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# 3 crucial carbon monoxide safety tips

Safety is a top priority for homeowners, yet many fail to adhere to some of the most basic home safety rules. Scott McGillivray, host of HGTV's popular show Income Property says he is always shocked when people seem more concerned about the speed of their Internet connection or their TV program bundles than their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

"One enhances your life, the other can save it," McGillivray says. "It is not acceptable for anyone, whether they rent out an income suite or not, to compromise fire or CO safety."

Here are Scott's top three safety reminders:

- 1. Install a smoke alarm on every floor of your home and outside all sleeping areas. It is now law in Ontario, as well, that you must install a CO alarm (or combination smoke/CO alarm) outside sleeping areas if your home has any potential source of the deadly gas.
- 2. Test alarms monthly. However, understand that if the alarm sounds it is just confirming power is getting to the unit and the circuitry is working. It does not confirm that an alarm's sensor is functioning at an optimal level.
- 3. Smoke and CO alarms do not last forever. Check the age of all alarms. Replace smoke alarms that are over 10 years old and CO alarms manufactured prior to 2009.

McGillivray points out that he only installs Kidde hardwired combination smoke/CO alarms in his

renovations. He looks for alarms with advanced

sensors and a sealed 10-year battery for back up in case of a power failure, like the ones from Kidde.

"By never having to change batteries these worry-free alarms save you money," he says. "And the alarms also last 10 years from the time of installation. That's priceless peace of mind."

More safety tips can be found at www.scottmcgillivray.com.

— www.newscanada.com



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