

Ministry of
Community Safety and
Correctional Services

Office of the
Fire Marshal and
Emergency Management

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Ministère de la
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Bureau du
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June 17, 2014

Dear Mayor in Council:

Effective January 1, 2014, Ontario became the first province to enact a series of legislative changes intended to improve fire safety in vulnerable occupancies. Although the requirement for owners of these occupancies to retroactively install automatic sprinklers received the majority of the media coverage, a number of additional legislative changes were enacted that impose requirements on municipalities and Chief Fire Officials. I would like to clarify what this means for municipalities like yours:

- Three years to complete mandatory training for all Chief Fire Officials responsible for approving facility fire safety plans (**New & deadline is January 1, 2017**)
- Observation of annual fire drills based on approved scenario (**New & in effect as of January 1, 2014**)
- Annual fire safety inspections based on a standardized checklist (**New & in effect as of January 1, 2014**)
- Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies (**New & in effect as of January 1, 2014**)

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) is committed to providing support to municipalities through advice, assistance and training. The following are a list of items demonstrating how the OFMEM is doing this.

1. Training program/course acceptable to the Fire Marshal

To meet the requirements for this mandatory training, Chief Fire Officials must complete a training program/course, acceptable to the Fire Marshal, no later than December 31, 2016. The course became available on line effective April 30, 2014. In addition, traditional class room courses will be available in beginning in the fall of 2014.

2. Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies

As part of the new regulatory requirements, the fire department is mandated to enter specific information about vulnerable occupancies within their municipality into the OFMEM Registry of Vulnerable Occupancies following the completion of the mandatory inspection. The OFMEM has commenced the Registry and municipal fire departments have begun populating the registry.

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3. Training with Municipal Fire Departments

The OFMEM has completed a number of webinars for municipalities and has arranged approximately thirty (30) full day training sessions across the province that will provide municipalities comprehensive training on how to ensure they comply with the new Regulations and Fire Marshal Directives.

Committed to Working Together

The legislative changes; incorporating a balanced approach of enhanced inspections, training and fire code retrofits, will help reduce the probability and consequence of fire on occupants and property as well as decrease the risks encountered by fire fighters who are called to respond to fire emergencies in these occupancies.

It remains the responsibility of facility owners and operators in all municipalities to ensure their buildings are in full compliance with the changes to Ontario fire safety regulations. Similarly, it remains the responsibility of municipalities and Chief Fire Officials to ensure they are in full compliance with the new Regulations and Fire Marshal Directives.

The OFMEM will continue to support municipalities and Chief Fire Officials by providing advice and assistance, training and ongoing communication regarding legislated timelines to ensure municipalities and Chief Fire Officials are in compliance with the law. The OFMEM will be monitoring the status of compliance with the new Regulations and Fire Marshal Directives for all municipalities and Chief Fire Officials. To learn more about the work that has been accomplished to date and legislative responsibilities visit the OFMEM website portal for Care Occupancies, Care and Treatment Occupancies and Retirement Homes. If you have any questions regarding the vulnerable occupancies requirements, please contact Mr. Jim Jessop at (416) 325-3239.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter. We all have a role and duty to play in keeping seniors and vulnerable Ontarians fire safe.

Sincerely,



Tadeusz (Ted) Wieclawek
Fire Marshal and Chief, Emergency Management

Copy: All Ontario Fire Chiefs
Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC)
Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)
Jim Jessop, Director, Field and Advisory Services / Deputy Fire Marshal
Pierre Yelle, A/Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal