop and practice home fire drills.

As professionals, we recognize the importance of having smoke detectors in our residences and testing them on a regular basis, but how many of us develop and practice home fire drills? The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provides the following in-

formation on dwelling and apartment fire escape plans.

### Dwellings

#### *Basic fire escape planning*

- Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. Also, mark the location of each smoke alarm.
- Make sure that you have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.

- Everyone in the household must understand the escape plan. When you walk through your plan, check to make sure the escape routes are clear and doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose an outside meeting place (i.e. neighbor's house, a light post, mailbox, or stop sign) a safe distance in front of your home where everyone can meet after they've escaped. Make sure to mark the location of the meeting place on your escape plan.
- Go outside to see if your street number is clearly visible from the road. If not, paint it on the curb or install house numbers to ensure that responding emergency personnel can find your home.
- Have everyone memorize the emergency phone number of the fire department. That way any member of the household can call from a neighbor's home or a cellular phone once safely outside.
- If there are infants, older adults or family members with mobility limitations make sure that someone is assigned to assist them in the fire drill and in the event of an emergency. Assign a backup person too, in case the designee is not home during the emergency.
- If windows or doors in your home have **security bars**, make sure that the bars have quick-release mechanisms inside so that they can be opened immediately in an emergency. Quick-release mechanisms won't compromise your security - but they will increase your chances of safely escaping a home fire.

- Tell guests or visitors to your home about your family's fire escape plan. When staying overnight at other people's homes, ask about their escape plan. If they don't have a plan in place, offer to help them make one. This is especially important when children are permitted to attend "sleepovers" at friends' homes.
- Be fully prepared for a real fire: when a smoke alarm sounds, get out immediately. **Residents of high-rise and apartment buildings may be safer "defending in place."**
- Once you're out, stay out! Under no circumstances should you ever go back into a burning building. If someone is missing, inform the fire department dispatcher when you call. Firefighters have the skills and equipment to perform rescues.

#### *Putting your plan to the test*

- Practice your home fire escape plan twice a year, making the drill as realistic as possible.
- Allow children to master fire escape planning and practice before holding a fire drill at night when they are sleeping. The objective is to practice, not to frighten, so telling children there will be a drill before they go to bed can be as effective as a surprise drill.
- It's important to determine during the drill whether children and others can readily waken to the sound of the smoke alarm. If they fail to awaken, make sure that someone is assigned to wake them up as part of the drill and in a real emergency situation.
- If your home has two floors, every family member (including children) must be able to escape from the second floor rooms. Escape ladders can be placed in or near windows to provide an additional escape route. Review the manufacturer's instructions carefully so you'll be able to use a safety ladder in an emergency. Practice setting up the ladder from a first floor window to make sure you can do it correctly and quickly. Children should only practice with a grown-

up, and only from a first-story window. Store the ladder near the window, in an easily accessible location. You don't want to have to search for it during a fire.

- Always choose the escape route that is safest – the one with the least amount of smoke and heat – but be prepared to escape through toxic smoke if necessary. When you do your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice crawling low on their hands and knees, one to two feet above the ground. By keeping your head low, you'll be able to breathe the "good" air that's closer to the floor.
- It's important to practice crawling on your hands and knees, not your bellies, as some poisons produced by smoke are heavier than air and settle to the floor.
- Closing doors on your way out slows the spread of fire, giving you more time to safely escape.
- In some cases, smoke or fire may prevent you from exiting your home or apartment building. To prepare for an emergency like this, practice "sealing yourself in for safety" as part of your home fire escape plan. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to seal the door cracks and cover air vents to keep smoke from coming in. If possible, open your windows at the top and bottom so fresh air can get in.

## **Apartments**

### *Know the plan*

Make sure that you're familiar with your building's evacuation plan, which should illustrate what residents are supposed to do in the event of an emergency. The evacuation plan should be posted in places where all residents can see and review it, and the building management should hold a fire drill with occupants at least once a year. Most states also require that buildings periodically test their fire safety systems as well. Be sure to participate when your building drills take place.

### *Practice is key*

Whether your building has one floor or 50, it's essential that you and your family are prepared to respond to a fire alarm. Identify all of the exits in your building and mark them on your escape plan. Make sure to mark the various stairways too, in case one is blocked by fire.

### *Never use the elevator*

In case of fire, always use the stairs to get out, never the elevator. Make sure to practice using the stairs as part of your escape plan. If someone in your family has difficulty climbing down steps, make sure to incorporate a contingency for this into your plan.

### *Stay low*

Smoke from a fire is toxic and deadly no matter what kind of structure you live in. When you hold your fire drill, everyone in the family should practice crawling on their hands and knees low under smoke, one to two feet above the ground where the air is cooler and cleaner. Note: in the event of a fire, if both stairwells are filled with smoke, stay in your apartment and wait for the firefighters.

### *Seal yourself in for safety*

If you can't exit an apartment building due to smoke or fire in the hallway, call the fire department to report your exact location and gather in a room with a window to await their arrival. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or towels to create a seal around the door and over air vents in order to keep smoke from coming in.

### *Stay by the window*

If possible, you should open your windows at the top and the bottom so fresh air can get in. Don't break the window – if smoke enters the room from outside the building, you won't be able to protect yourself.

### *Signal to firefighters*

Wave a flashlight or light colored cloth at the window to let the fire department know where you are located.

More prevention tips can be obtained from [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

*Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week Web site, [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org). ©2003 NFPA.*



# Life Safety Systems Futuristic Design Applications

This article was provided by David Sylvester, Systems Associate for Leber/Rubes Inc.



On Thursday August 14, 2003 at 4:11 pm the lights went out in our Toronto Office (*Black-out 2003*). I thought about how different the life safety world is today compared to just 50 years ago (from flag-drop panels to distributed multiplex transponders). So I wondered, (*when the lights went out*) what will life safety systems be 50 years from now?

As you may recall, in last year's fall issue of the CFSA newsletter I provided some information regarding the specific use of optical fibre for life safety applications. Optical fibre may be considered the "future glue" that will hold the next generation of life safety networks together. However, the future "*where the rubber hits the road*" technology will be driven by advancements

in detection or sensory combined with predictive fire modeling.

As such, I suggest that future life safety systems will make great strides incorporating the collective sensory information with fire modeling, signal processing and interpretation or decision algorithms. This will provide results such as real time predictive fire modeling and threat assessment (I don't have a crystal ball but I do have a lucid imagination). So let's jump ahead 50 years and look at the following scenario:

## Future Scenario

It is the year 2053. Two executives decide to smoke medicinal tobacco cigars on the 109<sup>th</sup> floor of the Toronto Science Exchange Building in the corporate

wellness lounge. Following a lengthy discussion regarding low impact bio-wear workout socks, the two executives discard their cigars in the ashtray and exit the lounge. The building sensory is aware of the "cigar smoke algorithm" and logs the events in its historical data neural net. (It logs that this is the second time today that Bob and Jim have had biometric access to the lounge and puffed away their troubles.)

A few minutes later the air handling system starts up to fill (and exchange) the room with oxygenated air (so employees will feel better and work longer hours). The force of the air blows open an antique textbook ("Toronto Real Estate in the Dirty 00's"). The textbook just happens to be placed next to the ashtray. The embers from the cigar slowly ignite the text.

**Instantly, building sensory is aware of the cigar and paper algorithm and begins the "threat assessment" routine (we're talking nanoseconds here). Now the incident is reported to the chief building operator and an outcome list or threat assessment is dispatched (i.e. send two guys with an extinguisher in the next 120 seconds or release the expensive suppression agent in the next 480 seconds).**

## Sensory Data Collection Phase

The *building sensory* analyzes the following:

- Air velocity, air pressure, air flow, interior and exterior temperature and humidity levels
- Gas monitoring, including oxygen, methane, carbon monoxide, hydro-

gen sulfide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen cyanide, and ammonia levels

- Audibility monitoring via transducers and real time waveform audio analysis including sound pressure level measurements (fire releases specific audible frequencies)
- Illuminometers measure light levels
- Optical sensors provide infrared and ultraviolet analysis
- Biometrics and human image mapping determine personnel quantity and location.

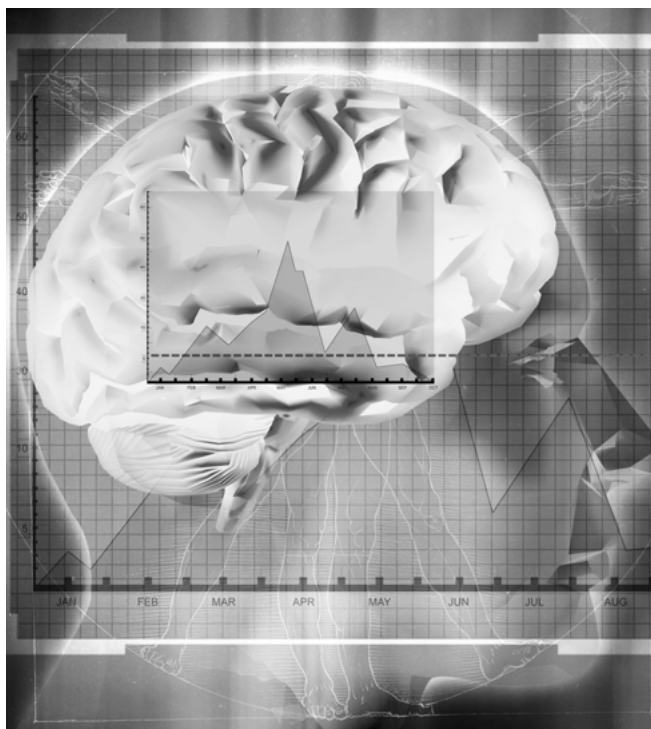
### Sensory Processing Phase

The entire pool of sensory data travels and weaves through a vast network of optical threads, to a group of organic processors that “learn on the job” through signal cross correlation, polling, pattern dynamics and access of the world historical fire loss data archiving processor. (In other words, the systems have reported what is happening in real time and continue to update the organic processor while comparing the results with the world historical fire loss database.)

### Threat Assessment

The major part of this approach is the adaptive modeling. In this scenario, adaptive modeling means using the comparison of sensor data with model predictions to determine if the model inputs match the sensor data over the specific time period. Following this analysis, the system will not only tell the building operator and the fire department where the fire is and alert occupants (if required), but will determine the optional course or courses of action as follows:

- 30 seconds: a robotic room service attendant dumps water on the ash-tray (no loss)
- 120 seconds: Bob and Jim operate a fire extinguisher (\$300 extinguisher recharge)
- 480 seconds: full system suppression agent discharge (\$30,000 recharge)



- 1440 seconds: suppression agent discharge (\$1,000,000 loss) system fails and evacuates 50,000 people. Court proceedings scheduled for 8 months from today.

The threat assessment message ends with the following friendly disclaimer: “The reliability and accuracy of alarm decisions can be improved by increasing the information basis for these decisions. Upgrade your LS organic neural net today. Remember...Sensor Rich Environments Save Lives.”

So the advent of this type of system structure in the very near future is not likely. Remember, we have Codes, Standards, National Research Council data and the Authority Having Jurisdiction. A fully integrated building sensory combined with decision algorithm based neural net computing is not on the current radar screen. But it is fun to think about the future. In more sensor rich environments it should be possible to use information from a range of building systems to make decisions. The more research performed, the better the threat assessment.

Changing our philosophy regarding the purpose of life safety systems will greatly impact future life safety re-

search and development.

Human beings behave differently during “off-normal” situations. The human psychological analysis regarding threat assessment decision algorithms incorporated into life safety systems has never really been explored. A few years ago, Dr. Guylene Proulx Ph.D. at the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) brought forward this issue: *Is it wise to evacuate a high-rise building?* The “Protect in Place” concept is now gain-

ing some attention. We know that typically there is little response by building occupants to fire alarm signals. Only once occupants see smoke is the decision to leave the building made.

The futuristic life safety systems must take into account the human psychological responses to both fire and alarm signals and offer solutions such as “defend in place”, safe elevators or *designated refuge areas*. If buildings are to be constructed over 110 storeys, these concerns must be addressed.

I believe that another important issue is related to *psychoacoustics* - the way in which humans perceive sound. Future systems must be consciously aware of the audibility and intelligibility of the fire alarm signal. If the human cannot understand the message, the psychological analysis is bleak. I believe that future systems will have internal Speech Intelligibility Analyzers (SIA). (Can you imagine someone playing a Bob Dylan tune through a SIA life safety system?) The Common Intelligibility Matrix Grid Holographic Readout will look like stringed linguini.

Now that’s something to think about when the lights go out.



# Member's *Forum*

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: 2175 Sheppard Ave. East, Suite 310, Toronto, ON M2J 1W8 or fax to: (416) 491-1670 or by e-mail: [www.cfsa@taylorenterprises.com](mailto:www.cfsa@taylorenterprises.com) Website: [www.canadianfiresafety.com](http://www.canadianfiresafety.com)**

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# CFSA

## Membership Application Form

### Why Corporate Membership?

Corporate Membership is cost effective because it allows any number of individuals from your organization to participate in the many functions provided by CFSA throughout the year. Any number of persons can attend our monthly dinner meetings/technical sessions or our annual conference at the preferred member's rate.

#### Basic Corporate

Includes 3 individual memberships; member's rate for all staff at dinner meetings, technical seminars and Annual Education Forum and Trade Show; Company recognition in each of the four issues of the CFSA Newsletter.

#### Class 4 Corporate

Same as Basic Corporate as well as one exhibit table at the Annual Education Forum and Trade Show and a Business Card advertisement in each of the four issues of the CFSA Newsletter.

#### Class 3 Corporate

Same as Basic Corporate as well as one exhibit table at the Annual Education Forum and Trade Show and a 1/4 page advertisement in each of the four issues of the CFSA Newsletter.

#### Class 2 Corporate

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#### Class 1 Corporate

Same as Basic Corporate as well as one exhibit table at the Annual Education Forum and Trade Show and a full page advertisement in each of the four issues of the CFSA Newsletter.



### CFSA Application for Membership

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City \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate how you first heard about CFSA: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate in the appropriate box the category that best describes your vocation:

- Architect
- Building Official
- Insurance Industry
- Fire Protection Manufacturer/Supplier
- Building Owner/Developer/Manager
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- Engineer
- Fire Service
- Fire Consultant

### Membership Fees

	Fee	+7% GST	Total
<input type="radio"/> Individual	\$ 62.00	\$ 4.34	\$ 66.34
<input type="radio"/> Student	\$ 25.00	\$ 1.75	\$ 26.75
<input type="radio"/> Associate	\$ 25.00	\$ 1.75	\$ 26.75
<input type="radio"/> Basic Corporate	\$ 330.00	\$ 23.10	\$ 353.10
<input type="radio"/> Class 4 Corporate	\$ 595.00	\$ 41.65	\$ 636.65
<input type="radio"/> Class 3 Corporate	\$ 670.00	\$ 46.90	\$ 716.90
<input type="radio"/> Class 2 Corporate	\$ 825.00	\$ 57.75	\$ 882.75
<input type="radio"/> Class 1 Corporate	\$ 1,130.00	\$ 79.10	\$ 1,209.10

**Method of Payment:**

Cheque Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this completed form with membership fees to:**

Canadian Fire Safety Association  
 2175 Sheppard Avenue East, Suite 310, Toronto, Ontario M2J 1W8  
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 E-mail: cfsa@taylorenterprises.com • www.canadianfiresafety.com



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