Grease fire tips could save lives

by Safety Officer
Larry Brassard

Three people were burned, one seriously in two separate fires this past week in Halton Hills. Both fires were very similar and were not unlike several that the Halton Hills Fire Department responds to every month. The story is the same, the end result is the same, only the people change.

Each year grease fires cause thousands of dollars worth of damage to Canadian homes and painfully burn hundreds of Canadians. All of these fires and injuries can be prevented by just remembering that cooking oil is very dangerous and by following these safety hints:

1) NEVER overheat or leave cooking oil unattended.
2) NEVER risk carrying out a burning pan
3) NEVER throw water on grease fires.

But if the grease in a pot or pan does catch fire:
1) Turn off heat
2) Smother the flame by covering the pan with a suitable lid or larger pan.
3) Be cautious with special regard to loose fitting clothing which may easily catch fire if you get too close.

If the fire has already spread when you discover it:
1) Get everyone out of the house
2) Close all doors on your way out, if this doesn't take extra time.
3) Call the fire department from a neighbor's house.

All three of the injuries mentioned earlier resulted when someone tried to carry the pot of grease outside. Did you ever cook bacon and get a spurt of grease on your arm? Try spilling a pot of boiling grease all over you!

Cooking french fries should not be taken lightly. It's one of the most dangerous things you can do. Never leave them unattended as this is now most grease fires start. It can be done safely if you follow the hints noted above.

It's up to you!

Morris urges

Keep public time intact

Councillor Peter Morris wants to make sure public skating is not pre-empted for special events at the arena, as frequently as last year.

He told Halton Hills administration committee, Monday night, it happened many times last year.

The comments were made when Recreation Director Glen Gray presented a schedule of special events for the coming season. Included in the list are the Midget hockey tournament, the figure skating carnival, bantam hockey tournament, minor hockey Day of Champions, Acton Centennial tournament, and Inter-Club competition.

Morris explained he was not concerned about these events, since everyone knows about them and ample warning is given, but stated special events scheduled without much warning taking public skating time bothered him.

Gray said he could not guarantee it would not happen this season, but said all special events are considered and judged on their merit.

Board will keep eye on condition of school buses

Halton Board of Education's new Transportation Officer will be expected to keep an eye on school buses this year to make sure they are in "top shape".

The suggestion the transportation officer make sure buses are in good condition came from Oakville Trustee Jim Clelland.

Pointing out there have been a number of bus tragedies this summer Trustee Bill Priestner asked what the board does to make sure school buses are in good condition?

Superintendent of Business and Finance Bruce Lindley said the buses are operated under provincial legislation and the board depends on the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to do safety inspections.

Lindley said he agreed with Priestner's concern and suggested the board will have to do some monitoring of bus safety conditions to make sure provincial laws are being "adhered to."

Burlington Trustee Cam Jackson, said the board's recently hired Transportation Officer, Jim Hunt, is an excellent choice and has impressed trustees.

He noted the Transportation Officer is living in Milton so he will be in the hub of the board's transportation system and on the scene when climate effects busing.

Clelland thought the Transportation Officer could keep an eye on the shape school buses are in so tragedies can be avoided.

Board busing costs will go up eight per cent for this school year, Lindley told trustees.

Board to sell school

Halton Board of Education decided Thursday, just two months after closing Palermo school, to dispose of it.

After years of discussion the board closed the small school with a shrinking enrolment at the end of June.

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