

TOWN OF KINGSVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
MASTER FIRE PLAN

ORGANIZATIONAL RISK ANALYSIS

PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

The Office of the Fire Marshal has identified three "lines of defense" in terms of the overall fire protection for a community:

- Public fire safety education.
- Fire prevention inspections and code enforcement.
- Emergency response.

The philosophy of this strategy is to provide buildings which are as fire safe as possible, to educate residents in fire prevention/fire safety and to provide effective emergency response should the first two strategies fail. While the general public views the fire service as primarily providing emergency response services, the premise of the "three lines of defense" is that the system has failed each time an emergency fire response is required. In support of these lines of defense, the Fire Protection and Prevention Act mandates that municipalities provide specified core services as related to fire prevention-code enforcement and public fire safety education. The mandatory provisions include:

- A recognized residential smoke alarm program.
- Fire inspections and code enforcement upon complaint or request and other inspection services as determined by the needs and circumstances of the community.
- A public fire safety education program.
- Completion of a Simplified Risk Assessment.

Public Education Requirements and Needs

The Kingsville Fire Department has provided public fire safety education for decades and had a well-established elementary school program long before these requirements became mandatory. The current school program is coordinated by the Fire Prevention Officer and carried out annually with the assistance of a number of the volunteer firefighters who faithfully assist each year. The program has met with very positive feedback and positive measurable results. It will be enhanced with the addition of a fire safety education trailer which will arrive in the spring of 2009. In an average year, this program is directly attended by 450 students in grades 1-2. Our experience has shown these students share the fire safety behaviours they have learned with the other members of their families. However, several other programs should be

considered in order to meet our local needs and circumstances. Our initial Simplified Risk Assessment showed that a significant number of residential fires in Kingsville originate in the kitchen due to careless cooking practices. Programs such as "Put A Lid on It" targeted at families and seniors would be a great starting point for this. As well, our growing seniors population could be best served by programs such as "Remember When" and "Older and Wiser." Provincial statistics show that seniors and children are the high risk groups in terms of fire safety and we have significant, and growing, portions of the population in each of these two groups. Youth represents over 18% of our total population and seniors represent over 14% (*Source: Town of Kingsville Regional Community Profile*). The only municipality in the county with a higher percentage of seniors in their population is Leamington. The school program gives us direct access to children and indirect access to the families of students through the information they take home. We need to utilize the media and other strategies to get the message to other populations within our community. The Office of the Fire Marshal has adopted a standard of "10 fire department personnel on the scene of a single unit residential fire in under 10 minutes 90% of the time" as the benchmark to be achieved. This standard is impossible to reach in some areas of our municipality due to the sheer distance that fire apparatus has to travel. Where the standard cannot be achieved, the Office of the Fire Marshal suggests aggressive public fire safety education. Meeting this goal will require staff time. The department also provides fire safety training to groups such as health care workers, rest home workers and industry. These programs are well received and assist in increasing public safety and decreasing fire losses. Well-trained staff at these locations can greatly assist in occupant safety during emergencies. In addition, they will take a more pro-active approach to fire prevention in their respective workplaces. The Fire Prevention Risk Analysis described the issues with migrant worker housing in greenhouse complexes. In addition, a pro-active fire safety education program for these workers is another important aspect of our public education initiatives that should be investigated. This program would need to be delivered to over 1,400 workers many of whom do not speak English. The program would have to be ongoing, as well, due to the yearly staff changes.

At the present time all of our public education endeavours are on an "as requested" basis except for the school program. Statistics over the past fifteen years have shown that public fire safety education coupled with inspections and code enforcement truly do have a positive impact reducing fire deaths and fire losses with a drop in the provincial fire death rate of over 50%. Except for the school program, the current staffing levels only enable us to make our public fire safety education programs reactive instead of pro-active. We are also finding

that it is becoming more difficult for volunteer staff to devote their time to public education due to the increased commitment required for training and fire suppression/emergency response duties.

TAPP-C Program:

The Arson Prevention Program for Children was designed by the Office of the Fire Marshal and mental health care providers to assist families with children who demonstrate fire setting behaviour. This is a growing problem in society and one which can have devastating results. While we do not have a large number of these cases each year, they do occur and it is important for us to assist these children and their families. The program involves a fire service component and a mental health component. The fire service component consists of a home safety inspection and additional department sessions with the individual involved. Staff training is required in order to perform this successfully and additional follow-up after the sessions is sometimes necessary. All of these efforts involve commitment of staff time.

Public Fire Safety Education Statistics:

For purposes of information, the following statistics are provided regarding public fire safety education activities:

2004 Public Education

	Sessions	Children	Teenagers	Adults	Older Adults
School Visits	28	621	0	60	
Station Tour	2	15	0	2	11
Safety Village	6	141	0	21	
Portable Extinguisher	3		0	67	0
Older & Wiser	2				29
Fire Safety (Care & Tx.)	2			121	
Other	2	53	0	9	0
TOTAL	45	830	0	280	40

2005 Public Education

	Sessions	Children	Teenagers	Adults	Older Adults
School Visits	37	832	0	95	
Station Tour	4	103	0	23	0
Safety Village	4	113	0	36	
Portable Extinguisher	0		0	0	0
Older & Wiser	0				0
Fire Safety (Care & Tx.)	0			0	
Other	1	18	0	3	0
TOTAL	46	1066	0	157	0

2006 Public Education

	Sessions	Children	Teenagers	Adults	Older Adults
School Visits	26	555	230	40	
Station Tour	4	105	0	28	0
Safety Village	1	23	0	4	
Portable Extinguisher	1		0	11	0
Older & Wiser	0				0
Fire Safety (Care & Tx.)	0			0	
Other	2	40	0	120	0
TOTAL	34	723	230	203	0

2007 Public Education

	Sessions	Children	Teenagers	Adults	Older Adults
School Visits	34	568	142	39	
Station Tour	2	29	0	4	0
Safety Village	0	0	0	0	
Portable Extinguisher	2		0	47	0
Older & Wiser	1				25
Fire Safety (Care & Tx.)	0			0	
Other	3	115	30	21	25
TOTAL	42	712	172	111	50

2008 Public Education

	Sessions	Children	Teenagers	Adults	Older Adults
School Visits	27	537	0	38	
Station Tour	2	42	0	12	0
Safety Village	0	0	0	0	
Portable Extinguisher	3		0	32	0
Older & Wiser	0				0
Fire Safety (Care & Tx.)	0			0	
Other	1	0	0	0	30
TOTAL	33	579	0	82	30

The following recommendations are provided as part of the Organizational Risk Analysis for Public Fire Safety Education:

- ***Recommendation #1: Provide the staff time necessary to present public fire safety education programs such as Older and Wiser or Remember When to seniors groups.***
- ***Recommendation #2: Liaise with the South Essex Community Council and other groups to obtain and/or provide public fire safety educational materials for migrant workers in their own language. Provide the staff time necessary to present public fire safety education programs to these workers.***
- ***Recommendation #3: Discuss the possibility of enhancing the public fire safety education program in the schools with school administrators, and based on staff availability, to include higher level grades, reiterate and evaluate previous fire safety education and include additional fire safety topics.***