



SIX NATIONS FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Dear Editor:

With the shocking rash of fatal fires that have occurred in Ontario this winter, I am appealing to every resident of Six Nations to drop what they're doing and test every smoke alarm in their home. Right now! If you don't have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas, put your coat on, go out and buy some and install them as soon as you get home. If ever there was a time to take immediate action for the safety of your family, this is it.

Tragedies such as these are the reason the fire service takes smoke alarms so seriously and I cannot overstate their importance. The law requires one on every storey and outside all sleeping areas, but that is just the minimum. The more smoke alarms you have, the sooner you are alerted to fire and the greater your chances of surviving. For added protection, install smoke alarms inside every bedroom. You may also want to consider investing in inter-connected smoke alarms. This may seem a bit extreme, but believe me, if a fire were to occur in your home in the middle of the night and you had no way to reach your children through the wall of smoke and fire, no number of smoke alarms would seem too many. And don't forget to take a few minutes to plan and practise a home fire escape plan with your family. When the smoke alarm sounds, everyone must know what to do.

It is so sad that it takes the senseless deaths of children to make people take notice, but you're listening now. So please, don't think about it—just do it. Every storey. Outside sleeping areas. Practise your escape plan. It's such a small cost and effort for a huge investment in your family's safety.

Michael Seth, Fire Chief
Six Nations Fire Department