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## THE FIRE PIT with Captain David Ford

# 2009 A brand new year

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So we've entered 2009. A new year full of mystery and intrigue, not to mention many new challenges as well.

With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season just behind us, let's rest, relax and try to return to some normalcy in our life. All things related to the festive season such as the lights and decorations can now be put back in storage for another year. Lawn ornaments, flood lights and extension cords can all be stuffed into the tote boxes for yet another season. Take a few minutes though, and closely inspect these lights and accessories for any possible damage and if conditions are questionable, toss them now. This can be an ideal time for a bit of housecleaning in preparation for next years display.

While in the mood and checking things over, why not give the smoke

alarms another test? With all the activities taking place over the holidays, now would be a good time to ensure they are working to. There is no doubt in my mind that unless there were false activations happening or turkeys being burned, smoke alarms would be the last thing on your mind. So, for the few minutes it takes, check and test the alarms to ensure they are functional.

It is so unfortunate that these reminders are said over and over again and repeated so frequently, but repetition is necessary. But it doesn't matter how we try to drive the point home, incidents still happen. It may be hard to believe but it is this time of year, Christmas and New Years that statistics for major incidents increase substantially. Lumping things together such as careless smoking, careless cooking, misuse of candles,

fatigue and alcohol, it all really makes for a very dangerous cocktail. We know how things can be a challenge when we are just over tired, let alone combined with other influences.

So, when things get back on track, when some normalcy returns to your day to day activities, just sit back and review everything that has taken place. Take those few minutes and make sure the alarms are still functional. When you hear that loud, annoying shrill, say a couple of words, but please include a thank you....it could be a blessing.

On behalf of the entire Halton Hills Fire Protection & Prevention Staff, have a great, but fire safe 2009.

Should you have any questions regarding fire and life safety, please call:

David Ford, Captain - Public Education (905) 873-2601 ext. 2115

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