



BARRIE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: C. MAINPRIZE, FIRE CHIEF AND DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

NOTED: D. MCALPINE, GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: BARRIE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE SMOKE AND CO ALARM PROGRAM

DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the new residential smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program initiated by Barrie Fire and Emergency Service (BFES) in 2018.

Background

Fires occurring in single family homes are the most frequent, account for the largest loss of property, and result in the greatest number of injuries and fatalities. Notwithstanding improved education, prevention, and stronger code requirements, members of our community are predominantly injured and killed in their homes, a location where they should feel safest.

The Ontario Fire Marshal reports smoke alarms are not present or fail to operate in approximately 50% of fires, and 66% of fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms. Operating smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are one of the most effective means of reducing damage and preventing injuries or death when a fire occurs.

Risk Reduction Strategy

BFES has committed to a proactive risk reduction strategy focused on education and prevention programs. In May of this year, BFES initiated a new door to door smoke and carbon monoxide alarm inspection program. This new program utilizes in-service Operations staff to inspect residential alarms. Our operations staff are targeted to attend over 10,000 homes in 2018. The areas of the community that have been the focus for this initial pilot were determined based on the age of the home and the likelihood that the smoke or carbon monoxide detector would be at or had exceeded its lifespan (and therefore should be replaced).

Every home attended by our staff is tracked using mobile technology that records the GPS location, time, and alarm status

Program Update

As of September 7, 2018 operations crews have visited 5,800 homes across the City. Although staff have targeted visit times that are believed to be prime opportunities for homeowners or residents to be at home, in number of cases, a homeowner or resident has not been home and information kits were left at the door. Of the homes staff were able to inspect approximately 60% passed the inspection. The remaining 40% of homes that failed the inspection were provided with written instructions on the requirements to be code compliant. In the vast majority of cases, the door to door smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program has been well received by residents, who are eager to ensure that their families and property are properly protected.

The BFES door to door inspection and education program will continue until the target goal of 10,000 homes is achieved (anticipated to occur by late October).