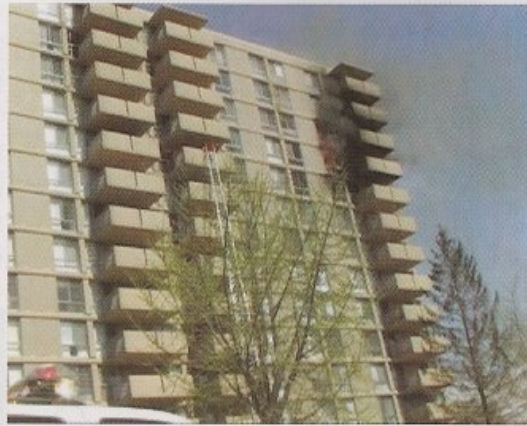


With countless fire fighter acknowledgements for saving lives each and every day in our country, the Fire Chiefs still remain mystified as to why more attention isn't paid to fire prevention by their citizens. This has lead to fire departments becoming more aggressive with their fire safety campaigns and promoting such events as "fire prevention week" within their communities. Fire departments and fire-fighters around the country spend time in their communities working with individuals in schools, companies and hosting various special fund raiser events to bring the message of fire safety to the forefront. This message has always been how to increase the potential for survival in the event that a fire strikes at home or in the workplace.

Although the nation celebrates fire prevention during one lone week in October, promoting fire safety and prevention must be front and centre in the community at large fifty-two weeks of the year. Most fires result from human error: heating appliances like wood stoves and furnaces malfunction, lit cigarettes or matches are dropped, and cooking materials are left unattended



Most fires result from human error: heating appliances like wood stoves and furnaces malfunction, lit cigarettes or matches are dropped, and cooking materials are left unattended on a stove.

on a stove. These are all examples of careless acts that could be prevented. Our workplaces are also filled with many potential sources of fire that may cost someone their life if they are not aware of the immediate fire hazards. Recent figures still indicate that the majority of home and workplace fires could have been prevented. Simply put, fuel, ignition and a careless act are the key components to causing a fire. Removing one of these three variables

will inhibit an outbreak of fire in the first place and thus prevents it. Implementing fire prevention, alone, without considering many other factors, will not prove either suitable or sufficient to the task of emergency response in many of the circumstances involving building fires as these are mostly directed to events before the fire emergency actually starts or for the first few minutes afterwards. Therefore, fire codes include the provision of early detection devices and alerting systems. Fire-specific legislation also provides the engineered means, those which are incorporated into the fabric of a structure or sub-structure, to limit fire growth and spread, control smoke and, in some cases, provide automatic or semi-automatic means of fire control in the form of engineered fire suppression or sprinkler systems.

Once a fire emergency is underway, provincial fire codes do contain requirements to ensure a safe means of evacuation or the escape of building occupants by requiring the maintenance of clear paths of escape, sufficient number of suitable-protected exit ways, emergency lighting, and signage. If a rapidly-spreading fire occurs, all of the occupants must be able to get out of the

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