

# Important Safety tips

## What you need to know

### ✓ *Heating Safety Check list*

- My Furnace/Fireplace/Boiler has been serviced and checked safety by a licensed technician in the past year.
- My chimney/exhaust vents have been inspected and cleaned by a licensed technician during the past year.
- My fireplace has a sturdy screen to catch sparks.
- If space heaters are used in my home, they are at least one metre away from objects that can burn, such as curtains, furniture, and pets.

### ✓ *Smoke alarms*

- Every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. **IT'S THE LAW.**
- Most deadly fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often victims never wake up.

### ✓ *Homeowners*

- It is the responsibility of homeowners to install and maintain smoke alarms on every storey of their home and outside sleeping areas.

### ✓ *Landlords*

- It is the responsibility of landlords to ensure their rental properties comply with the law.

### ✓ *Tenants*

- If you do not have the required number of smoke alarms, contact your landlord immediately. It is against the law for tenants to remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm in any case. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE FIRE CODE SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS COULD RESULT IN A TICKET FOR \$235 OR A FINE OF UP TO \$50,000 FOR INDIVIDUALS OR \$100,000 FOR CORPORATIONS.**
- When installing smoke alarms, refer to the manufacturer's instructions for information about correct placement.
- Test your smoke alarms every month using the test button.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, and whenever the low-battery warning chirps.
- Replace smoke alarms with new ones if they are more than ten years old.

- Steam from the shower or cooking in the oven, stove or toaster can cause smoke alarms to activate. **DO NOT REMOVE THE BATTERY.** Purchase a smoke alarm with a hush feature that will temporarily silence the alarm.

### ✓ *Carbon Monoxide (CO)*

#### ✓ *What You Need to Know*

- Carbon Mono Oxide is called the “silent killer” and the most harmful product of incomplete combustion.
- Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odourless, colourless, tasteless gas that is very toxic and highly explosive (limits of flammability is 12% to 74%).
- If the building has a fuel-fired (natural gas, oil, propane or wood) appliance, a CO alarm should be installed
- The Ontario Building Code requires carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in new buildings that contain a fuel-fired appliance.
- Exposure to CO can cause symptoms such as similar to common flue, headaches, nausea, fatigue, dizziness, drowsiness, burning eyes, and unconsciousness.
- CO is a byproduct of incomplete combustion of fuels such as natural gas, wood, propane, oil, kerosene, gasoline, diesel fuel, coal or charcoal.
- To operate safely and efficiently, all fuel-burning equipment and appliances require a good supply of fresh air and proper venting to carry exhaust gases outdoors.
- If anything interferes with the air supply required for combustion, or the venting of exhaust gases, incomplete combustion may occur and could cause CO to be produced in the building.
- Improper maintenance of fuel-burning equipment such as Furnaces, Fireplaces and Water heaters, appliances like Cloth dryer or a blocked chimney could cause CO to accumulate in your home.

### ✓ *Water Safety*

- Take safety precautions if you have small children in your home to ensure they could not fall into an unsupervised tub.
- Supervise infants and small children around faucets.

**FURTHER IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS WILL BE UPLOADED SOON**

