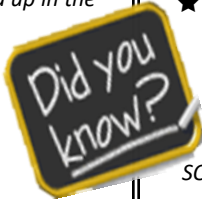




*It is speculated that ashes from the fireplace in the Hockley-area fire were left on the back porch and flared up in the wind.*



- Heating equipment fires account for 1 in 10 home fires
- Heating equipment is the second leading cause of home fires
- In 29% of home heating fires, the cause is lack of routine maintenance of heating equipment
- ★ Leading causes of heating equipment fires are:
  1. woodstoves
  2. fireplace/fireplace inserts
  3. chimneys

*SOURCE: Government of Ontario - Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management*

*Adjala-Tosorontio firefighters were called to a chimney fire on March 4, 2017.*

## WOODBURNING FIREPLACES

### **Preparation**

- situate fireplace on a non-combustible surface
- ensure adequate ventilation to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning
- clear at least one metre around the fireplace of anything that might catch fire or overheat

### **Firing It Up**

- open the damper to allow for good airflow and keep it open until the fire is out and the ashes are cool enough to touch
- build your fire with a small amount of dry, seasoned wood
- never use highly flammable materials such as wrapping paper or gasoline
- allow ashes from your fireplace to cool before emptying them into an outdoor metal container with a tight-fitting lid

## GAS FIREPLACES

### **In Canada, gas fireplaces:**

- by regulations, must provide certified testing and safety report
- may have a voluntary EnerGuide label
- require gas permits to install or modify

### **Using It**

- never leave a young child alone near a gas fireplace; they can be burned before, during, and after use of the fireplace
- create a barrier around the gas fireplace; the glass barrier on your gas fireplace can heat up to over 200°C (400°F) in about six minutes during use and it takes an average of 45 minutes for the fireplace to cool to a safe temperature after the fire is switched off
- safety guards can be installed as protection for both children and pets

## WARNING/PROTECTION SYSTEMS

### Smoke Detectors

A smoke alarm will detect smoke and alert you even when sleeping. Effective March 1, 2006, it is the law for all Ontario homes to have a smoke alarm on every story and outside all sleeping areas.

- Test your smoke alarms regularly.
- Replace batteries regularly. All battery-operated smoke alarms are required to emit a warning sound, usually an intermittent “chirp” when the battery power is low. **Never wait. Change your batteries when you change your clocks in the spring and fall.**

### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

CO is a colourless, odourless gas that is poisonous at high levels. It can kill you. It can only be detected with an alarm (detector). Every home should have at least one CO detector installed that meets the Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

- Test your detectors regularly.
- Replace batteries and the detector itself as recommended by the manufacturer. Write on the battery or device to remind yourself when it was installed and when it should be replaced.

### Fire Extinguishers

While there is no law that says you must have fire extinguishers in the home, one should be readily available in the kitchen as well as in the garage - the two places where fires are most likely to start. There are three basic classes of fire extinguishers, and extinguishers must be tested and listed by Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC), as well as labelled by class.

- **Class A:** Ordinary combustibles such as paper, wood, rubbish, drapes and upholstery.
- **Class B:** Flammable liquids such as gasoline, oils, paints and flammable gases.
- **Class C:** Electrical fires involving Class "A" or Class "B" materials and live electrical power - overheated wiring, fuse boxes, stoves, motors etc.

⇒ Remember "**P-A-S-S**" when fighting a fire (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep):

- **PULL** out the locking pin, breaking the seal. Some extinguishers may use a different release device. Please refer to your operator's manual.
- **AIM** the nozzle horn (or hose) at the base of the fire about 3 metres (10 feet) away.
- **SQUEEZE** the trigger handle all the way, releasing the extinguishing agent.
- **SWEEP** the material discharged by the extinguisher from side to side, moving front to back, across the base of the fire until it appears to be out. Keep your eyes on fire area. Repeat the process if the fire starts up again. Never turn your back on a fire even if you think it is out.



In Ontario, the percent of households with working:

- Smoke detector 99%
- Carbon monoxide detector 80%
- Fire extinguisher 64%

### Where to place your smoke detector:

