

Fire Prevention in High-Rise Buildings

Toronto Fire Services

**Presentation to:
Tenant Issues Committee**

October 13, 2017

Ontario Building Code and Ontario Fire Code

- Fire safety is one of the primary objectives of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and the Ontario Fire Code (OFC).
- The OFC requires building owners to maintain their fire safety systems and operate buildings in a manner that ensures a high level of fire prevention.
- The OFC requires stringent retrofit standards in high-rise residential buildings, including fire alarm systems and a minimum of two exits from each floor area.
- The OBC requires both active (fire separations, fire-resistant construction, compartmentalization etc.) and passive (automatic sprinkler systems etc.) fire protection features.
- Redundancy is embedded - if one system fails there are other levels of protection available to maintain safety.

The Role of City Inspectors

Fire Inspectors

- After occupancy, fire inspectors carry out inspections to ensure that existing buildings are maintained and operated safely in accordance with the Ontario Fire Code (OFC).
 - Complaint or request-based in all buildings.
 - Annual fire safety inspections in all high-rise residential buildings.
- Fire inspectors address all violations of the OFC pursuant to the enforcement options within the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* and accompanying Regulations and Fire Marshal Directives.

2016 High-Rise Stats

- Complaint or request-based fire safety inspections in all buildings
- Since 2016, annual fire safety inspections are conducted in all high-rise residential buildings



13,427 high-rise residents
received fire safety information
during Safety Awareness Week.



100% of all highrise
residential buildings
were inspected.

Increasing Access to Information

- TFS is working, in consultation with the City Clerk's Office to develop a process by which information related to fire prevention inspections will be made publicly available online.
 - Notices of Violation (NOV) for multi-unit residential buildings resulting from routine inspections.
 - NOV's will be posted online by address once the file is closed.

Increasing Resources for Inspections

TFS Operations-Based Fire Code Re-Inspection Program

- As part of the TFS Transformation Plan, NFPA 1031 & 1035 Level 1 professional qualifications will be introduced in the Operations Division to enhance fire protection service levels.
- This program will commence with the Fall 2017 Operations Firefighter recruit class.
- In addition to mandatory fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue and other related training and qualifications, all future Operations Firefighters will graduate from the Toronto Fire Academy with both Fire Inspector and Public Educator certifications.

High-Rise Education

www.toronto.ca/firesafety

- High-rise fire safety materials available online in 13 languages.
- Learn what to do if a fire happens in your building and how to best protect yourself and those around you.

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