

For Immediate Release
January 23, 2020



WELLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES – FIRE PREVENTION
SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION

Welland, ON – On October 9 2019 the Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) attended the property 252 King Street, City of Welland to respond to a fire safety complaint. On their arrival, Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) found a two (2) storey residence being used as a rooming house.

Inspecting the dwelling, WFES learned that eighteen (18) College students were residing in the residence, divided between seven (7) bedrooms. During the inspection, it was discovered that the only working smoke alarm in the residence was located in the basement of the dwelling. No other working smoke alarms were found in the sleeping rooms or the other floor areas. WFES identified numerous other Ontario Fire Code deficiencies in the residence, and learned that a fire safety plan was not implemented at the property. FPOs at the property directed the property owner to provide working smoke alarms in the residence, including in all sleeping rooms that day to ensure the safety of the occupants. WFES directed the property owner to correct other Fire Code deficiencies at the property by way of inspection order.

Due to the conditions WFES found at the property during the inspection and the risks posed to the occupants, a prosecution was initiated against the property owner. On January 23, 2020, the property owner of 252 King Street was convicted in Provincial Offences Court for failing to maintain a smoke alarm in operating condition and failing to implement an approved fire safety plan and was fined \$6000 plus court costs and victim fine surcharge pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997*.

WFES would like to remind residents, and in particular landlords, that Fire Code deficiencies will not be tolerated. The Ontario Fire Code requires that Landlords ensure working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are provided in their rentals prior to occupancy. Students new to the City of Welland should ensure their rental property is provided with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they move-in. Student housing is very prevalent in the City of Welland, and WFES will continue to enforce the Ontario Fire Code in these occupancies to ensure the safety of these tenants in our community.

-30-

Contact:
Brian Kennedy, Fire Chief
brian.kennedy@welland.ca
905-735-1700 Ext. 2400