

Fire Officials Confirm No Working Smoke Alarms in Oshawa Fire Fatality

Grey Highlands Fire & Emergency Services is reminding all residents to ensure their smoke and CO alarms are correctly installed and operational after a fire in Oshawa claimed the lives of 4 people, including two children, Monday morning. Fire Officials from the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office have confirmed there were no working alarms in the duplex. Had smoke alarms been present, they would have provided the occupants with the early detection required to escape the fire.

The Ontario Fire Code requires every dwelling to have working smoke alarms on every level and outside sleeping quarters. Regularly testing your smoke alarms (recommended once per month) will ensure they are functioning in the event of a fire emergency.

On average, a working smoke alarm can detect a developing fire as quickly as 15 seconds. That's the incipient stage of a fire well before the environment becomes toxic. Smoke and fire spread quickly doubling in size every 30 seconds, which means early detection and prompt evacuation are key to survival.

Practice your fire escape plan with your family. It's one thing to have working smoke alarms, and another to know what to do in the event those alarms go off. Don't wait until a fire emergency to practice evacuation. Develop a fire escape plan and a safe meeting place outside, and practice it regularly. Keep small children and elderly family members who will require assistance in mind. Once outside, stay outside and call 9-1-1 from a safe location.