



NEWS RELEASE December 18, 2009

For immediate release

Milton Fire Department reminds residents to be fire safe this holiday season

The Milton Fire Department is urging families and individuals to be especially cautious about fire safety over the holiday season, which is one of the deadliest times of the year for home fires.

“This is a very busy time for many people and it’s easy to get distracted or forgetful,” said Milton Fire Chief, Brian Ellsworth. “All it takes is for a pot to be left on the stove, or a candle left burning unattended, and a family’s holiday celebrations can go up in smoke.”

Enjoy a fire-safe holiday season by following these tips:

- Cooking is a major cause of home fires, so be sure to stay in the kitchen if there’s something cooking on the stove. If a pot catches fire, don’t try to move it. Cover the pot with a lid to smother the flames and turn off the burner.
- If the smoke alarm activates when you’re cooking, do not remove the batteries. Try moving the smoke alarm, or install an alarm with a hush feature.
- Lit candles should be placed in sturdy candleholders that won’t tip and are covered with a glass shade. Candles should be situated away from children, pets and any combustible items.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Drink responsibly and keep an eye on those who do not. Excessive alcohol consumption is a contributing factor in many residential fires.
- Install and maintain working smoke alarms on every storey of the home and outside all sleeping areas. It’s the law. Failure to comply with the smoke alarm law can result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for corporations.

“We hope that the law requiring smoke alarms on each storey of a residence is only a small incentive to check that your smoke alarms are working properly,” added Fire Chief Ellsworth. “Smoke alarms have proven on more than one occasion to save lives, and it only takes a few minutes to test your smoke alarms and install new batteries if necessary.”

To download holiday fire safety public service announcements, visit www.ofm.gov.on.ca. For more information on the Milton Fire Department, visit www.milton.ca/MiltonFire.

- 30 -

For further information, please contact:

Brian Ellsworth
Fire Chief
905-878-7252, ext. 2807

Liliana Busnello
Communications Specialist
905-878-7252, ext. 2154
