

Fire Chief urges installation of smoke alarms and practising of home fire escape plans

Caledon Fire and Emergency Services reminds residents to make sure that they have working smoke alarms on every storey of their home and outside all sleeping areas.

As well, they are urging people to make sure they have a home fire escape plan in place and have practised it.

This reminder comes in the wake of last Tuesday's fatal fire in Brampton. The fire claimed the lives of three and seriously injured a child.

"Many fatal fires occur at night when everyone is asleep, so early warning is crucial to survival," Fire Chief Darryl Bailey observed.

"The Ontario Fire Code requires working smoke alarms on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas. For added protection, our fire department is recommending that you also install a smoke alarm in every bedroom. Larger homes may require additional smoke alarms."

Just as important as having working smoke alarms is making sure everyone in the home knows exactly what to do to escape before a fire occurs.

"We want to make sure these types of tragedies do not happen in Caledon," Bailey added.

Simple smoke and carbon monoxide alarm tips

? Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas of your home. For added protection, install a smoke alarm in every bedroom according to manufacturer's recommendations.

? Install carbon monoxide alarms outside all sleeping areas if the home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage. For added protection, install a carbon monoxide alarm on every storey of the home according to manufacturer's recommendations.

? Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.

? Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms wear out over time. Replace alarms according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Important home fire escape considerations

? Everyone should know two ways out of each room, if possible.

? All exits must be unobstructed and easy to use.

? If someone in the home has a disability, develop an escape plan with the household that takes into account their unique needs.

Determine who will be responsible for helping young children, older adults and anyone who needs assistance to escape.

? Choose a meeting place outside, such as a tree or a lamp post, where everyone can be accounted for.

? Call the fire department from outside the home, from a cell phone or neighbour's home.

? Practise the home fire escape plan.

? Once out, stay out. Never re-enter a burning building.

For people who live in apartment buildings and need assistance to escape

? Make sure to tell the superintendent or landlord if assistance might be needed.

? Make sure your name is added to the Vulnerable Persons Registry in the fire safety plan, so the fire department knows which apartment you are in.

? Know the emergency procedures outlined in the building's fire safety plan.

Visit caledon.ca/fire for more information on fire safety and on how to add yourself or a loved one to the Vulnerable Persons Registry.