

Fall 2007

## **Fire Prevention Awareness**

At this time of year it is a good idea to review some tips related to fire prevention. Not only are there damaging effects from the heat of a flame, but smoke can be extremely toxic and the effects resulting from inhalation can be deadly.

**In a case of an emergency, get out, and Call 911, from a neighbour's house. Make sure your children are taught to do the same.**

### **Smoke Detectors:**

Always test your smoke detectors once a month; change the batteries twice a year- Fall and Spring. A smoke detector must be located on each level of the home – **it's the law!**

### **Escape Plan:**

Have an escape route planned for each bedroom and area of the home, and a designated meeting location **outside** for everyone to meet. Discuss this with each member of the family and do practice runs. Replace double key door locks. If you must escape from a smoke filled room, keep low to the floor. Try testing the smoke detectors after the kids are in bed asleep to make sure the detectors will wake sleepers.

### **Candles:**

Never leave candles burning in an unattended room. Use sturdy stands, away from flammables, curtains, Christmas trees and decorations

### **Clothes Dryers:**

Clean the lint catcher in your dryer each time before you put in a load. A build up of lint is very flammable.

### **Flammable materials:**

Never store gasoline inside the house, and never use it as a cleaner or substitute solvent. It is made to explode! Always store other flammable materials (paints, paint thinners, etc) in a safe spot away from heat sources and open flame, in a secure, and properly vented location, to prevent fires. Always read the labels for proper use and follow the directions.

### **Wood Burning Appliances:**

Insure the distances to combustibles are adhered to as per the manufacturer's instructions. As with all wood burning appliances, a minimal distance of 48 inches from combustibles must be adhered to at the front of all fireplaces, woodstoves, space heaters etc. Chimneys and flue pipes must be cleaned and inspected at least once a year.

### **Electrical:**

Avoid the use of extension cords; do not overload them; and don't run them under carpets. Do not use electrical appliances if the cords are frayed or damaged. Use the proper size fuse in the fuse panel for the required circuit to prevent an unsafe and dangerous situation. Never leave portable heaters on when you leave the house, or go to bed; read the appliance's documentation for warnings, and make sure distances to combustibles are adhered to.

*Courtesy of  
Bill Dickie RHI, CET, WETT  
BCS Home Inspection Services  
1-866-545-6077*