
Fire Code enforcement nets over \$13,000 in fines

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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.

On September 2, 2021, WFES attended the property at 52 Hellems Avenue (which includes the assumed address of 147 Division Street) to follow up on a fire safety complaint. While on the scene, Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) discovered a two-storey building, with commercial storefronts on the ground floor and residential apartments on the second floor.

During this time, a fire safety inspection occurred, and it was discovered that the fire alarm system servicing the building had not been maintained as per the Ontario Fire Code for several years. In addition to this violation, it was discovered that an approved fire safety plan was not implemented at the building. Due to the seriousness of the violations, a prosecution was initiated against the corporate ownership. In August 2022, the corporate ownership was convicted in Provincial Offences Court and was fined \$6,000 (plus victim fine surcharge and court costs) pursuant to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997. Other violations were identified during inspections of the building, and an inspection order was issued to the ownership directing them to correct deficiencies within a certain time.

WFES can report that the inspection order was not complied with, and subsequent charges have been initiated, which are currently before the courts.

On January 12, 2022, WFES attended the property 69 Southworth Street North, to respond to a fire safety complaint. While on the scene, FPOs discovered that the retail/commercial building had been unlawfully converted into three (3) residential apartments. Numerous Ontario Fire Code violations were identified during this inspection, including failing to install and maintain smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. Due to the seriousness of the violations, a prosecution was initiated. In August 2022, the corporate ownership was convicted in Provincial Offences Court and was fined \$5,000 (plus victim fine surcharge and court costs) pursuant to the FPPA. An inspection order was later issued to rectify other violations in the building, which has a compliance date in the near future. A follow-up inspection will occur at that time.

WFES would like to remind residents that compliance with the Fire Code is always mandatory. If a property owner or occupant receives an inspection order, it is mandatory to comply with the order before the compliance date. WFES would like to remind residents, particularly landlords, that Fire Code deficiencies will not be tolerated.

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