



# FIRE PREVENTION



Meet your Acton & Georgetown firefighters

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See photos of your fire services

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Special pullout section

12 Pages



All photos were submitted or by Ted Brown

## Fire Prevention Week

# Focus this year is on home fires

Although the one-week theme for Fire Prevention Week is "Help Prevent Home Fires", Halton Hills firefighters want the theme to be practised year-round. Let's work as a group towards the elimination of house fires altogether.

Eliminating the unsafe practices that are associated with the starting of house fires, we can eliminate needless tragedies and deaths.

What can be more devastating than the loss of a child, family member, close friend or a relative? A house can be reconstructed, belongings can be replaced... a life cannot.

If we remove reckless cooking habits, careless use of smoking materials and the careless use of candles, our homes would be so much safer.

How many house fires have resulted from the stove being left on and the occupant falling asleep on the couch?

How many house fires have resulted from an alcohol induced sleep while smoking?

How many house fires have resulted from candles being left to burn while occupants have gone to bed?

No matter what the headlines read, these "what should be considered criminal acts" continue to happen. Innocent lives are taken from us but the same habits continue. The investigations continue to name the cause as careless smoking, careless use of candles or careless cooking.

Careless can be described in brief as inconsiderate, unconcerned, thoughtless, insensitive and uncaring. These are only a few of the words to describe carelessness.

In some circumstances, "criminal" should be added. People know the



Captain Dave Ford

consequences of alcohol-induced sleep and smoking— laying down while cooking on the stove and leaving candles to burn when going to bed. They are sometimes the ones who mutter about the stupidity of it all when they read the newspapers or listen to the news.

Bad habits are hard to break, but they can be done with continued practice and commitment. If you are in one of the above categories, stop and think of the consequences and the danger you are putting yourself and others in.

When you see a firefighter in your travels, speak to him and value his information. What he says, may save your life.

With everybody's help, we can eliminate house fires and the needless deaths and injuries that come with them.

For more information regarding Fire Prevention Week contact: David Ford, Captain— Public Education 905-873-2601 ext. 2115

—David Ford is the captain, Public Education Division, of Halton Hills Fire Protection and Prevention Services



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