***[insert fire department name]***

**Public Education Annual Report**

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA) requires all municipalities in Ontario to establish a program which must include public education with respect to fire safety. Public fire and life safety education aims to increase awareness about fire prevention and safety to reduce the loss of life and property within the municipality.

The public education officers, fire prevention officers and firefighters of the *[insert name of your fire department]* bring life-saving messages to the community through many public fire safety education programs and activities.

These programs and activities target fire risks identified through a community risk assessment that considers previous fire losses, building stock, and the demographic profile of the municipality. The *[insert name of fire department]* also partners with a variety of community groups and organizations to provide leadership in public fire safety education within the community.

The Fire Prevention/Public Education division has [*insert number of staff and titles]*.  *[Mention if the staff are certified fire and life safety educators or fire prevention officers or both.]*

During [*insert year here*], the [insert name of fire department] initiated the following public education activities:

**Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Program**

Our in-service smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program continued throughout [*insert year*]. [*insert details of how your smoke/CO alarm program works*.]

In [*insert year*], the [*insert name of fire department*] visited approximately [*insert # homes visited*] homes within [*insert name of municipality*] to discuss the importance of installing and maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and fire prevention. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were installed in [*insert # of homes*] homes and [*insert # of batteries installed*] batteries were installed to ensure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were working.

**School Program**

*[insert picture here]*

Fire safety education programs delivered in schools are one of the most effective ways to create future fire safe generations. *[Insert description of what your program consists of, the number of schools visited, the number of presentations conducted in schools, and the number of teachers and students who were educated.]*

**Fire Station Tours (Schools, Daycares, Community Groups)** The [*insert name of fire department*] provides fire station tours to school children, families and a number of diverse community groups, providing the fire department with an invaluable opportunity to educate the citizens of [*insert name of municipality*]. During these tours children are taught [*insert a description of what is done during your tours, for example the importance of not playing with matches and lighters, knowing the sound of a smoke/CO alarm and what to do if they hear it, home escape planning, to ‘stop, drop and roll’ if their clothes catch on fire, etc.*]. During all station tours, participants are taught important fire safety information and they get a closer look at the fire trucks, the equipment and how they are used.

**High School/Teen Programs**

During their teen years, young people learn many life skills that will prepare them for the years ahead. However, a critical skill that many teens don’t acquire is how to cook safely to prevent devastating fires and injuries. While most teens have some cooking responsibilities at home, within a few years they will be moving out to homes of their own. This is the perfect time for them to learn the basics of safe cooking.

*[insert picture here]*

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires in Ontario, so it is critical that young people be aware of the hazards and how to prevent them.  What’s Cooking – for Teens! focuses on the leading causes of kitchen fires and includes important information about smoke alarms and home escape planning.

The [*insert name of fire department*] delivered the What’s Cooking – for Teens! program to [*insert number of students and classes*] in [*insert number of schools*].

**Senior/Older Adult Programs**

In Ontario, adults 65 years and older are at higher risk of dying in a fire than any other age group. Often these fires happen where people feel the safest – in their homes. And many are preventable. The [*insert fire department name*] educated [*insert # of people or sessions*] older adults about the leading causes of fires and how to prevent them from happening. [*Insert a brief description of the program/activities/information taught to seniors during the sessions*].

**The Arson Prevention Program for Children (TAPP-C)**

Fire-play and firesetting by children and teens is an extremely dangerous behaviour that can result in substantial personal and economic loss to families and communities. TAPP-C is a program for children and teens who have been involved with fire-play and firesetting behaviours such as playing with matches or lighters, burning paper or garbage, performing lighter “tricks”, intentionally setting fire to buildings, or making bombs. It is an evidence-based collaborative program that involves fire service and mental health professionals working together to ensure that all children involved with fire have the best chance possible for a safe and healthy future. As part of the TAPP-C program, fire department personnel work with juvenile fire setters to improve home fire safety, teach fire safety knowledge and skills, and provide positive role models.

In [*insert year*], the [*insert name of fire department*] conducted [*insert number of TAPP-C sessions*] TAPP-C sessions with [*insert number of children*] youth firesetters and their families to promote fire safe behaviours and reduce the risk of juvenile firesetting.

**Junior Firefighter Camp**

Each year, the [*insert name of fire department*] conducts a week-long junior firefighter camp. Throughout the week, public education officers, fire prevention officers and firefighters provide campers received a hands-on train in fire safety and prevention. Campers learn about preventing fires, home escape planning and the importance of having working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Some of the other activities include extricating a vehicle using the Jaws of Life, properly using fire hoses and extinguishers and executing a fire evacuation. At the end of the week, the junior firefighters compete in an exciting Combat Challenge that tests the skills and knowledge they learned throughout their camp experience.

**Home Support Workers**

Home support workers work with individuals who are at great risk of fire death and injury: older and vulnerable adults living in their own homes. These home support workers can be the fire department’s eyes and ears in high risk homes that the fire department may not be able to access any other way.

The [*insert name of fire department*] provides basic fire safety awareness training to home support workers so they can identify and address common fire hazards in the homes of their clients. This will help their clients to continue to live independently and safely in their own homes. In [*insert year*] the [*insert fire department name*] educated/trained [*insert # of home support workers trained*] home support workers. [*If possible, insert how many times home support workers talked to their clients about fire safety.]*

**Child Welfare Professionals/Children’s Aid Society**

Most of the home fires that result in the injury and death of children are preventable, and many of the fires occur in homes where child welfare professionals are involved. The [i*nsert fire department name]* recognizes the importance of working with child welfare professionals to help educate these families about fire prevention and safety. The [*insert fire department name*] trained [*insert number of child welfare professionals trained*] child welfare professionals to raise their awareness about the risk factors associated with home fires, and so they are able to identify safety and prevention strategies that can be used by families. The [*insert fire department name*] also provided a list of resources that are available to the child welfare professionals and to the families and children they work with.

**Campus Safety Program**

The *[insert fire department name]* works very closely with students, faculty, management and various campus associations to raise awareness of fire safety at [*insert college/university name*]. Approximately [*insert the number of students attending the local college/university*] post-secondary students arrive in [*insert name of municipality*] every September, many of whom are living away from home for the first time. The *[insert fire department name]* addresses the associated fire safety risks in a number of ways, including[*include specific programs/activities conducted with the college/university. If applicable, include the number of students, faculty, staff, etc. that received the fire safety education/training.]*

**After the Fire**

One of the most opportune times to educate the public about fire safety is in the days and weeks immediately following a fire incident in the community. That is the time when fire safety is on people’s minds and they are most receptive to fire prevention and safety messages. In [*insert year*] the [*insert fire department name*] conducted its After the Fire program in [*insert number of neighbourhoods*] neighbourhoods in the community. As part of the program, fire department personnel [*insert description of what activities are completed as part of the program*].

**Media – Media Partnershi**ps

The [*insert name of fire department*] has developed as strong partnership with local media to raise public awareness of fire prevention and safety. During [*insert year*], [*insert number of news releases sent to local media*] news releases were distributed to media, covering issues including [insert examples of the topics covered in news releases]. The [*insert name of fire department*] held [*insert number of news conferences or events attended by the media, if applicable*] news conferences, and [*insert fire chief’s name, or name/position of media spokesperson*] conducted [*insert number of media interviews*] media interviews that resulting in [insert number of newspaper articles, radio and TV appearances].

The [*insert name of fire department*] also partnered with [*insert name of newspapers, radio stations or TV stations*] to produce and [*publish or air, if applicable*] [insert number of public service announcements] addressing the following fire safety issues: [*insert the fire safety topics covered by the PSAs*].

**Social Media**

The [*insert name of fire department*] also uses social media to raise public awareness of fire prevention and safety, and to post information about community events. This includes a variety of social media platforms, including the fire department website [*insert website address*], Twitter [*insert Twitter handle*], Facebook [*insert Facebook page*], and [*insert other social media platforms, i.e. YouTube, etc.*].

In [*insert year*], the [*insert name of fire department*] [*insert number of Tweets, Facebook posts, website hits, YouTube videos, etc. posted/distributed*].

**Fire Prevention Week (**October 4 to 10, 2015)

*[insert picture here]*

[*insert fire prevention week theme*] was the theme for Fire Prevention Week in 2015. During Fire Prevention Week, members of the [*insert fire department name*] [*insert description of Fire Prevention Week activities, i.e. set up displays at five locations, consisting of 2 pull-up banners, a display board with a number of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to show the different types available, with advantages and disadvantages of each listed as well as a number of handouts and promotional items. The week began with an open house at [insert address] on insert date]. The open house included a variety of events such as: fire safety videos, station tours and the opportunity to use a fire hose.*].

These events allowed fire department personnel to speak to a wide range of people living in our community about fire safety.

**Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week**

Each year the first week of November is Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide, how to protect you and your loved ones by preventing the build-up of carbon monoxide, and the importance of installing and maintaining carbon monoxide alarms. This year’s Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week activities included [*insert description of activities*].

**Fire Marshal’s Public Fire Safety Council Campaigns**

[*If applicable, insert a description of all Fire Marshal’s Public Fire Safety Council campaign activities your fire department participated in. This may include Spring into Summer…Spring into Safety; Swing into Summer; Peace of Mind for Your Piece of Heaven - Cottage Safety; Project Zero; Project Assist; Fire Prevention Week kits; 12 Days of Holiday Fire Safety; Safe at Home for the Holidays; etc*.]

**Community Events**

*[insert picture here]*

The [*insert name of fire department*] is always prepared to provide resources when a community group or organization needs assistance or requires our help. Each event offers a unique and proactive opportunity to educate more of our citizens about how to prevent fires. During the year our public educators, fire prevention officers, firefighters and ‘Sparky’® the Fire Safety Dog, who is our fire safety mascot, attended many community, organization and social events, such as [*insert a description of the community events attended, such as Hot Summer Nights; Fall fairs; Home Depot / Canadian Tire Days; mall displays; Canada Day celebrations; home shows; etc.*].

**Community Partnerships**

The [*insert name of fire department*] works closely with community organizations to broaden our outreach within the community. Examples of community partnerships in [*insert year]* include: [*insert a description of community partnerships, such as working with media to develop fire safety videos; working with corporate sponsors to develop road signs, posters or other resources; community college/university to assist with graphics design, social media activities, video production, etc.; local sports leagues/teams to advertise on hockey arena boards at arenas; hockey cards; events on game nights; banners at sports parks, etc.; pizza delivery on the fire truck; partnerships with insurance companies; working on campaigns with neighbouring fire departments to pool resources; activities with community groups such as the local chapter of the Canadian Hearing Society, Lion’s Club, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts, etc.*].

**Fire Safety Awards**

*[insert picture here]*

The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management and the Fire Marshal’s Public Fire Safety Council organize an annual Fire Safety Awards Program for the Province of Ontario. The awards recognize individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions in the areas of fire prevention and public education. Each year, the selection committee chooses the recipients from nominations received from fire departments across the province.

The awards fall into the following two categories:

Fire Safety Award recognizes outstanding contributions made by individuals, businesses, associations or the media in the field of fire prevention and public education.

Fire Safety Action Award recognizes young people, age 16 and under, who took appropriate actions to prevent or minimize injury or damage caused by fire.

This year [*insert fire department name]* nominated [*insert details of those nominated – include nominees even if they did not win a Fire Safety Award as it is an indication of the fire department’s work in the community*]*.*

INSERT PIE CHARTS/STATS HERE