



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada



March 2026
Property Resources Management
Fire Safety

Agenda

- **Fire Safety – What’s new for you in 2026?**
 - **Fire Code Changes related to CO alarms**
 - **Smoke and CO alarm maintenance**
 - **Replacement**
 - **Fire Alarm and Life Safety Systems**
- **Fire Safety – Lithium-Ion Battery Safety**
 - **What should you know?**
 - **Where do you get help or advice?**
 - **Storage and disposal?**
- **General Fire Safety trends**
 - **What do we see most often related to alarms?**
 - **How can you best protect your sites?**





Changes to the Ontario Fire Code



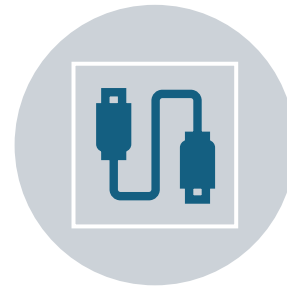
CO Alarms are now required on ALL LEVELS of your home.



Combination devices (SA/CO) meet this requirement.



TBM FD recommends hard-wired with 10 yr sealed battery back-up.



Replace devices with “like” devices.



Smoke/CO alarm maintenance



TESTING – most manufacturers recommend WEEKLY tests



How to test?



Why do you test?



Preventative Maintenance
– vacuum cleaning devices regularly will help to reduce false alarms.

When to replace

Model / Modèle 1906005



9V Ionization Smoke Alarm with HUSH®
Avertisseur de fumée à ionisation avec bouton HUSH® muni d'une pile de 9 V

Read instruction manual before installing. WEEKLY TESTING IS REQUIRED. Constant pulsating alarm indicates that combustion particles have been detected. Periodic flashing (40 sec) of red LED indicates the alarm is operating. An intermittent "chirp" indicates the battery must be replaced. See battery door for complete battery information. The HUSH® button decreases sensitivity for about 8 min, during which time the LED will flash every 10 seconds. Not recommended for operation at temperatures below 4°C (40°F), above 38°C (100°F), or in areas with humidity greater than 85%, as these conditions reduce battery life. Clean annually using compressed air or vacuum hose, at openings around perimeter of alarm. Do not use cleaning products or normal operation. The alarm should be replaced. Sensitivity = 0.64 – 1.22 percent/ft. Do not paint. Replace under one of more of the following patents: 4,443,572; 9,228,107; D346,981; others pending. Made in China C.

- Most devices are a 10 yr life span.

- Check the date

- Use the same devices throughout your home – don't mix n match

- Sealed back-up battery or replacement batteries?

- Can I use rechargeable batteries in my devices?

Date of Manufacture



2012 Jul.28



DANGER: RADIATION / RAYONNEMENT

Contains 0.9 Microcuries of Americium 241, a radioactive material. US NRC 32-23858-01E
Contient un élément radioactif de 0,9 microcurie d'américium 241. US NRC 32-23858-01E

For servicing, return to / Pour faire réparer votre appareil, retournez-le à:
Kidde Canada Inc., P.O. Box 40, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
(800-880-6788)



Assistance

- Do you need help understanding what you need and where you need it?
- **Where can you get advice?**
 - Supplier
 - Fire Department
 - Electrician or Life Safety Technicians
 - HOA, Condo Board, or Property Manager



Batteries

- What are they?
- Where are they?
- What type of batteries do I have?
- Are they safe to use?
- What are the risks with batteries?



Battery Safety



What are the risks with batteries?



What should I watch for?



How do I use batteries safely?



Risks

- Damaged battery casing or chargers
- Excessive heating
- Overcharging or aftermarket charging tools



Risks

- Altering batteries or chargers
- Aftermarket vs OEM chargers and batteries
- Using for purposes not designed for



Risks

- Charging equipment
- Charging practices
- OEM equipment



Disposal

- Batteries are NOT regular garbage
- Cover / tape battery contacts for disposal.
- Store waste batteries away from household combustibles.
- Check with your community Solid Waste re drop off for waste batteries.
- CDN Tire, Home Depot, Rona and other large retailers have battery drop off locations.

Battery Safety

DO NOT use	DO NOT use batteries that are damaged.
STOP	STOP using batteries that get abnormally hot when charging or when in use.
USE	ONLY USE OEM chargers and batteries.
DO NOT leave	DO NOT leave batteries on extended charge.
Charge	ONLY charge batteries on hard surfaces.

Most common Responses to Churches

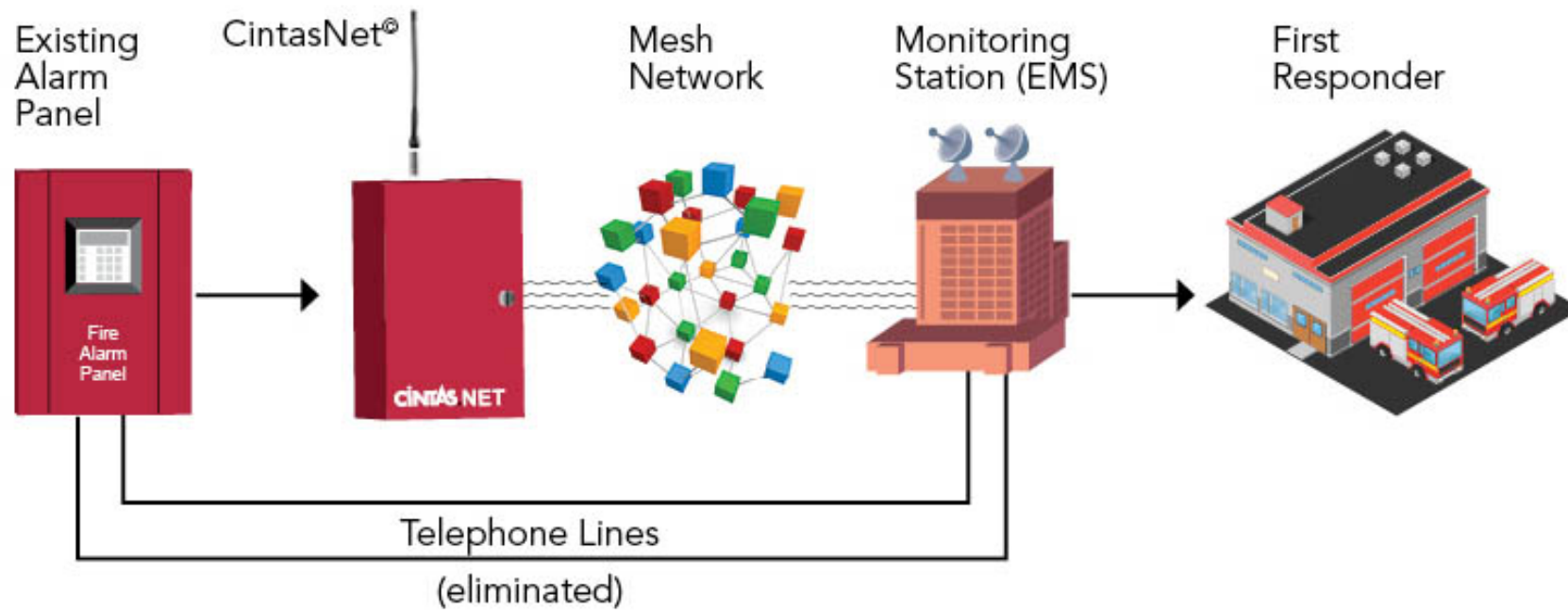
Alarms:

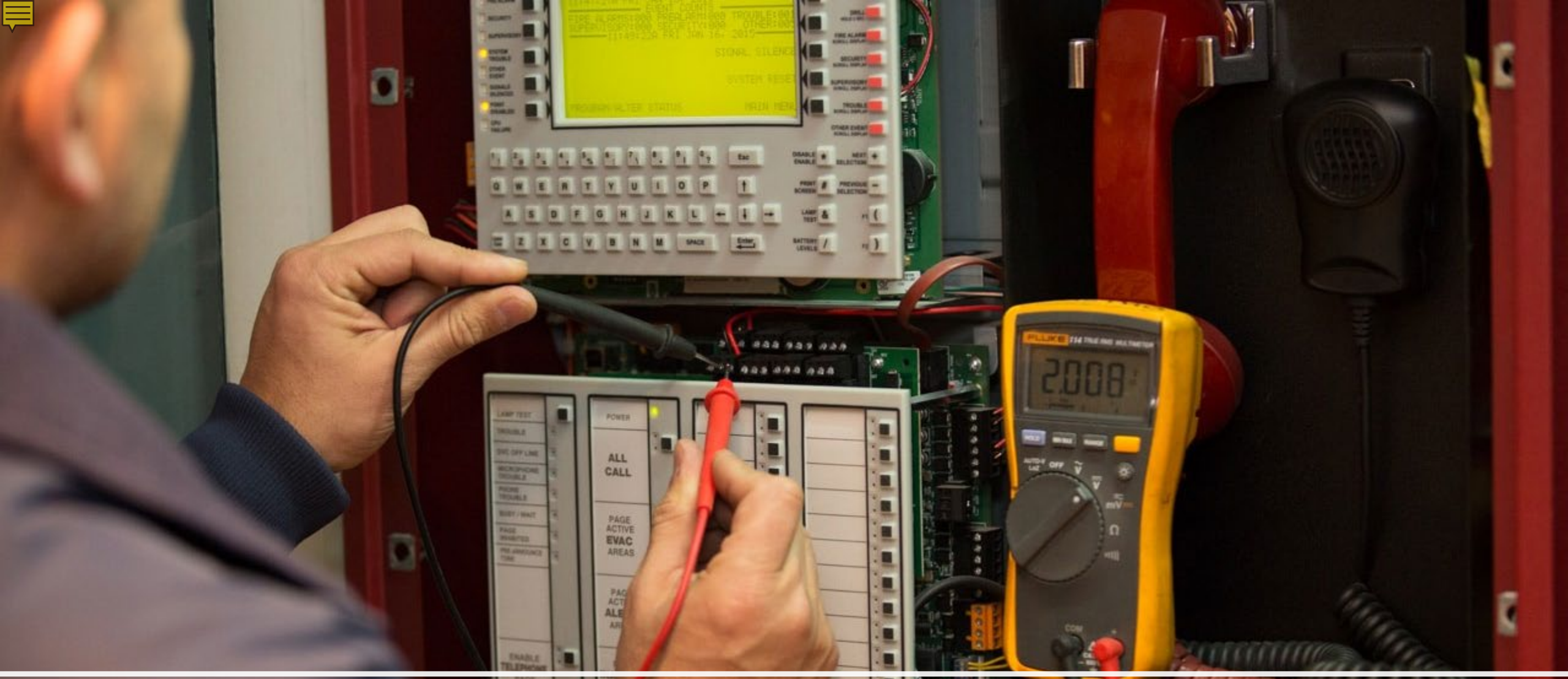
- **Fire alarms** such as a **system** found in a commercial building, multi-unit residential, restaurant, school, church, community center, etc.
- **Residential** – Stand alone alarms bundled with security systems OR residential alarms like smoke/CO alarms, interconnected smoke/CO, Interconnected with manual pull stations, etc.
- **Maintenance** and testing for either type is key to ensuring reliable operation and detection.

Most common response related issues

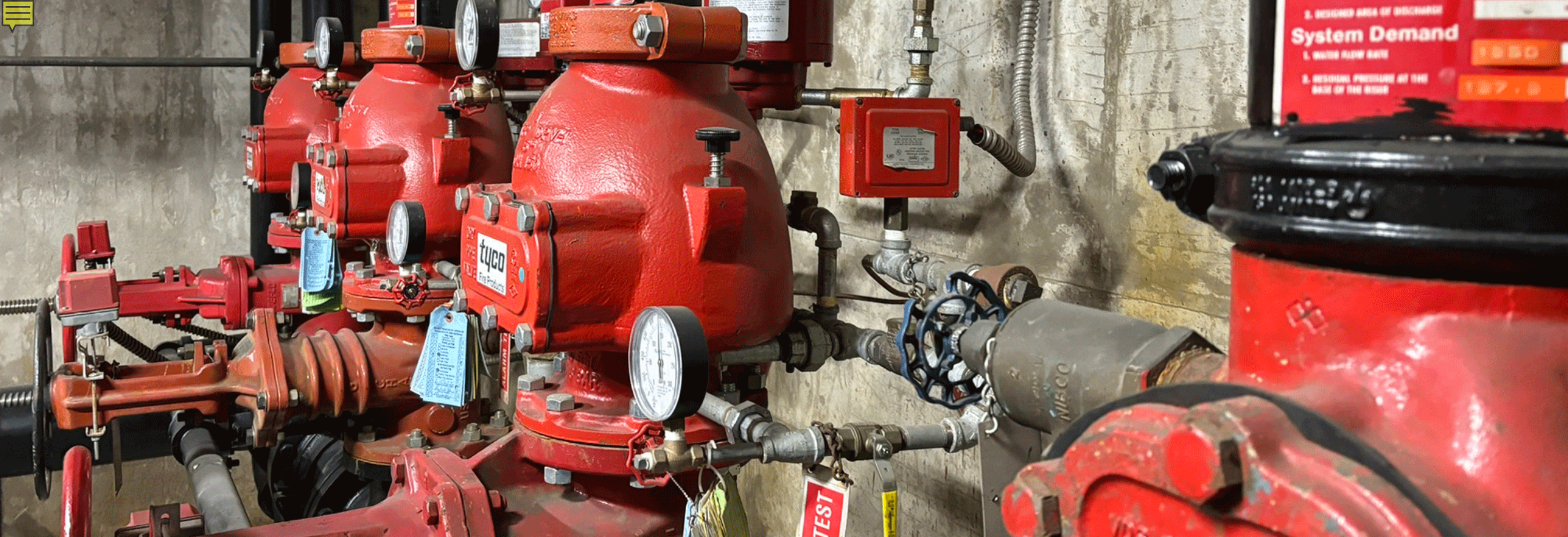
- **Alarm monitoring maintenance** – 3rd party monitoring contracts lapsed – not renewed, not functioning, site contacts not up to date.
- **Alarm system maintenance**, inspection, and testing not done or deficiencies not corrected.
- **Fire protection / suppression system** maintenance, inspection, and testing not done or deficiencies not corrected.
- **Kitchen systems** not maintained, not cleaned, or not connected to fire alarm.
- **Housekeeping** – storage locations, contents, excess, storage obstructing fire protection.
- **Access routes** and exterior access to fire protection obstructed.
- **Fire Safety Plan** – training, drills, staff appointments or assigned responsibilities not clear.

Alarm monitoring





Fire Alarm Maint., Test, Inspect...



Fire Protection Systems – Inspections, Testing, Maintenance
Annual, Semi-annual, Monthly, Weekly requirements.



Kitchens and cooking equipment

- Equipment cleaning and maintenance
- Exhaust system type and installation
- Exhaust cleaning and inspection
- Fire suppression systems maintenance, inspection, testing



Storage

- Maintain a minimum of 18" clearance from sprinkler heads and fire alarm devices
- Avoid stacking to the ceiling
- Do not obstruct access to Exits, fire extinguishers, emergency lights, and exit signs



Fire Dept Connections

- Should be well marked – visible from the street or Fire Access Route.
- Year – round access maintained
- Capped – secure but not too tight
- Flushed and tested per NFPA 13, 14, and 25

Fire Routes

- Maintained year round
- Free of obstructions at all times
- Ensures FD access to key site points and emergency equipment is free and clear



Fire drill procedures

1



Ensure everyone
is on board

2



Communicate
your plan

3



Set goals

4



Rehearse the
procedure

5



Observe and
reflect

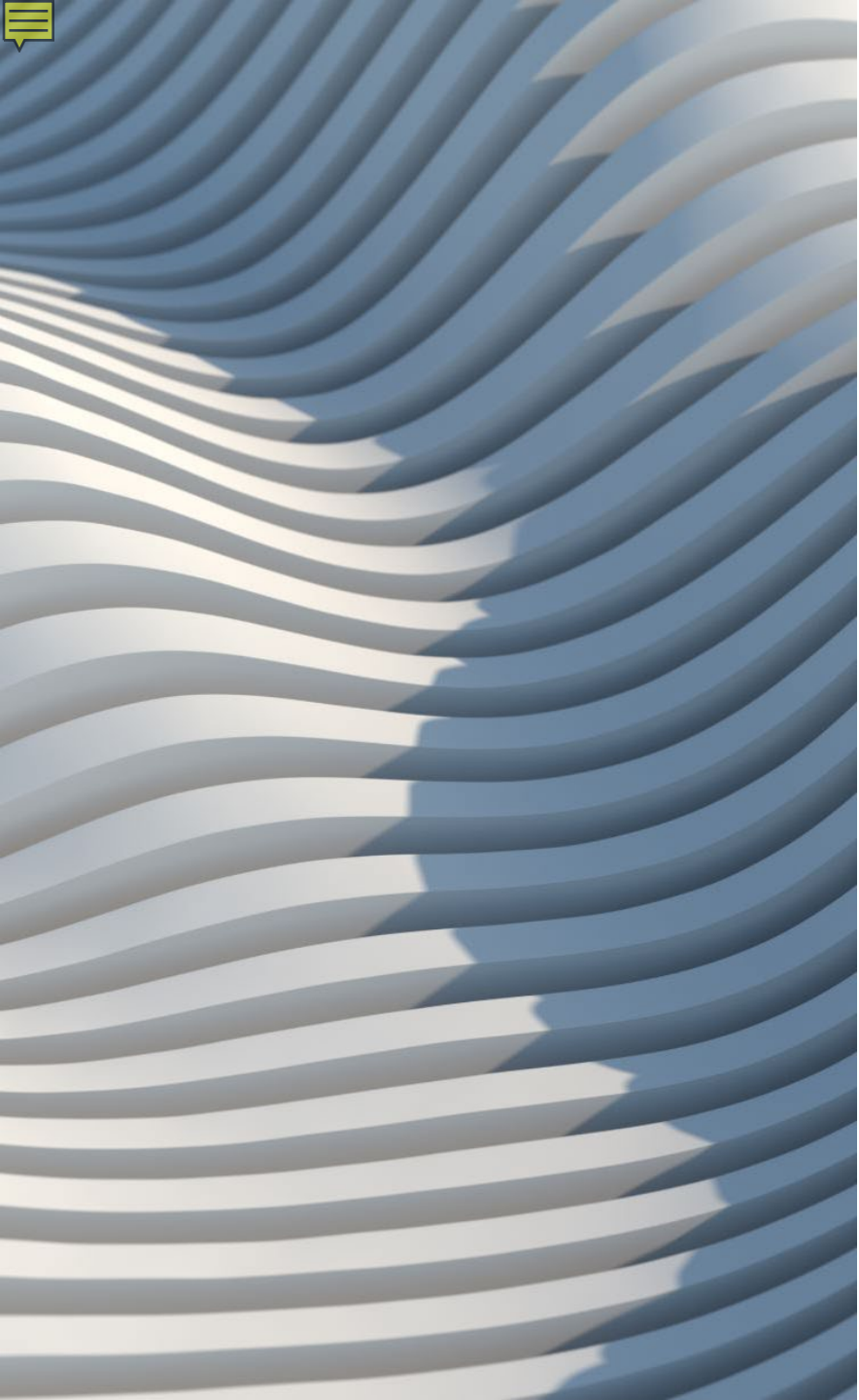
Fire Safety Plans and Practice

- Review and test your approved fire safety plan
- Plan Fire Drills and evaluate the effectiveness of your plans
- Involve the right people to practice – staff, management, consultants, service providers, Fire Departments



Fire Safety for Churches and other areas of worship

- What is required for churches?
- Are there exemptions for churches and areas of worship?
- How do I know what applies to my building?
- How can the community help reduce the impact of a fire?



Pam's suggestions:

Legal responsibilities - following fire codes and safety rules, and what plans and paperwork should be in place

Common fire risks - candles, portable heaters, old wiring, storage, large events

Prevention – practical ways to reduce fire risks

Fire Safety training – whether training is needed, how often it should happen, and what it should cover

Partnerships with local fire departments – why it's important and what fire departments have to offer our churches

Fire Safety Plans

It's not just a box at your front door

Responsibilities, actions and specific details are included in the plan

OFC 2.8 requires the plan to be developed, approved and implemented in assembly occupancies



A matchstick with a large, bright orange and yellow flame is positioned on the left side of the image. Below the flame, a row of ten unlit matchsticks with red tips is visible. The background is a solid dark red color.

Common Fire Risks for Assembly occupancies

Open flame – candles pose a significant risk.

Temporary wiring – Extension cords, power bars, adapters, etc.

Old Wiring – low-capacity circuits carrying high-capacity loads

Temporary appliances – De-humidifiers, AC, space heaters



Fire Prevention

- **De-clutter regularly** – storage in designated areas only, not interfering with fire protection or detection
- **Avoid mixed storage** – combinations of some materials pose a higher risk of accidental fire in storage – designate storage of like materials with like materials.
- **Regular self-audits** or inspections for common hazards (workplace inspection routine)
- **Engage your local Fire Department** in regular inspections and for advice to reduce your risk.





Training



- **Fire Safety Plan** – staff training and review of the approved fire safety plan is an annual requirement.
- **Fire Drills** – At least annually – may be more frequent, staff drills test the understanding of their assigned roles.
- **3rd party Consultant** – Agencies providing assistance to develop fire safety plans, staff training, fire drills, and inspection assistance may be of help to train staff, supervisors, or managers.



Partnerships – Fire Departments

Municipal Fire Services may engage with community groups and churches on request.

Fire Prevention Inspections may reveal Fire Code violations to be corrected.

Fire Department Public Education is also an asset of benefit to the church, church properties, staff and leadership, to assist with training, drills and events.

Resources

- www.ecclesiastical.ca
- <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/uploads.php?id=515f2e12407bb>
- **Toronto** - <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/fire-prevention-inspection-enforcement/>
- **Mississauga** - <https://www.mississauga.ca/services-and-programs/health-and-safety/fire-and-emergency-services/>
- **Brampton** - <https://www.brampton.ca/EN/residents/Fire-Emergency-Services/Pages/Fire-Permits-and-Inspections.aspx>
- **Vaughan** - <https://www.vaughan.ca/residential/vaughan-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-safety-and-prevention>
- **Markham** - <https://www.markham.ca/neighbourhood-services/fire-services-emergency-preparedness>
- **Richmond Hill** - <https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/living-here/Fire-Prevention.aspx>
- **Central York (Newmarket – Aurora)** - <https://cyfs.ca/>
- **Barrie** - <https://www.barrie.ca/services-payments/emergency-services/barrie-fire>
- **Kawartha Lakes** - <https://www.kawarthalakes.ca/community-emergency-services/fire-services/fire-inspections/>
- **Georgina** - <https://www.georgina.ca/living-here/fire-and-rescue-services/fire-prevention-and-education>



The image features a dense field of three-dimensional question marks. Most of these symbols are a dark, matte grey and are scattered across the frame, creating a textured, almost carpet-like effect. In the center of the image, a single question mark stands out prominently. This central symbol is a vibrant orange color and has a more pronounced 3D, blocky appearance than the others. Overlaid on the orange question mark is the word "Questions?" in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The lighting is soft, casting subtle shadows that emphasize the three-dimensional nature of the symbols.

Questions?