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**Are There Heroes in Your Home?**

Arnprior Fire Department kicks off 2019 Home Fire and Life Safety Program.

Believe it or not spring is nearly behind us and summer is soon upon us. It is that time of year when the members of the Arnprior Fire Department want to remind everyone to check their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are in proper working order.

**Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms Save Lives**

While firefighters are always viewed as being heroes for battling the dangers of a fire, it is the actions of working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms that warn residents of the hazards at its earliest point of detection. By having the early detection of smoke or carbon monoxide in your home combined with a home escape plan, people are able to get outside before the conditions in the home reach a hazardous level. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are the REAL HEROES that should be present on every level of your home and checked regularly to ensure they are always on duty to protect you and your loved ones.

**What's the Risk?**

In homes today conditions of a fire can grow 8 times faster than they did 50 years ago. This means you may have less than 60 seconds to escape a fire in your home. Recent statistics show that in 1 out of 3 fatal home fire cases there were no working smoke alarms present in the home.

In Ontario, over 65% of all carbon monoxide deaths and injuries occur in homes. Many Ontario households have, on average, 4–6 fuel-burning appliances that produce carbon monoxide. These appliances include furnaces, water heaters, fireplaces, portable fuel-fired generators, dryers, stoves, barbecues, and portable fuel-fired heaters. It is important to ensure proper installation and always follow the manufactures instruction for their use.

**What can Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms do?**

Only working smoke alarms give you the early warning you need to safely escape a fire. Smoke alarms can increase your chances of surviving a fire in your home by up to 50%.

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odourless gas and therefore known as “The Silent Killer.” A carbon monoxide alarm has the ability to detect the presence of the gas at levels well below the hazardous amounts allowing you and your family time to escape the hazard.

### **How do I Protect MY Family?**

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home and smoke and carbon monoxide alarms outside all sleeping areas. For BEST protection install smoke alarms in every bedroom and have them interconnected to all other alarms in the home. Test smoke alarms MONTHLY and change any batteries at least once per year. Develop and practice a home fire escape plan with all family members present.

In the upcoming weeks of June as part of the annual Home Fire and Life Safety Program, members of the Arnprior Fire Department will be performing home inspections in randomly selected areas of the community. The focus of the inspections is to ensure residents of the community are protected from the hazards of a smoke and or carbon monoxide emergency. Firefighters will be dressed in Arnprior Fire Department uniforms and carrying proper identification. Inspections are being scheduled to take place on Wednesday evenings during their normally scheduled training sessions.

Any questions anyone may have regarding the requirements of smoke or carbon monoxide alarms can be directed to the Arnprior Fire Department, Fire Prevention Office at 613-623-4231. For additional information, you can visit the Town of Arnprior Website at [www.arnprior.ca](http://www.arnprior.ca), or the Ontario Fire Marshal's website at [www.ofm.gov.on.ca](http://www.ofm.gov.on.ca)

Statistics provided by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management of Ontario.

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