



TOWNSHIP OF GUELPH-ERAMOSA FIRE DEPARTMENT

5141 COUNTY ROAD 27
ROCKWOOD, ONTARIO
N0B 2K0
Telephone (519) 856-9637
Fax (519) 856-9736

New Smoke Alarm Legislation

March 1,2006

This new amendment to the Fire Code comes into effect on March 1, 2006. After that date, fire departments will be enforcing the regulation in communities throughout Ontario. Every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. IT'S THE LAW.

Homeowners: It is the responsibility of homeowners to install and maintain smoke alarms on every storey of their home and outside sleeping areas.

Landlords: It is the responsibility of landlords to ensure their rental properties comply with the law.

Tenants: If you are a tenant of a rental property and do not have the required number of smoke alarms, contact your landlord immediately. It is against the law for tenants to remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm in any way.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE FIRE CODE SMOKE ALARM REQUIREMENTS COULD RESULT IN A TICKET FOR \$235 OR A FINE OF UP TO \$50,000 FOR INDIVIDUALS OR \$100,000 FOR CORPORATIONS.

When installing smoke alarms, refer to the manufacturer's instructions for information about correct placement.

Test your smoke alarms every month using the test button.

Replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, and whenever the low-battery warning chirps.

Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace smoke alarms with new ones if they are more than ten years old.

Steam from the shower or cooking in the oven, stove or toaster can cause smoke alarms to activate. **DO NOT REMOVE THE BATTERY.** Instead, try moving the alarm to a different location, or purchase a smoke alarm with a hush feature that will temporarily silence the alarm. For further information about dealing with nuisance alarms, visit the Ontario Fire Marshal's website: www.ofm.gov.on.ca

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