

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

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Special pullout section

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Project Zero: Union Gas supplies smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to HHFD

Union Gas is partnering with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council to provide 15 Ontario fire departments with a total of 500 combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms for distribution in local communities as part of Project Zero. In addition, Union Gas also supported the Halton Hills Fire Department's Carbon Monoxide Awareness Program with a \$2,500 grant awarded at last week's Council meeting.

Project Zero is a public education campaign that provides combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to residents with the goal of reducing the number of residential fire and carbon monoxide-related deaths to zero. Since 2009, Project Zero has been launched in 86 Ontario communities.

Mark Egbedeyi-Emmanuel, Union Gas district manager and Nick Klip, Union Gas manager of construction and growth, attended a Town of Halton Hills Council meeting to present Bryan Lewis, Halton Hills Councillor and chair of the Fire Services and Emergency Planning Committee and Mark Burger, Acting Captain public education Halton Hills Fire Department with the alarms and cheque.

"At Union Gas, the safety of our employees and our communities is our most important core company value," said Egbedeyi-Emmanuel. "And we share that commitment by supporting much-needed programs like Project Zero and the Carbon Monoxide Awareness Program that helps us all stay safer."

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, tasteless toxic gas that is often referred to as the "silent killer". Exposure to



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Nick Klip, Manager of Construction and Growth Union Gas; Mark Emmanuel, District Manager Hamilton/Halton Union Gas; Halton Hills Councillor Bryan Lewis Councillor who is the Chair of the Fire Services and Emergency Planning Committee; Art Pullan, Executive Director Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council; and Mark Burger, Halton Hills Fire Dept. Acting Captain Public Education.

Photo by Melanie Hennessey

CO can cause flu-like symptoms such as headaches, nausea, dizziness, burning eyes, confusion, drowsiness and even loss of consciousness, without the elevated temperature associated with the flu. In severe cases, CO poisoning can cause brain damage and death. The elderly, children and people with heart or respiratory conditions may be particularly sensitive to CO. Over 80 per cent of carbon monoxide-related deaths and injuries in On-

tario occur in the home.

A new law amended the Ontario Fire Code in October 2014 to ensure that every home and residential building with a fuel burning appliance, fireplace or an attached garage must have a working carbon monoxide alarm. Compliance was required by April 2015 for residential buildings with six or less suites and October 2015 for multi-residential buildings with more than six suites. CO detectors are

required near all sleeping areas in residential homes and in the service rooms, and adjacent sleeping areas in multi-residential units. CO alarms can be hardwired, battery-operated or plugged into the wall. When properly installed and maintained, combination smoke and CO alarms help provide the early warning that is needed to safely escape from a house fire or CO exposure.

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