

## Fire Services Prevention and Public Safety Update - April 2026

Presented To: Community and Emergency Services Committee

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Meeting Date: April 20, 2026

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Type: Correspondence for Information Only

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### Report Summary

This report provides an update regarding the recent activities of the Fire Prevention and Public Education Sections of the Fire Services Division, Community Services Department.

### Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### Background

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Section of Fire Services is comprised of eight staff members: a Chief Fire Prevention Officer, five Fire Prevention Officers, one Public Safety Officer, and one Fire Prevention Clerk. The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) recommends that municipal fire protection services be built on the three lines of defense: Public Fire Safety Education, Fire Safety Standards and Code Enforcement, and Emergency Response.

This section is responsible for upholding the first two lines of defense. Fire Prevention staff act as Assistants to the Ontario Fire Marshal and enforce Fire Code compliance under the authority of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*. Enforcement activities include property inspections, building permits and plans review, onsite training, and legal prosecution where necessary.

The OFM mandates three types of inspections:

- Request inspections
- Complaint inspections
- Vulnerable Occupancy inspections (care and treatment or residential care facilities)

All Fire Prevention Officers hold NFPA 1031 certification, meeting the Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plans Examiner. The Public Safety Officer holds NFPA 1035 Level II certification as a Public Fire and Life Safety Educator and Public Information Officer.

## 2025 Fire Inspections

In 2025, the Fire Prevention Section completed the following inspections:

Inspection Type	Number Completed
Complaint Inspections	284
Request Inspections	478
Vulnerable Occupancies	52
Target Inspections	19
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>833</b>

## Proactive Residential Fire Inspection Strategy

In response to the exceptionally high number of fire related fatalities across Ontario in 2022 (133 deaths), Fire Services launched a proactive residential fire inspection strategy aimed at reducing preventable fire tragedies by improving Code compliance in higher risk residential buildings. This initiative remains a priority in 2026, especially as the Office of the Fire Marshal has publicly acknowledged a continued rise in fatal fires last year, describing 2025 as a period marked by “several fatal fires that destroyed multiple families” and noting a broader increase in fire fatalities across the province.

The program focuses particularly on older residential buildings constructed prior to the introduction of the Ontario Building Code. These buildings may require retrofits or upgrades to meet minimum fire and life safety standards under the Ontario Fire Code. By conducting proactive inspections, Fire Prevention Officers can identify deficiencies early, ensure corrective action is taken, and reduce the fire risk within some of the community’s most vulnerable housing stock.

To ensure long-term risk reduction, Fire Services has established a ten-year timeline to complete inspections of all targeted residential occupancies identified through this initiative. The phased approach allows Fire Prevention to focus resources strategically while steadily improving safety conditions across the municipality.

## Residential Occupancies – Targeted Inspection Overview

Type of Occupancy	Number of Buildings	Avg. Inspection Time (hrs)	Estimated Total Hours
Duplex	1,698	3.0	5,094
Triplex	434	3.25	1,410
Four-plex	418	3.5	1,463
Five-plex	75	3.75	281
Six-plex	70	4.0	280
Seven + Units	342	7.0	2,394

## Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs)

Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) are a new enforcement tool available to Ontario fire services as of January 1, 2026, created under Ontario Regulation 260/25 of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act to address specific, lower- risk Fire Code violations through an administrative monetary penalty rather than court- based process. They allow municipalities to issue fixed, escalating monetary penalties for certain contraventions and were introduced to give fire departments a faster, more efficient way to promote compliance. AMPs reduce reliance on the court system, provide a consistent province- wide penalty structure, and lessen administrative burdens by enabling quicker action on low- risk infractions. They also serve as a progressive compliance tool—used alone or alongside traditional enforcement mechanisms—helping improve overall fire safety outcomes while reserving prosecutions for more serious or high- risk violations.

## New Carbon Monoxide (CO) Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2026, the Ontario Fire Code introduces expanded carbon monoxide (CO) alarm requirements aimed at improving early detection and reducing CO- related injuries and fatalities. Under the new rules, any existing home or residential building containing a fuel- burning appliance, fireplace, attached garage, or heating supplied by a fuel- burning appliance must now have CO alarms adjacent to every sleeping area and on every storey of the dwelling, not just near bedrooms as previously required. These updates bring Ontario’s standards in line with the 2020 National Fire Code and apply broadly to detached houses, townhomes, cottages, multi- unit residential buildings, and condominiums. The regulations also place responsibilities on homeowners, landlords, and tenants to ensure proper installation, testing, and maintenance of alarms. Overall, the updated Fire Code reflects a province- wide effort to reduce risks posed by carbon monoxide—an odourless, colourless gas that remains a leading cause of preventable home fatalities.

## Rapid Mobilization Table (RMT)

The Chief Fire Prevention Officer participates in the Rapid Mobilization Table (RMT), a collaborative network of approximately 50 human service agencies. The RMT focuses on:

- Early identification of situations involving acutely elevated risk

- Coordinated, rapid intervention
- Enhanced information sharing among trained professionals

Fire Services supports the RMT by providing fire inspections, hazard identification, and fire safety education to individuals or households referred through the table.

### **Building Permit Plans Examination**

A key responsibility of the Fire Prevention Officer Plans Examiner is to conduct Building Permit Plans Examinations in partnership with Building Services. This ensures submitted drawings meet the fire and life safety provisions outlined in the Ontario Building Code, including but not limited to:

- Fire alarm systems
- Sprinkler systems
- Fire separations
- Special extinguishing systems
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarm requirements

Fire Prevention also provides input through participation in Sudbury Planning Application Review Team (SPART) meetings, helping identify fire and life safety concerns early in the development process.

### **Fire Safety Booklet Initiative (Launched 2023 – Ongoing in 2026)**

Fire Services launched the comprehensive Fire Safety Booklet in 2023 to consolidate multiple individual pamphlets, flyers, and handouts into a single, accessible resource for residents. Now in its third year, the booklet continues to be a key public education tool in 2026.

Designed as a “one stop” reference, the booklet provides clear guidance on a wide range of fire and life safety topics, including:

- Open air burning regulations
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarm requirements
- Home escape planning
- Cooking, electrical, and heating safety
- Safe smoking practices
- Fire extinguisher use
- Portable generator safety
- Cottage and rural fire safety

Since its introduction, distribution of the booklet has expanded each year. In 2026, it remains available:

- At community events, presentations, and GSFS public education activities
- Through rural community associations, networks, and local community groups
- Online via the City of Greater Sudbury website for easy access by residents

The Public Safety Officer continues to work closely with community associations and rural groups to broaden outreach, ensuring the booklet reaches residents in all areas of the municipality. This includes attending meetings, delivering fire safety presentations, and providing printed copies of the booklet.

The Fire Safety Booklet remains a foundational component of Fire Services' public education strategy, supporting ongoing efforts to reduce fire risk and enhance community awareness across Greater Sudbury.

### **Save by the Beep Provincial Campaign**

On September 21 and 22, 2025, Sudbury Fire collaborated with Science North and the Office of the Fire Marshal to deliver a two-day public safety event in support of the provincial "Saved by the Beep" campaign. The partnership brought together Sudbury Fire's operational knowledge, Science North's interactive learning environment, and the Fire Marshal's leadership in fire prevention to provide residents with clear, evidence-based information on the importance of working smoke alarms. Throughout the event, attendees engaged in hands-on demonstrations, educational displays, and discussions focused on early detection and home-fire preparedness. This collaboration enhanced community awareness, reinforced a consistent province-wide safety message, and supported the ongoing goal of reducing fire-related injuries and fatalities through proactive public education.

### **Residential Fire Safety Outreach Program**

In 2025, Fire Prevention Officers visited more than 800 homes through the Residential Fire Safety Outreach Program, attending neighbourhoods immediately after a fire to provide residents with essential fire-safety information. By offering door-to-door education on smoke alarms, escape planning, and home fire hazards, the program strengthens community awareness and helps reduce the risk of future incidents.

### **Social Media Outreach**

Fire Services uses social media platforms, including the Fire Services' website and CGSFireServices on "X", to distribute fire and life safety messages on topics such as BBQ safety, burning bylaws, electrical hazards, cooking safety, wildfire prevention, heating safety, smoking, water safety, and more.

### **Senior / Older Adult Programs**

Adults aged 65+ are at increased risk of fire-related injury and death. The Public Safety Officer provides:

- In-home fire safety assessments
- Personalized fire and life safety education
- Resources and supports tailored to older adults

Residents aged 55+ may request a free consultation by calling 311.

## **Conclusion**

Fire Prevention and Public Education staff play a vital role in delivering the first two lines of defense recommended by the Office of the Fire Marshal: Public Fire Safety Education and Fire Safety Standards and Code Enforcement. Through inspections, community outreach, partnerships, and targeted education, the team is committed to reducing fire risk and enhancing the safety of all who live, work, and visit the City of Greater Sudbury.

Fire Services will continue to pursue new strategies and partnerships to strengthen community fire safety and reduce fire incidents across the municipality.