

# FIRE WATCH

ONTARIO INDUSTRIAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

March 2006

## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR UPCOMING CHANGES?

### MUNICIPAL – INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS EMERGENCY RESPONSE CO-ORDINATION

#### **Working Together to Reduce Risks**

A coordinated effort by municipal emergency services and their local industrial facilities will go a long way to reducing emergency responses and controlling emergencies when they do occur.

When considering the issue of relations with the municipal providers of emergency services and any industrial facility, it is important that industry know what expertise and specific capabilities are available at the local level. The best way to find out is to contact the local emergency services and visit their facilities to learn first hand what they have to offer.

The resources and emergency services provided vary from municipality to municipality. In-plant staff need to know what the municipal emergency services can do for their facility and if there is additional help available through mutual aid. Some fire departments limit their service to fire suppression, while others provide a variety of services such as confined space and high angle rescue, haz-mat, and emergency medical response. If their resources and training do not meet the needs of the industrial facility, it is best to identify this before an emergency.

It is also important to have the local fire officials visit the facility and become familiar with the risks at the site and the fire suppression systems that are in place. Tours by the first and second due fire crews are important to ensure that they know what to expect and how to deal with any emergency.

#### **JOINT TRAINING**

It is important to have a personal relationship between the emergency service providers and the facility staff. The excitement and chaos of an emergency is not the time to begin introductions. You need to have a comfort level with each other before the emergency hits. Experience has shown us that the emergency is coordinated most effectively when the people in the command centre know each other and have a respect for the other's knowledge and the ability of their staff.

Joint training exercises will also help the plant fire brigade and the other emergency services test their abilities and find any shortfalls in service delivery and the plant's emergency response program before an incident takes place. The best time to find deficiencies is at an exercise. In the heat of an emergency it is too late to discover that you do not have the right equipment or do not know how to deal with a particular situation.

When arranging joint training programs for an in-plant brigade and local fire departments, you should try to practice using likely scenarios that could occur in the facility. In my experience both as a municipal official and as a consultant to industry, I have conducted a number of tabletop and full-scale emergency response exercises. These programs build confidence for both the in-plant staff and the municipal fire fighters. When they have a mutual respect for each other, cooperation and teamwork will be a natural evolution.

## **EMERGENCY PLANS**

Before you have any exercise or the real thing, you need to make sure that you have an emergency or disaster plan. In Ontario, most large industrial premises are required to have a fire emergency plan under Section 2.8 of the Ontario Fire code.

This plan must be approved by the Chief Fire Official (usually the Fire Chief). Premises in Ontario that are classified as Group F1 (high hazard) occupancies must have a plan if there are more than 25 building occupants. Group F2 (medium hazard) occupancies must have one of these plans if there are more than 100 building occupants. This plan establishes procedures for staff and supervisory personnel as well as maintenance of building fire safety facilities and alternate measures for the situation when the fire safety systems are impaired or out-of-service.

In addition to the Fire Safety Plan every industry should have a Pre-Incident Plan. A pre-incident plan identifies the hazards and fire protection systems that every emergency responder should be aware of. NFPA 1620 "Recommended Practice for Pre-Incident Planning" should be used as a guide when preparing a pre-incident plan.

The industrial plant's plans must include a command post or operations control point where the emergency services and facility staff can assemble to coordinate the operation and insure that adequate resources are assembled or are available to deal with the emergency. This command post must have internal and external communications capability and must have all of the plans and facility information that may be needed to coordinate an emergency operation. It must be located where it will not be exposed to any foreseeable emergency, since it will be of no use if it is in the middle of the problem.

## **FIRE CODE INSPECTIONS**

The best way to deal with an emergency is not to have one. Statistics from the Office of the Fire Marshal for Ontario show that the number of fires is falling in all categories except industry.

Most local fire departments carry out inspections for compliance with the Fire Code. Where deficiencies are discovered, a Notice of Violation is usually issued requiring the owner to take corrective action within a specified period of time. Compliance with these regulations just makes good

common sense. The regulations were developed based upon years of experience of fire losses and are intended to prevent a fire from occurring or at least mitigating the effects of a fire if one does occur.

Although the owner is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Fire code, fire prevention staff does, from time to time, have to remind them of their responsibilities. In most jurisdictions they try as much as possible to assist the owner in identifying possible dangers and finding solutions to their fire safety problems. In my view, this is a much-preferred course to taking court action. Fire Departments will, however, initiate action if the owner fails to take adequate corrective measures.

A common problem that arises in many industrial premises is the situation where the operation or process in the plant has been changed increasing the fire risk in the premises, but without any improvement in the fire protection systems. A good example would be a manufacturer who has been fabricating steel products and decided to start a new line that is made from plastic. The sprinkler system will most likely require modification in order to protect the higher fire challenge of plastics versus the risk of steel parts.

The Fire Code has provisions that require the owner to provide adequate protection if the activities change from the original intended use of the facility. The fire prevention staff can review a new process or risk with plant staff and provide them with some guidance in how to adequately protect it.

There are situations where companies have facilities that may be in compliance with the fire code, but still need better protection. A co-operative approach should be taken between the Fire Department, the owner's insurer and the owners to identify the facilities that are vital to their operations and require special protection. This team can help the owner to develop long-term programs to upgrade their fire protection and not only protect their investments but protect the lives of their staff and keep their insurance premiums down.

## **COOPERATION**

A sound relationship between the municipality and its industries is very important. In 1979 when the Mavis Road Train Wreck occurred in Mississauga, the incident precipitates the largest peace-time evacuation. I was able to initiate a couple of telephone calls that night that brought specialists from Gulf Oil (now Petro Canada) and Ashland Chemicals. They were invaluable in advising the emergency team in the early hours of the emergency. Mississauga had developed a close relationship with these two companies in particular and I knew that I could call senior staff at these companies at any time for assistance. They knew the same is true for them. They could call us for assistance or advice at any time.

Another venue to foster cooperative relationships between industry and municipal officials is through memberships in organizations such as the Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association, local CAER groups or, in some cases, local fire prevention associations. The networking that can develop by meeting people at functions can help you find out what others are doing. These informal settings allow for better discussion and cooperation. Joint exercises and training programs with industry and government are a natural evolution of this networking.

Safety, whether it is for fire, WHMIS or occupational health and safety, must become part of the daily routine at any workplace in order to be effective. All of the planning, prevention, staff training and emergency response are of little use if the employees do not see it as necessary. They must understand

that their lives and their jobs depend on keeping both themselves and their work place healthy. If we all work together, some day we may reach that goal.

**Cyril W. Hare**, President OIFPA

**Upcoming must attend to hear**

guest speakers at the joint venture of O AFC and OIFPA

**Hurricane Katrina** response - the municipal / industrial co-operation  
as well as

Controlling the **Massive Fire - Buncefield Fuel Terminal** fire  
in Hertfordshire England the Fire Chief from Hertfordshire

**Update on 2006 Fire Code**

Development of the objective-based format for the 2006 Ontario Fire Code is progressing and is **scheduled for release later in 2006**. Intent statements have been developed, and assignment of objectives and functionalities for each code requirement is undergoing final review and edit.

The 2006 edition of the Fire Code will also cover a series of technical and editorial amendments. The proposed technical changes fall into two main categories: those that advance harmonization with the model national Fire Code of Canada and those that support a number of unique Ontario priorities. A technical review of these changes has been completed and they are undergoing a final edit and integration into the code.

*Kim Bailey, P. Eng*

*Fire Protection Engineer*

*Ontario Fire Marshal's Office*



**Update of what's happening with some of our members and former members....**

**Gary Hoskins**, Emergency Response Team Leader, Pepsico Foods, Peterborough is now enjoying RETIREMENT!!!!

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The New Year finds us working hard to get ready for the Annual General Meeting and organizing some new seminars. We are looking forward to the upcoming events and remind you to mark the dates in your calendars.

The AGM will be held on May 10, 2006 in conjunction with our participation in the Fire Safety Conference and Education Seminar at the Double Tree Hotel, 655 Dixon Rd., Toronto. We are partnering with the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs in the organization of the conference. The conference starts on May 7 and ends with the conference banquet on May 10. There are additional training programs that are offered for the 3 days prior to the conference that is available to all of our members. The Trade Show will be held on May 8 and 9. This is the largest fire protection trade show in Canada. Guest speakers will speak on the Hurricane Katrina response, municipal/industrial co-operation and the Buncefield Fuel Terminal fire in Hertfordshire England. The Fire Chief from Hertfordshire will be providing a presentation on how they controlled this massive fire. The program is almost complete and Greer will be sending it to you along with the registration forms in the next few weeks. Please return your registrations to Greer as soon as possible. You will be able to register for one day of the entire conference. Meals are included in the registration. This is an excellent opportunity to update your knowledge, see the latest in equipment and meet with government officials in an informal setting. Plan to attend.

A seminar is tentatively scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at Petro Canada, Oakville. The topic is “**Confined Space Rescue**”. There are new regulations for confined space and anyone who has a confined space situation in their facilities should attend this seminar. Greer will be circulating registration information in the near future.

We are tentatively scheduling a seminar on **Emergency Planning for September 14 in Peterborough**. We are hoping to have **Julian Fantino, Commissioner of Emergency Management for Ontario** as the speaker. This will be another must see presentation. Mark your calendar now for this date.

As part of the AGM we will be holding elections for the Board of Directors. I encourage anyone who is interested to let Greer know. A quick phone call or e-mail is all she needs. The organization needs more representation from industry on the board. The OIFPA is an effective lobby group with the province. Industrial member participation is key to a healthy association. *The organization needs board members from industry, who can speak for industry.*

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Cyril W. Hare

## Upcoming Seminars...

Are you aware of the upcoming changes to **Confined Space**?

The Ministry of Labour Occupational Health and Safety Regulations upcoming legislation changes to the Confine Space Code as of September 1<sup>st</sup> affect YOU!! Learn all you can at this upcoming seminar being presented by Grip Safety, hosted by the Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association to the held at Petro Canada, Oakville, April 5 or 6th (date to be confirmed).

Members \$75.00 + GST and \$100.00 + GST for non-members.  
Book your registration at 905-527-0700 or oifpa@interlynx.net

**O AFC Toronto, May 8 – 10, 2006** – agenda to follow shortly.

Trade Show and Speakers....

**Hurricane Katrina response** - the municipal / industrial co-operation as well as the **Buncefield Fuel Terminal** fire in Hertfordshire England ...the Fire Chief from Hertfordshire will be providing a presentation on how they controlled this massive fire.

**Fire Code Changes**, George Fawcett will present and inform you of the new Ontario Fire Code changes, and the huge changes to warehouse storage at seminars being planned for October in Oakville and November in the Kingston area. Watch for details.

**Board of Directors Nominations** ... as you are aware the Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association will be holding an Annual General Meeting at this year's O AFC conference the first of May. We are now wanting to ask those members who have been a member in good standing for one year or more, who are involved in industry and interested in the development and growth of our association to put your name forward.

The Directors meet three times a year in Hamilton, and we require each director to take their part and responsibility that they feel comfortable to assist in the various tasks of a Board.

If interested, please submit your name and a brief bio to the office in order for us to publish to the membership prior to the Annual General Meeting.

**Your OIFPA Office.**

Many of our members are not aware of the networking that happens on a day-to-day basis at the office of the Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association. Along with maintaining the general operation of the organization, taking care of membership, arranging seminars, publishing the newsletter, handling the details of the golf tournament and general day to day requirements, we also take care of variety of telephone inquiries.

Calls come in for the purchase, testing and maintaining of fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, sprinkler system, fire planning, code changes to both fire and building codes and even what is needed to change a residential home to student housing. We also field calls for hazardous material disposal and cleanup. The list goes on. If it is related to fire, calls come in from anywhere in the Golden Horseshoe and surrounding areas. All of these calls are referred to people in the know. We go down the list of the members that seem to relate to the questions and give the inquirer the phone numbers and locations of who and where you may be.

The OIFPA is more than an office. We are a source of information for industry as well as the general public looking for answers. Hopefully we can be of some assistance pointing them in the right direction.

In order for our office to be more knowledgeable we need to have information about your company. If you want us to refer these questions on to you we need to know what topics, products and fire protection services you can provide. Forward your information so we can help those looking for answers. It can be a win-win situation. We also would like to post your company name and web page address on our links page of our web site so send in the details.

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Inserts

Welcome to **Ontario Industrial** magazine, ...with introduction by Paul Donnelly, of Fire-x-ting, we thank them for the magazine inserted with this mailing.

Lambton College – Industrial Fire School

Fire Service Messenger

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**Best Wishes and Congratulations to**

**Mike Stoddart**, has now joined Ontario Power Corporation, as a Consultant.

**Karen Floyd**, CRSP, RPN, is now with Niagara Health System, as their Emergency Management Co-ordinator.

**Membership Reminder** for those who have not yet renewed....

Your membership is due ... please remit or if you have chosen not to or you have changed your position etc., please inform the OIFPA office.

Thank you.

## Scholarship Winners



Our two recipients for scholarship honours from the William Beatty Memorial Scholarship Fund this 2005 are as follows:

### **Ben Lauwers'**

Ben Lauwers graduated the provincially recognized Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program in August 2005. At this time, he is enrolled in the Fire Science Technology Program at Lambton College. He has also obtained his Ontario Secondary School Diploma and is designated as an Ontario Scholar.

Ben was awarded the *Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association William Beatty Memorial Award* in November 2005 due to his prominent academic standing in the Pre-Service Firefighter Program at Lambton College. In addition, he was placed on the Dean's Honour List in 2005, and achieved a GPA of 3.94 out of 4.0.

Ben was a co-op student with the Burlington Fire Department last summer and partook in all available training exercises, as well as equipment maintenance/repairs. He hopes to pursue a career as a firefighter on a municipal or industrial fire department but is willing to travel to chase the slightest chance of employment in the fire service.

The second year Fire Science student enjoys competitive sports such as football, ball hockey, soccer and squash. He also finds amusement in ice and open water fishing and getting out with his long-time friends from his hometown of Wallaceburg, Ontario. Ben also tutors his fellow classmates in the areas of Fire Science Mathematics and Chemical Principles.

### **Alessio Fagorzi's**

Alessio Fagorzi is a graduate of the Ontario Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program and is currently enrolled in the Fire Science Technology Program at Lambton College.

He recently won the Ontario Industrial Fire Protection Association William Beatty Memorial Award in recognition of the highest academic achievement as well as earning a spot on the Dean's Honour List.

In addition to his outstanding academic performance, Alessio had the opportunity to compete against full-time firefighter in the Kitchener Firefighter Combat Challenge with the Lambton College Team. He also trained with the Sarnia Fire Department and actively participated in the daily activities of the fire station.

The Florence, Italy-born, aspiring firefighter is currently living in Sarnia. Alessio volunteers with Big Brothers and the Red Cross. He enjoys cooking, biking and sharing quality time with his wife Deborah.

For any further information, do not hesitate to contact Ben or Alessio through Karen Hendra, Co-op & Career Consultant at (519) 542-7751 ext. 3371 or at karenhe@lambton.on.ca



**11<sup>th</sup> Annual Wm. Beatty Memorial Golf Tournament...**

. Change of venue....

**GRANITE RIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, MILTON.**

**Thursday, September 21, 2006 ...**

*“You have to make corrections in your game a little bit at a time. It’s like taking aspirin. A few will probably cure what ails you, but the whole bottle might just kill you”.*

Harvey Penick

**Membership Update...**

Russell Enta, Senior Metal Control Clerk  
Johnson Matthey Ltd., Brampton  
Replaced by **Andy Calovini – EHS Manager**

Marc G. Guenette  
Chief Stationary Engineer  
CAMECO, Blind River  
Replaced by **J. Thomas Andress – Fire Safety Officer**

**Carrie Gerrow - EHS Co-Ordinator**  
Dana Canada, Barrie

**Kyle Kieraszewicz – Student**  
Sir Sanford Fleming College, Peterborough

**Chris Brown – Captain / Inspector**  
Town of Cobourg, Cobourg

Phil Bluck  
Manager of Operations Support  
Toyota Manufacturing, Cambridge

Replaced by **Shannon Crinklaw – Health & Safety Specialist**

**Robert A. Keay - HSE Manager**  
PepsiCo Foods, Peterborough

Craig Boon, Fire Chief  
Panolam Industries Limited  
Replaced by **Lyle Bullen, Fire Chief**

Darrin Hale, Fire Chief  
Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada,  
Thorold  
Replaced by **Eric Willems, Fire Chief**

**Bob Berkhout – General Manager**  
The King & Benton Group, Brantford

Pat Vescio, Fire Chief and Steam Plant  
Supervisor  
Interlake Paper, St. Catharines  
Replaced by **Gord Allen – Chief Operating Engineer / Fire Chief**

Welcome to all new members to the Ontario  
Industrial Fire Protection Association.