

Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council (FMPFSC)



Summer 2026



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Message from our Executive Director

As this newsletter goes to print, my thoughts are with the communities across Northern Ontario that are impacted by wildfires. As both the Executive Director of the FMPFSC and an active volunteer firefighter, these events hit me hard.

My heart goes out to the families who have been forced to evacuate, the communities facing uncertainty, and the firefighters, emergency responders, aviation crews, and volunteers working around the clock under unimaginable conditions. Thank you for your courage, dedication, and sacrifice. Once again, Ontario's fire service is demonstrating the very best of what it means to serve others.

Every partnership we build isn't just a partnership with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council (FMPFSC); it's a partnership with Ontario's fire service. When I meet with organizations, I'm looking for more than sponsorship. I'm looking for companies that genuinely care about keeping people safe and are willing to invest in fire departments and communities across the province.

That's why you'll see stories throughout this newsletter highlighting organizations that have stepped up to support all of us. Whether it's donating life safety equipment, supporting public education, or providing access to training resources, these partnerships make a real difference.

As a provincial charity, we're here to help. If your department has an idea that could benefit the fire service, reach out to us. If we don't already have a solution, we'll do everything we can to find one.

My door is always open to new ideas and partnerships. If you have an idea, see a need, or know of an organization that shares our commitment to supporting Ontario's fire service, I'd love to hear from you. Together, we can continue strengthening fire departments and helping build safer, more resilient communities across Ontario.



Jamie Kovacs

Public Education Best Practice

Protect What Matters Most: A Unique Partnership Between Scugog Fire & Vets Around the Corner

Scugog Fire & Emergency Services and Vets Around the Corner Veterinary Clinic have partnered to deliver **fire and carbon monoxide safety messaging** through an unexpected but highly effective channel: **pet owners**.

The partnership began following a residential fire in the Township of Scugog that resulted in the loss of two family pets, Finlo and Nora. The incident highlighted an important reality for many residents: pets are family, and concerns for their safety can be a powerful motivator for improving home fire safety.

William Woodstock, **President & CEO of Vets Around the Corner** and a **former firefighter and police officer**, partnered with Scugog Fire to raise awareness about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms through the connection between pet owners and their animals.

Launched at the clinic's grand opening, the partnership featured **fire safety education, home escape planning**, pet-focused resources, and giveaways. The event reached residents who may not typically engage with traditional fire prevention programs.

The clinic will continue sharing fire safety information with clients, helping families protect both loved ones and pets while promoting working smoke and CO alarms and reducing fire-related risks.



Lessons Learned / Best Practice

- Look beyond traditional partners. Community businesses can be valuable allies in delivering fire safety messages.
- Connect with what matters to residents. Pet safety creates an emotional connection that encourages action.
- Leverage trusted voices. Veterinarians are highly respected professionals who have regular contact with families and seniors.
- Meet people where they are. Delivering fire safety information in everyday community settings can help reach audiences that may not attend traditional fire prevention events.

"When we talk about smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, and home escape planning, we're talking about protecting everyone who depends on us. If focusing on pet safety helps one more family take action before a fire occurs, then we've made our community safer."

Kristy-Lynn Pankhurst, Fire Prevention Officer, Scugog Fire & Emergency Services



Milwaukee Tool Giveaway

The FMPFSC Partners with Milwaukee Tool to Support Ontario's Fire Service

We invite all Ontario municipal and First Nations fire departments to apply for a chance to win this HUGE prize pack from Milwaukee Tool, a brand committed to building better tools for the people who build and protect Canada.

ONE GRAND PRIZE AVAILABLE Prize Package Includes:

- **M18™ Brushless 18" Fan Kit:** Powerful cordless airflow for any fire station workspace or job site.
- **M18 ROCKET™ Dual Power Tower Light:** Brilliant, portable lighting built for the toughest conditions.
- **Milwaukee Tool Women's Workwear Bundle:** A FREEFLEX™ Hybrid Long Sleeve Tee and GRIDIRON™ Double Knee Jogger Pants, purpose-built for women on the job.
- **M18 FUEL™ 16" Chainsaw Kit:** Delivers professional-grade cutting performance, helping you tackle demanding jobs with less downtime and more productivity.
- **M18 FUEL™ 2-Tool Combo Kit:** Built for productivity and durability, this kit provides the power, runtime, and reliability professionals need to tackle demanding jobs every day.
- **M18™ 18V Cordless Tire Inflator with M18 Starter Kit:** Fast, accurate inflation for car, truck, and equipment tires without the hassle of cords.



The deadline to enter is July 31, 2026

Set your alarm: on **July 28 at 6 AM**, The **Weather Network** goes **live** from Central York Fire Services' training grounds for a special segment celebrating their new facility and the partnership with Milwaukee Tool. Lorianne Zwicker, Deputy Fire Chief of Community Risk & Public Education at CYFS, Jamie Kovacs, Executive Director, Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and Craig Baxter, Group President, Techtronic Industries Canada Inc., will demonstrate how cutting-edge tools and technology are shaping the future of fire safety in Canada.



Please fill out the application form above or email **James.Devlin@ttigroupna.com** to receive a copy by email. The FMPFSC will notify one winning department following the draw, and the winner will be announced on the FMPFSC social media channels and website.

Want a visit from Milwaukee Tool?

If your fire department is interested in learning more about how Milwaukee Tool can support your station, whether through product demos, partnership opportunities, or finding the right tools for the jobs you face every day, reach out directly to **James Devlin (James.Devlin@ttigroupna.com)**, District Manager, End User Marketing at Milwaukee Tool.



Success Story

Project Zero Alarm Helps Save Family

A loud alarm woke Brittney and her family in their Union, ON home, and she immediately remembered the fire safety advice shared by firefighters months earlier: **when alarms sound, get outside and call 911.**

The alarm had been installed during a previous carbon monoxide call when firefighters discovered her home lacked working smoke and CO alarms. Through **Enbridge Gas' Project Zero program**, firefighters provided a Kidde combination smoke and CO alarm and explained how to respond in an emergency.

Later, the alarm alerted Brittney to a dangerous carbon monoxide leak from her furnace. Firefighters returned to provide additional Project Zero alarms, further protecting her home.

Brittney's story shows that working smoke and CO alarms save lives and that this campaign does save lives. We invite you to share any stories with us that occurred where donated alarms have made a difference.

This year, **Project Zero is expanding**, with more than **15,000 Kidde combination smoke and CO alarms** being distributed to fire departments across the **Enbridge Gas service area.**



Central Elgin Resident Brittney, Captain Tim Kaplanis



OAFTO Instructor Development Conference

The **Ontario Association of Fire Training Officers (OAFTO) Instructor Development Conference (IDC)** is one of Ontario's premier professional development events for fire service instructors, training officers, and emergency services personnel. The conference features respected instructors and industry leaders from across Canada and the United States, offering valuable workshops, hands-on training, and leadership development opportunities.

The **FMPFSC** is proud to support events like the IDC that strengthen firefighter education, encourage continuous learning, and enhance emergency response across Ontario.

The **2026 OAFTO Instructor Development Conference** will take place **September 21–25, 2026**, at the **Fire and Emergency Services Training Institute** in Mississauga. Registration is now open, with options to attend the full conference or individual days.

To learn more or register, visit www.oafto.ca and select Instructor Development Conference (IDC) under the Events section.



Partnership in Action

Medallion Insurance is Springing into Fire Safety

As we transition into the warmer months, it's the perfect time to look back at the incredible success of our recent **Spring into Summer** fire prevention campaign.

One partnership that continues to make a real difference is our work with **Medallion Insurance**. Together, we've been able to put valuable public education resources into the hands of fire departments across Ontario.

Since this partnership began, we've received an incredible 546 applications from fire services across Ontario, a clear reminder of just how important and in-demand these resources are for the communities they serve.



Recipients for Spring into Summer 2026

Innisfil, Orangeville, Stratford, Strathroy, Centre Wellington, Perth, Sault St. Marie, South Huron, Woolwich, Caledon, Fort Erie, Stouffville, Huntsville, Magnetawan, Markham, Killarney, Espanola, Cobourg, Uxbridge and Oshawa

Medallion Insurance initially committed to donating **10 Spring into Summer 2026 Kits**. After witnessing the enthusiastic response and positive impact on participating departments, they **doubled their commitment**, generously donating **20 kits**.

To date, they have successfully donated and delivered **62 FMPFSC public education kits** into the hands of fire departments across Ontario. These kits are already at work across Ontario, providing fire educators with the tools, resources, and materials they need to keep their communities safe, informed, and resilient.



We'd like to thank Medallion Insurance Group for their continued commitment to supporting fire departments across Ontario.

To ensure your department stays in the loop about future campaigns, funding opportunities, and kit distributions, follow them on social media.



Partner Spotlight

Ontario Association of Fire Educators (OAFE)

Public education is one of the most effective ways to prevent fires and save lives, and the **Ontario Association of Fire Educators (OAFE)** is helping lead that effort across the province.

OAFE brings together **fire and life safety educators from departments of every size** to share ideas, develop skills, and strengthen public education programs. Through training, workshops, networking, and ready-to-use resources, members gain access to practical tools that help them deliver engaging fire and carbon monoxide safety messages in their communities.

Whether you're a dedicated public educator, fire prevention officer, volunteer firefighter, suppression firefighter, or Chief responsible for public education, OAFE offers valuable professional development, peer support, and a province-wide network of people who share the same passion for community safety.

If your department is looking to strengthen its public education efforts and connect with others doing the same work, consider becoming a member of OAFE.

Learn more about membership and upcoming opportunities at www.oafe.ca



Ontario Fire Academy™ Duty, Honour, Service

We're proud to welcome the **Ontario Fire Academy** as a valued sponsor of the **FMPFSC**. The Academy's commitment to developing skilled, professional firefighters through realistic, hands-on training aligns closely with our mission of supporting Ontario's fire service through education, partnerships, and public safety initiatives.

Together, we're helping strengthen Ontario's fire service by investing in the people, programs, and resources that make our communities safer.

Thank you, Ontario Fire Academy, for your support.



Inclusive Community Campaign

North City Insurance Donates 200 First Responder Sensory Support Kits to Ontario Fire Departments

The FMPFSC is proud to recognize the generous support of **North City Insurance Brokers**, which has **donated 200 First Responder Sensory Support Kits** to fire departments across Ontario.

Members of the **North City Insurance** team, along with the Executive Director of **Autism Canada**, were on **hand to deliver** the donated First Responder Sensory Support Kits. The visit also provided an opportunity to explain how the kits should be used, what first responders may encounter when supporting an autistic person, and what signs or behaviours to look for while responding to an emergency scene.



Innisfil Fire & Rescue Service



Kawartha Lakes Fire Rescue

Apply for Free Kidde Smoke Alarms Through the Cause for Alarm Campaign



The FMPFSC is proud to once again partner with **Kidde Canada** to bring the **Cause for Alarm** campaign to fire departments across Ontario.

As part of this year's campaign, Ontario municipal and First Nations fire departments are invited to apply for a chance to receive free Kidde 10-year lithium-ion battery backup smoke alarms to help protect residents in their communities.

Thanks to Kidde Canada's generous donation of 1,000 10-year lithium-ion battery backup smoke alarms, the FMPFSC will distribute alarms to selected departments, supporting the shared goal of ensuring every home has access to working smoke alarms.

Applications close **Sunday, August 16th, 2026**

Complete the application for your chance to participate. Successful applicants will be notified by the FMPFSC with distribution details and will be recognized on the FMPFSC website and social media channels.

APPLY HERE

If you are unable to complete the application, please email campaigns@firesafetycouncil.com



Safe Battery Recycling



As lithium-ion battery use continues to grow, so too does the risk of **battery-related fires** when batteries are improperly disposed of in household garbage or recycling bins. **Fire departments** across Ontario are on the front lines of responding to these incidents and educating residents about **battery safety**.

Call2Recycle Canada is inviting rural and underserved fire departments to become official battery collection locations, helping improve community access to safe battery recycling while reducing the risk of batteries entering the waste stream.

Why Should Your Fire Department Participate?

By serving as a collection location, your fire department can:

- Improve access to battery recycling for residents in rural and remote communities.
- Help reduce the risk of battery-related fires in homes, collection vehicles, recycling facilities, and landfills.
- Support local public education and battery safety awareness efforts.
- Demonstrate your department's leadership in protecting the community and the environment.

What's Included?

Call2Recycle provides participating collection sites with:

- Collection containers and safety materials.
- Ongoing transportation and recycling services at no cost.
- Staff training and operational guidance.
- Public education resources to help residents safely prepare and recycle their batteries.
- Inclusion on the Recycle Your Batteries, Canada! National Battery Recycling Locator, helping residents easily find their location.

Why Should Your Department Consider Participating?

This opportunity is particularly well-suited for:

- Volunteer fire departments
- Rural and northern fire stations
- Communities with limited access to existing battery collection locations
- Municipalities seeking to expand local recycling options



Battery Collection Container



CLICK HERE:
for your
department
to become a
battery
collection
partner

CLICK HERE: for
Call2Recycle free
downloadable
resources



Community Connections

Newest Beepa Hand Delivered to London Fire

Our Executive Director, Jamie Kovacs, joined Deputy Chief Matt Hepditch and the London Fire team to welcome their new interactive fire safety education mascot.

More than just a mascot, **Beepa** is a **hands-on teaching tool** that helps fire educators engage children, families, and adults in learning about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, home escape planning, and other life-saving fire safety messages. By making learning fun and interactive, Beepa helps these important lessons stick.



Interested in donating a Beepa to your local fire department?

Contact us to learn how your organization can help bring interactive fire safety education to your community.



Coming Soon

NFPA and FMPFSC Fire Prevention Week Kits Available Soon



NFPA items available: Stickers, Activity Books, Bags, Posters, Banners, Brochures, and Colouring Pencils.



FMPFSC kits include: Stickers, Multi-tools, Keychain Flashlights, Safe Cigarette Snuffers, and more!

NFPA items and FMPFSC FPW kits available soon through our distribution centre.

FMPFSC ANNUAL SMOKE ALARM SALE

AUG. 1-30!



AVAILABLE SOON THROUGH
OUR DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

The FMPFSC annual Smoke Alarm Sale is August 1-31, 2026.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW EVERYTHING FMPFSC

Stay up to date with our quarterly newsletters by following us on social media and subscribing to our email updates. You'll be the first to hear about the latest news, new resources, and what's happening at our distribution centre.

Connect with us: www.firesafetycouncil.com

