

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF TEMAGAMI

BY-LAW NO. 11-1017

Being a By-law to adopt a Smoke Alarm Policy and Program for the Municipality of Temagami

WHEREAS the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, as amended, requires that every municipality shall establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention;

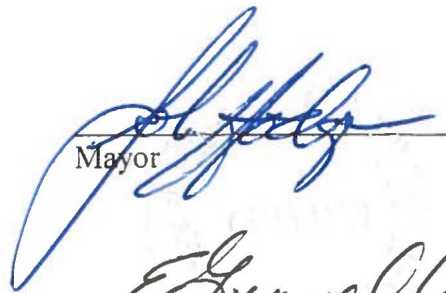

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Temagami deems it desirable to update the current Smoke Alarm Policy to provide flexibility to meet the needs and circumstances of the community;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami enacts as follows:

1. That By-law No. 07-693 is hereby repealed;
2. That the Municipality of Temagami adopts the Smoke Alarm Policy attached hereto as Schedule "A", which forms part of this By-law;
3. That the Clerk of the Municipality of Temagami is hereby authorized to make minor modifications or corrections of a grammatical or typographical nature to the by-law and schedule, after the passage of this by-law, where such modifications or corrections do not alter the intent of the by-law.
4. That this By-law shall come into full force and effect upon final passing thereof.

Read a first time this 14th day of July, 2011.

Read a second and third time and finally passed this 14th day of July, 2011.


Mayor

Clerk

Municipality of Temagami

Smoke Alarm Policy

This fire prevention policy has been reviewed and approved by the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami and is applicable in its entirety for the whole of the municipality.

Copies of this policy are available to the public through the Municipal Office or the Fire Department, upon request.

Ontario Fire Code O.Reg. 388/97; amended to O.Reg. 144/06 states:

Smoke alarms conforming to CAN/ULC-S531, “Smoke Alarms”, shall be installed between each sleeping area and the remainder of the **dwelling unit**, and where the sleeping areas are served by hallways, the **smoke alarms** shall be installed in the hallways. In addition to the requirements in Sentence (2), at least one **smoke alarm** shall be installed on each **storey** that does not contain a sleeping area in a **dwelling unit**. Existing **smoke alarms** meeting the requirements of ULC-S531-1978, “Smoke Alarms”, shall be deemed to be in compliance. 2.13.2.3.

Smoke alarms shall be maintained in operating condition by the **owner**.

6.3.3.2.(1)

It is the policy of the Municipality of Temagami to promote the installation and maintenance of working smoke alarms in all dwelling units within the Municipality.

Fire Departments will conduct yearly assessments of smoke alarm usage, through implementation of the "Municipality of Temagami Smoke Alarm Program".

This program includes the following activities:

- Smoke alarm surveys, including door to door surveys,
- Promotion of fire escape planning,
- Distribution of public education material,
- Smoke alarms and replacement batteries available for sale, at cost, at the municipal office and fire halls,
- Enforcement of smoke alarm legislation as identified in the Ontario Fire Code,
- Tracking and evaluation component.

Temagami Smoke Alarm Program

Goal of the Smoke Alarm program

Working Smoke alarms have proven their effectiveness in alerting residents to smoke and fire and reducing fire deaths. The benefits of having a home fire escape plan have been demonstrated time and time again in numerous news articles.

The goal of an effective smoke alarm program is to have working smoke alarms, properly located on every floor, in all dwelling units within the municipality. Home owners/tenants will be encouraged to develop and practice a home fire escape plan.

The Smoke Alarm Program for the Municipality of Temagami will promote the benefits of working smoke alarms and home fire escape planning through door to door surveys, distribution of smoke alarms and home escape planning information, fire department displays, promotions and presentations through out the Municipality.

Community Profile

The Municipality is split into 2 areas receiving varying fire protection services. The smoke alarm program recognizes the geographic and demographic varieties of each area with different survey methodology.

Full Fire Protection Services

Temagami Fire Department response area - primarily year round residences, 242 residences with hydrant protection, 97 residences outside hydrant coverage area.

Marten River Fire Department response area - combination of seasonal and year round residences - no hydrant protection, 82 residences in the response area within the municipality.

Limited Fire Protection Area

This area of the Municipality is inaccessible by fire apparatus. A total of 996 structures, mostly summer cottages and hunt camps, with intermittent occupancy, are scattered throughout the Municipality. Residents pay a reduced rate for fire services to reflect the limited suppression services provided (MNR Forest Fire Agreement- values protection - May to September).

Occupancy of these structures (primarily summer cottages) occurs sporadically through the summer, mainly on weekends, or during a 2 to 3 week time period (summer vacation).

Significant resources would be required to access all properties within this area - a large boat for big waters, small boat for smaller lakes, trailers, 4 wheel drive trucks, and possibly two all terrain vehicles (ATV) to get to some remote locations.

Data Collection Methodology

Full Fire Protection Service Areas

1. Door to Door Surveys

- Survey / interview team(s) will comprise of 2 members. Fire Department visual wear and identification will be provided to the interview team(s).
- Each team will carry smoke detectors, 9 volt batteries, and an assortment of prevention material focusing on smoke alarms, home fire escape planning and fire safety.
- Surveys, coordinated by the fire prevention officer, will be conducted throughout the year.
- The Fire Chief will prescribe, on an annual basis, the number and location of homes within the community to be surveyed for determining the level of compliance. Areas to be surveyed will be based on the results of previous surveys, targeting the majority of surveys to be conducted into areas not visited in the past year(s). A reasonable number of homes will be visited annually to monitor levels of compliance. Additional smoke alarm surveys may be conducted to increase community awareness of the importance of smoke alarms. Recognizing that some residents will not be at home at the time of the initial survey, additional attempts will be made to contact/survey the resident. A portion of the population may decline to participate in the survey, and this statistic will also be tabulated and evaluated.
- ◆ Survey questionnaire will be filled out at each residence visited (including non-participating locations) to determine levels of compliance with smoke alarm legislation.
- Residents will be asked to answer the questions on the survey, and also requested to allow fire department personnel to test all smoke detectors in the house.
- Homes without the appropriate number, or with non functional smoke detectors will be
 - Provided a smoke detector as a LOANER,
 - Advised of the cost of failing to have /maintain smoke detectors,
 - Given 1 week to purchase and install working alarms as required by law.
 - Advised that a representative of the department will return, shortly after the grace period, to obtain the LOANER unit, and confirm installation of the appropriate number of detectors required.
- ◆ Home owners that have failed to install alarms within the grace period given by the department will be charged based on provincial legislation. In conjunction with the charges laid, the LOANER unit will be left with the home owner, who will be given a shorter period in which to install the required alarm(s). Home owners, who continue to disregard provincial smoke alarm legislation, may be charged on a daily basis.
- ◆ Homes with smoke detectors with dead or missing batteries will be provided a 9-volt battery for each detector requiring one. The alarm will then be tested to confirm it is functional. Homeowners will be advised a follow up visit may occur to ensure the homeowner is maintaining the alarms as required by law. Non-compliance will result in the immediate issuance of a ticket under Ontario Fire Code regulations.

- Packages of fire prevention material will be left at all homes visited and will include, at a minimum, information on smoke alarms and home escape planning.

Limited Fire Protection Area

Given the lack of fire department resources to access the majority of cottages, the sporadic occupancy, and the difficulty to conduct an effective door to door survey, alternate means of contact with occupants are required.

- ◆ Opportunities to improve access to occupants, including community events and developing partnerships will continue to be explored, including:
 - ◆ Smoke alarm presentations / displays / promotions at events within or geared to the limited fire protection area will be part of the annual survey strategy.
 - ◆ Conducting sporadic surveys, on the larger lakes, when the resources and opportunities present themselves.

Kiosk / pamphlet display Unit

- Acrylic pamphlet display units have been established in the Municipal office outside the Chamber of Commerce, and in the Public Library.

Partnerships

1. Building Department

Numerous building permits are issued throughout the Municipality, all requiring on-site inspections by the building inspector.

- The Municipal Building Inspector will request the resident test their smoke alarm when conducting a building permit inspection (as circumstances dictate). A smoke alarm survey will be completed.
- The Fire Department will provide the Building Inspector with a supply of smoke alarms, batteries and literature to distribute, where required.
- All survey data will be forwarded to the fire prevention officer for inclusion in the smoke alarm usage database.

2. Local Merchants & Organizations

The Fire Department will make efforts to develop partnerships with local merchants and organizations to display and distribute fire educational materials to their customers, increasing the accessibility of fire prevention material to seasonal and full-time residents.

Tracking and Evaluation

Tracking:

A survey form will be completed for each contact / person / location.
A summary sheet will be completed based on information provided on the survey forms, compiled on a yearly basis - hard copy at this time. It is anticipated that the information

will be placed in a database, using the 911 civic addressing, to assist in the tracking and evaluation of survey information.

Evaluation:

Information will be summarized on a yearly basis. Smoke alarm usage and effectiveness will be noted and fire safety education programs/distribution of literature, based on trends identified, will be developed/revised.

The smoke alarm program will be evaluated and modified as circumstances dictate, ensuring it continues to meet the needs and circumstances of the community.

Distribution of Smoke Detectors & Batteries

Batteries and alarms will be made available, for residents, during displays / promotions.

Smoke detectors and batteries will be available for purchase, at cost, at the Municipal office

Distribution of pamphlets

The "distribution of educational material" component of the smoke alarm program will focus on providing information on smoke alarms and home fire escape planning.

Enforcement (smoke alarm legislation)

It is the homeowner's responsibility to install and maintain smoke alarms.

During smoke alarm surveys the fire department will leave a loaner smoke alarm(s) when encountering non-compliant dwellings.

A Notice of Violation will be issued with a maximum timeframe of one week allotted for the owner / tenant to comply. The owner will be required to provide proof of installation of the required working smoke alarms. Failure to comply within the allotted time will result in charges being laid.

Should the "loaner approach" not prove effective, a zero tolerance approach will be taken by the department, and immediately lay a charge when a dwelling is found to be non-compliant. Loaner units will be left to ensure the residents are protected with the appropriate number of detectors. Follow-up will continue to occur until such time the fire department confirms the dwelling is in compliance.

Recommendations to lay charges, based on Fire department members' observation / interaction with a home owner / tenant will be forwarded to the Chief for consideration. A zero tolerance approach may be taken at any time a dwelling is found to be non-compliant.