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Laurier and Waterloo Fire Rescue to host live room burn demo during O-Week

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s Safety, Health, Environment and Risk Management department (SHERM) together with Laurier’s Students’ Union and Waterloo Fire Rescue (WFR) will be facilitating a live room burn demonstration and kitchen grease fire demonstration **Sept. 6 at 5 p.m.** on the university’s Northdale campus in Waterloo. The demonstration is part of Laurier’s Orientation Week activities to teach students about fire safety and emergency procedures.

“Waterloo Fire Rescue appreciates the opportunity to partner with SHERM to educate first-year students on the dangers of fire,” said **John Percy**, public education officer, Waterloo Fire Rescue.

The room burn demonstration will consist of a single room made up of typical residential construction materials, bedroom furniture, and a working smoke alarm. The room will be set on fire by WFR firefighters. Percy will discuss how quickly a fire can destroy a room, the importance of having an evacuation plan and following fire alarm procedures, and the necessity of having working smoke alarms.

The kitchen grease fire demonstration will be hosted in WFR’s kitchen fire safety demonstration trailer. Firefighters will demonstrate how to properly extinguish a grease fire. The teaching points will also include the importance of never putting water on a grease fire.

“The room burn and cooking trailer demonstrations will provide students with a visual example of how quickly a fire spreads, the importance of working smoke alarms and knowing what to do if a fire occurs,” said Percy. “The cooking trailer will demonstrate the correct and incorrect techniques of extinguishing a pot on the stove fire. Our great partnership with Laurier is assisting Waterloo Fire Rescue to help shape our fire-safe community.”

“This is the second year in a row that we’re able to provide a live room burn demonstration for our students; however, this is the first year that it will be conducted during Orientation Week,” said **Philip Teskey**, emergency management and fire safety officer at Laurier. “This is an invaluable opportunity for us to teach all first-year students about the importance of practicing fire safety. We’re very appreciative of the support of our partners at WFR, the Students’ Union, the Department of Residence, Physical Resources and the generous contributions of Thomasfield Homes Ltd. who donated the building materials.”

For more information about SHERM contact Philip Teskey at 519-884-0710 ext. 3887 or pteskey@wlu.ca, or visit wlu.ca/sherm.

For more information about other O-Week activities, visit: <https://www.wlu.ca/media/news-releases/september-2016/laurier-welcomes-4000-new-students-with-week-of-orientation-events.html>