

Ontario Fire Prevention Week

“Get Loud” by testing your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

THE HISTORY OF FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

**October 8 - 10
1871**



The Great Chicago Fire started when a cow kicked over a lantern in the O’Leary barn in the southwest side of the city.

Destruction

- Over 17,000 buildings and structures destroyed.
- Around 300 people killed.
- Roughly \$200 million in damages.
(This amount is worth \$4.484 billion today)





1922

Taking Action



1925

Fire Prevention Week was started by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in 1922 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire.

In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed the first National Fire Prevention Week to occur from October 4th through October 10th, 1925.

Present Day

Fire Prevention Week is now celebrated every year during the week of October 9th and is the longest running public health observance in our country. For 2021, the theme for Fire Prevention Week is “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety”. Take some time to visit firepreventionweek.org to learn more.

source: nfpa.org

Chirps and Beeps

Is there a beep or a chirp coming out of your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm? What does it all mean? Knowing the difference can save you, your home, and your family! Make sure everyone in the home understands the sounds of the smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and knows how to respond. Learn the sounds of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms by checking the user guide or search the brand and model online.

SMOKE ALARMS



- ✚ A continued set of **three** loud beeps (beep, beep, beep) means smoke or fire. Get out, call 9-1-1, and stay out.
- ✚ A single “chirp” every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be changed.
- ✚ All smoke alarms must be replaced after 10 years.



- ✚ Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- ✚ A continuous set of **four** loud beeps (beep, beep, beep, beep) means carbon monoxide is present in your home. Go outside, call 9-1-1 and stay out.
- ✚ A single chirp every 30 or 60 seconds means the battery is low and must be replaced.
- ✚ CO alarms also have “end of life” sounds that vary by manufacturer. This means it’s time to get a new CO alarm.
- ✚ Chirping that continues after the battery has been replaced means the alarm is at the end of its life and the unit must be replaced.



**Hear a Chirp,
 Make a Change!**

**Hear a Beep,
 Get On Your Feet!**

Chirping During Online Class

During the past year and a half, when most schooling took place at home over computers, teachers began reporting with troubling regularity that students weren't sure what a chirping smoke alarm signified.

"We learned from teachers that they sometimes heard chirps coming from the smoke alarms in their students' homes, and the kids weren't sure what it meant," said the senior director of public education at NFPA. When the chirps disappeared days later, the teachers asked if the alarm's batteries had been replaced—in some cases, the students said that their parents had just taken the alarm down.

Stories of people not knowing what to do when their alarm makes sounds are not uncommon, "After a while, that chirp can become white noise for some people, and they ignore it until the battery dies. In other cases, they just think it means the alarm is broken or malfunctioning, so they take it down," she said.

Both scenarios are dangerous because most fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms.



In multi-residential buildings, the fire inspectors perform random audits. If they find defective devices, they enforce violations and provide a time window to rectify the situation. However, if the inspector finds repeated violations on record, they can immediately fine up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Missed a new newsletter? Check out our website: <https://magnumfireprotection.com>



HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS



- **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he or she can see out.
- **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.



- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters. Check indoor and outdoor decorative lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires or loose connections. Do not overload extension cords.
- **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns.

- **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.



- **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.

- **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop, and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)



- **Tell your children** not to eat any treats until you have looked them over.



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN!