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No fatalities but some still without smoke alarms



It won't be long and we'll be celebrating the incoming of 2009. Where has this past year gone so fast?
 Being in the Fire Service, nothing can be more traumatic to a firefighter than the needless death of a child or adult in a house fire. With the minimal cost of smoke alarms today and the need to introduce a Provincial Law in March of 2006 requiring smoke alarms be installed on every storey of the home and outside sleeping areas, we should never have to experience these deaths. Of course, the installation of residential sprinkler systems would provide many positive results and favorable statistics. However, that is a story in itself for a later date.
 I couldn't be happier to say that 2008 was another

year free of fire fatalities in Halton Hills. While we did experience some major house fires with extreme dollar losses, nobody was seriously injured or died in any of the incidents. The most serious injuries were experienced by our own firefighters, and they were luckily not long term recovery cases. Why is it though, that when these fires are investigated, we still find two of the leading causes being careless smoking and unattended cooking as the cause? Other causes have included electrical deficiencies, lightning strike and yes, we are also susceptible to the criminal element where arson was determined. We cannot deliver the message enough about the leading causes of house fires and yet, they continue.

So, it's been proven in a number of cases that smoke alarms do in fact save lives. Why is it now though, that not everybody has these rather inexpensive "lifesavers" in their home? That's right, occupancies are still out there, where a smoke alarm will not be found. Common sense tells me that, in the event of a house fire and somebody dies, criminal charges should be laid against the party responsible for the installation and maintenance of these so called "lifesavers". So inexpensive, so easy to install and so easy to maintain, that there is no excuse to not to have them.

Let's team up and see if we can gather at the same time next year and be able to see the same results.

Should you have any questions regarding smoke alarms please call:
David Ford,
Captain
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