

SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM POLICY

Policy No: FP 03-2014

Approved by Council: September 10, 2014, Resolution: 2014.15.05

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich Fire Department Smoke Alarm Program is to promote the installation, maintenance and regular inspection, by owners and occupants, of smoke alarms in dwelling units within the Municipality.

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act require municipalities to establish a program in the municipality for public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention.

The Fire Marshal may monitor and review a municipality's fire protection services, including public education programs.

The office of the Fire Marshal has established standards for fire prevention and public fire safety education. The minimum standard includes the following:

- A smoke alarm program with home-escape planning
- Fire safety educational materials distributed to residents/ occupants
- Inspections upon complaint or when requested to assist with code compliance, and
- A simplified risk assessment/needs analysis

The Fire Protection and Prevention act, Ontario regulation 213/07 (Fire Code) Section 2.13 prescribes requirements for the installation of smoke alarms in dwelling units.

POLICY

The Municipality of Dutton Dunwich Fire Department will conduct smoke alarm inspections following emergency responses to dwellings resulting from a reported fire incident (includes visible smoke, chimney fire, and no fire visible), alarm activation due to faulty smoke alarm and monitored security/fire alarm responses.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response

The purpose of this activity is to provide essential fire safety information to residents.

The Incident Commander shall ensure firefighters inspect the dwellings to determine if smoke alarms are installed in correct locations and in working order after an emergency response initiated due to a reported fire or smoke condition, alarm activation due to a faulty smoke alarm or monitored security/fire alarm at a dwelling unit.

If smoke alarms are missing, improperly located, or not working, the Incident Commander shall inform the home owner or occupant of the mandatory requirement for smoke

alarms. The owner or occupant should also be provided with a smoke alarm installation and maintenance brochure/information, and home-escape planning information.

If smoke alarms are missing, improperly located, or not working the Incident Commander shall provide a loaner smoke alarm(s) or battery(s) to assist the owner or occupant, and advise the owner or occupant to immediately install or repair the smoke alarm(s). All required smoke alarms shall be installed or repaired prior to the Incident Commander leaving the emergency scene.

Public Education/Awareness

Using local or regional media can be an effective way to promote the importance of having working smoke alarms in dwellings and home-escape planning for families. The media can be used to publicize fire prevention events and activities associated with the smoke alarm program.

The Municipality of Dutton Dunwich Fire Services will promote smoke alarm use and home-escape planning through public education and awareness activities, including but not limited to:

Annual Promotions:

- Local school newsletter articles
- Local newspaper advertisements and articles
- Mass mailing of smoke alarm and home-escape planning information to households in the municipality
- Fire station open house events
- Displays at local public events
- Distribution of brochures and fact sheets via displays, schools, Municipal Office, etc. (including Home-escape Planning and Carbon Monoxide Awareness)

Other Promotional Opportunities:

- Door to door canvassing to residential dwellings
- Supporting Risk Watch programs at local schools
- Supporting Guide and Scout fire safety educational activities
- Supporting babysitter-training activities
- Local radio advertisements/promotions
- Participation in province wide Fire Prevention Week (October)
- Presentations to schools, groups and associations

The Fire Chief and Fire Safety Education Officers shall be responsible for promoting smoke alarm use and home-escape planning to residents through the above public education and awareness activities.

DOCUMENTATION

Emergency Response

The Standard Incident Report smoke alarm section shall be completed after each emergency response resulting from a reported fire or smoke condition in a residence or dwelling unit

The smoke alarm inspection details and results shall be recorded in the Municipality of Dutton Dunwich Fire Department Policies and Procedures (Microsoft Excel Software) for the specific property inspected.

Smoke alarm data will be collated annually to assess the effectiveness of public education and awareness activities to ascertain the level of smoke alarm compliance in the community.

ENFORCEMENT

The Incident Commander shall notify the Fire Chief immediately if an owner or occupant is unwilling or unable to correct smoke alarm violations immediately.

The Fire Chief shall be notified within 48 hours of any circumstance where an owner or occupant has been issued a loaner smoke alarm(s) or battery(ies).

The Fire Chief shall be responsible for initiating the appropriate enforcement action upon an owner or occupant after being notified of a dwelling not in compliance with the mandatory smoke alarm requirements. Enforcement actions will be consistent with the Office of the Fire Marshal guideline, TG-01-2006 Commencing Proceedings Under Part 1 of the POA, for smoke alarm enforcement.

TRAINING

All members of the fire department shall be trained in:

- Smoke alarm installation, maintenance, types of alarms, low battery warning features, hardwired vs. battery alarms, smoke alarm features, alarms for hearing impaired, smoke alarm life span and test buttons, as per the Office of the Fire Marshal Alarmed for Life Program;
- Home-escape planning as per the Office of the Fire Marshal Alarmed for Life Program.

The Ontario Fire Services Messenger Smoke Alarms teaching plan, dated February/ March 2007 will be used as the Departments smoke alarm training curriculum.