

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE



FIRE PREVENTION FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT - \$32,000 IN FINES

Welland, ON – The Fire Prevention Division of the Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) continues to inspect properties across the City to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. Unfortunately, on several occasions egregious violations were discovered which prompted the prosecution of several property owners and landlords.

On February 23, 2021 WFES responded to 77 Sherwood Forest Trail for a reported structure fire. On their arrival, firefighters discovered a well-involved kitchen fire. Firefighters extinguished the fire, fortunately without injuries. During the fire investigation, the Fire Prevention Division discovered that ten (10) students were residing in this residence without working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms and other Fire Code deficiencies. On July 22, 2021, the corporate ownership and landlord plead guilty in Provincial Offences Court for failing to maintain smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, failing to implement an approved fire safety plan, and failing to ensure proper exiting is provided from the basement. Between the corporate ownership and landlord a fine of \$14,000 plus court costs was imposed for these violations.

On March 3, 2021, the Fire Prevention Division attended the property 281 Wallace Avenue to follow-up on a fire safety concern. During their inspection, Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) discovered no working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms in the multi-residential dwelling. On July 22, 2021 the property owner plead guilty in Provincial Offences Court and was fined \$13,000 plus court costs.

On March 18, 2021 the Fire Prevention Division attended a property in the City to investigate a fire safety concern. The property was being used as a licenced marijuana grow facility. Although a licenced activity, FPOs discovered Fire Code violations during their inspection. Due to the nature of the violations, a prosecution was commenced against the operator of the facility. On July 22, 2021, the operator was convicted in Provincial Offences Court for conducting hazardous activities and using temporary wiring (extension cords) where it presents a fire hazard and was fined \$5,000 plus court costs.

WFES will continue to enforce the Ontario Fire Code across the City. It is incumbent on property owners to ensure their properties remain in compliance with the Fire Code at all times to ensure the safety of occupants and emergency personnel who may need to respond there.

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