



# Smoke Alarms

## SAVE LIVES!

**Check • Test • Replace**

### Smoke Alarm Facts:



Replace  
**Every 10 Years!**



Test Alarms  
**Monthly!**



Change  
**Batteries Yearly!**

### NEW ONTARIO CO DETECTOR LAW

Effective January 1, 2026



CO Alarms **REQUIRED** on **EVERY LEVEL** if you have:

- ✓ Fuel-Burning Appliances
- ✓ Fireplace
- ✓ Attached Garage

**Carbon Monoxide is a Silent Killer!**

Test & Replace CO Alarms **Every 5-10 Years.**



**Calvin Fire Department**  
**Your Safety, Our Mission!**



# HOME FIRE SAFETY SURVEY FORM

## Smoke Alarms

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Are there working smoke alarms on every storey of the home? If yes, what type are they and where are they located?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you check the operation of your smoke alarms every month?

## Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you have any fuel burning appliances in the home? (natural gas or propane furnace or water heater).

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you have any fuel burning fireplaces? (natural gas, propane or wood burning)

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you have a garage that is attached to your home?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you have carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in your home? If yes, where are they located?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you check the operation of your carbon monoxide (CO) alarms every month?

## Home Escape Planning

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you have a home escape plan?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Can you indicate to me where your two exits are?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Have you identified a meeting place outside your home?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Can you indicate to me where this meeting place is?

## Important Things to Consider for Preventing Fire in your Home

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you always stay in the kitchen and remain alert while cooking?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you ensure electrical wiring is safe by avoiding overloading cords and outlets?

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Do you maintain 1 metre (3 feet) of space around heating and cooling appliances? (furnace, space heaters, A/C)

☐ Yes   ☐ No   ☐ N/A   Does anyone in the home that smokes, smoke outside?



# Calvin Fire Department

## Fire safety at home

### Plan your home fire escape

If a fire occurred in your home tonight, would your family be able to get out safely? It is important that everyone know what to do and where to go when the smoke alarm sounds. Take a few minutes to make a home fire escape plan, by following these steps.

#### 1. Draw a floor plan of your home

Draw a plan for each level of your home.

#### 2. Include all possible emergency exits

Draw in all doors, windows and stairways. This will show you and your family all possible escape routes at a glance. Include any features, such as the roof of a garage or porch, that would help in your escape.

#### 3. Show two ways out of every room, if possible

The door will be the main exit from each room. However, if the door is blocked by smoke or fire, choose an alternate escape route, which could be a window. Make sure that all windows can open easily and that everyone knows how to escape through them to safety. If windows have security bars, make sure they have a quick release.

#### 4. Identify anyone who needs help to escape

Decide in advance who will help the very young, older adults or people with disabilities in your household. A few minutes of planning will save valuable seconds in a real emergency.

#### 5. Choose a meeting place outside

Choose a meeting place a safe distance from your home that everyone will remember, for example:

- a tree
- a street light
- a neighbour's home

In case of fire, everyone will go directly to this meeting place so they can be accounted for.



## 6. Call the fire department from outside your home

Don't waste valuable seconds calling the fire department from inside your home. Once you have safely escaped, call the fire department from a cell phone or neighbour's home.

## 7. Practice your escape

Review the plan with everyone in your household. Walk through the escape routes for each room with the entire family. Use this walk-through exercise to check your escape routes, making sure all exits are practical and easy to use. Hold a fire drill twice a year and time how long it takes. In a real fire, you must react without hesitation as your escape routes may be quickly blocked by smoke or flames.





# How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan



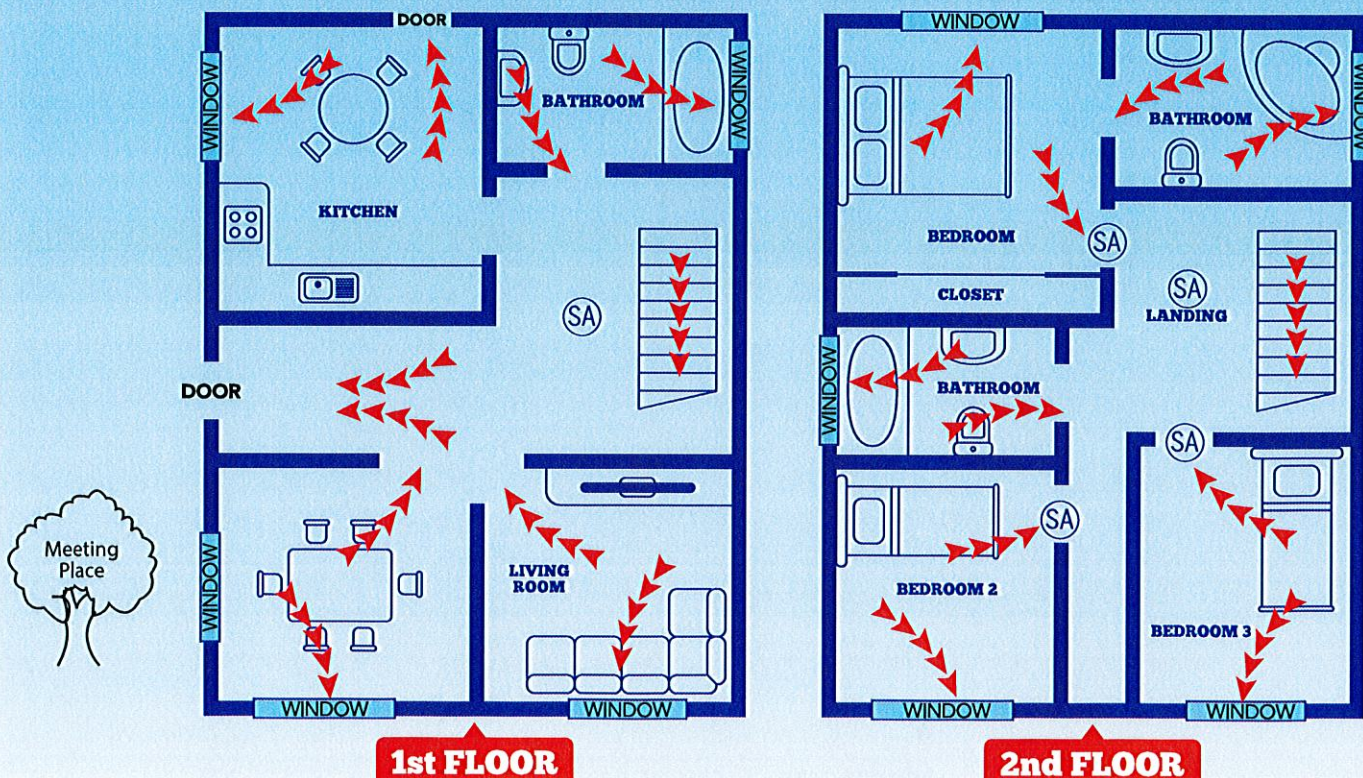
**FIRE  
PREVENTION  
WEEK™**



Visit [Sparky.org](http://Sparky.org)  
for more activities!

- ☐ Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.
- ☐ Visit each room. Find two ways out.
- ☐ All windows and doors open easily. You should be able to use them to get outside.
- ☐ Make sure your home has smoke alarms. Push the test button to make sure each alarm is working.
- ☐ Pick an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.
- ☐ The house or building number can be seen from the street.
- ☐ Your plan should meet the needs of all family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- ☐ Make sure everyone in your home knows how to dial 9-1-1.
- ☐ Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.

## Sample Escape Plan

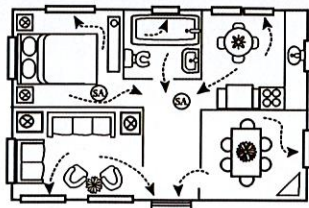




# How to make a Home Fire Escape Plan

**FIRE  
PREVENTION  
WEEK™**

Visit **Sparky.org**  
for more activities!



Meeting Place

- Draw a floor plan or a map of your home. Show all **doors** and **windows**.
- Mark **two ways out** of each room.
- Mark all of the **smoke alarms** with (SA). Smoke alarms should be in each sleeping room, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
- Pick a family **meeting place** outside where everyone can meet.
- Remember, **practice** your plan at least **twice a year!**

This image shows a full page of blank graph paper. The grid consists of small, equal-sized squares formed by thin black lines. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

**Grown-ups:** Children don't always wake up when the smoke alarm sounds. Know what your child will do before a fire occurs. For more fire safety resources, visit [sparky.org](http://sparky.org) and [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org).



# Home Heating Safety!

As the weather changes here in Calvin from Blistering heat to rainy cold days, the Calvin Fire Department would like to offer some Home Heating Safety Tips! Whether you are heating with wood, gas or electricity there are things you can do as a resident to keep you and your family safe!

**Wood-** Have your wood stove and chimney professionally cleaned and inspected annually. Keep wood chips and debris cleaned up around the stove. Move all furniture and any flammable materials at least 36" away. Never place anything on top of the stove. Allow the stove to operate at its most efficient air flow levels. Dampening down the stove too often can lead to incomplete combustion and cause heaving smoke, resulting in a buildup of creosote in the chimney.

In the event of a chimney fire or overheating of the wood stove's burn box, do not put water inside it, close the door and shut down all air venting. Eliminating air from entering the wood stove is quite effective. Do not hesitate to call 911 if you suspect a chimney fire.

**Gas/multi-fuel furnaces-** Any furnace type heating appliance should be professionally inspected annually. Professional technicians can identify problems most people can't see, they can test for heat exchanger issues, flame sensors, carbon monoxide leaks, gas leaks, they can even test your thermostat for proper function. Exhaust vents and fresh air intakes should be clean and clear of any obstructions.

**Electrical heaters-** Never leave portable heaters unattended for any period of time, even while sleeping. Portable heaters can cause fires by igniting flammable materials close by, like furniture, clothing left out, or even curtains. Never use an extension cord to plug in a portable heater. Extension cords can heat up and fail. Always plug it directly into the wall.

**Smoke alarms & Carbon Monoxide (CO alarms)** – Finally, ensure all your smoke alarms and CO alarms are in good working condition. It is the homeowner's responsibility to install and maintain smoke alarms on each level of their home and outside of all sleeping areas.

**The Calvin Fire Department is dedicated to the safety of Calvin residents and visitors, but we need your help to ensure your homes are safe this fall and winter season. Feel free to reach out to The Fire Chief Jordan Whalley with any questions at 705-744-2700 or by email at [Firedept@calvintownship.ca](mailto:Firedept@calvintownship.ca) For ALL emergencies please call 911.**





**Calvin Fire Department**



## **Smoke alarms**

Most fatal fires occur at night when people are asleep. Often, victims never wake up. Working smoke alarms give you the precious time you need to escape a fire. By law, every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every storey and outside all sleeping areas.

### **Responsibility for installation**

#### **Homeowners**

It is the homeowner's responsibility to install and maintain smoke alarms on every storey of their home and outside sleeping areas.

#### **Landlords**

It is the landlord's responsibility to ensure their rental properties comply with the law.

#### **Tenants**

If you are a tenant of a rental property and do not have the required number of smoke alarms, contact your landlord immediately. It is against the law for tenants to remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm in any way.

**Failure to comply with the [Fire Code](#) smoke alarm requirements can result in a \$360 ticket or fine of up to \$50,000 for individuals or \$100,000 for corporations.**



## **Choose the right alarms**

Smoke alarms are available with different features and applications, so choosing the right alarm can be confusing. Some of the features to consider include:

### **Power source**

Smoke alarms can be powered electrically, by batteries or both. If you are installing an electrically powered alarm, we recommend that it have a battery backup in case of power failures.

### **Technology**

Most smoke alarms employ either ionization or photo-electric technology. Ionization alarms may respond slightly faster to flaming-type fires. Photo-electric alarms may be quicker at detecting slow, smouldering fires. Consider having both types of alarms in your home. When purchasing smoke alarms, make sure they have the logo of a recognized standards testing agency, such as CSA or ULC, to ensure they meet Canadian performance standards.

### **Pause feature**

Smoke alarms with a pause button are highly recommended. The pause feature permits the alarm to be temporarily silenced without disconnecting the power source.

## **Install in the proper locations**

Smoke alarms must be installed on each storey of the home and outside sleeping areas. Because smoke rises, smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling. If this is not possible, install the alarm high up on a wall. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing smoke alarms.

Avoid putting smoke alarms too close to:

- bathrooms
- windows
- ceiling fans
- heating and cooking appliances



## Maintain your smoke alarms

### Test smoke alarms monthly

Test your smoke alarms every month by using the test button on the alarm. When the test button is pressed, the alarm should sound. If it fails to sound, make sure that the battery is installed correctly or install a new battery. If the alarm still fails to sound, replace the smoke alarm with a new one.

### Change the batteries at least once a year

Install a new battery at least once a year, or as recommended by the manufacturer. Install a new battery if the low-battery warning sounds or if the alarm fails to sound when tested.

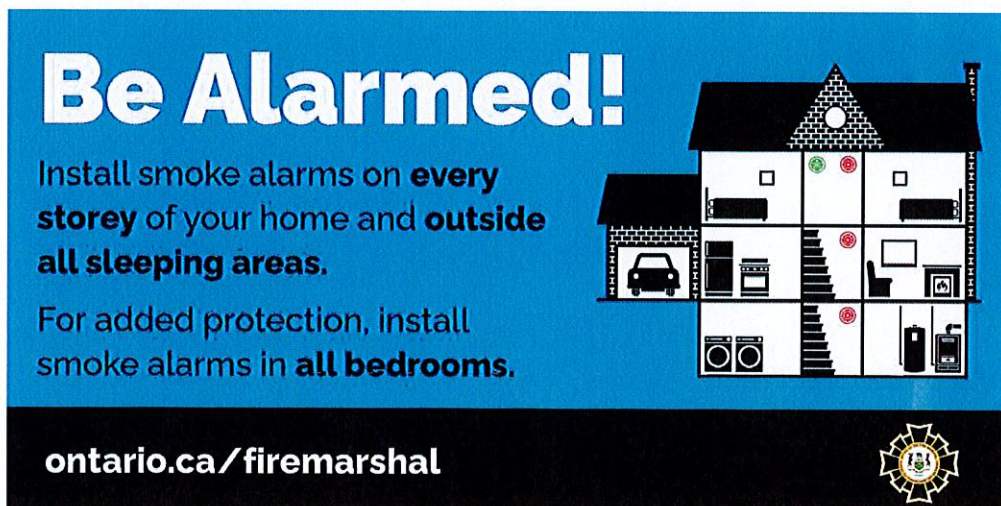
### Vacuum alarms annually

Dust can clog your smoke alarms. Battery-powered smoke alarms should be cleaned by opening the cover of the alarm and gently vacuuming the inside with a soft bristle brush.

For electrically connected smoke alarms, first shut off the power to the unit, and then gently vacuum the outside vents of the alarm only. Turn the power back on and test the alarm.

### Replace older smoke alarms

All smoke alarms wear out. Replace them every 10 years according to the manufacturer's instructions.







# Calvin Fire Department

## PUBLIC NOTICE – NEW CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARM REQUIREMENTS IN ONTARIO

Effective January 1, 2026

Ontario has introduced updated Carbon Monoxide (CO) alarm requirements under the Ontario Fire Code.

### WHO MUST COMPLY

These requirements apply to all residential dwellings with fuel-burning appliances, fireplaces, attached garages, or shared mechanical systems.

### NEW REQUIREMENTS

- CO alarms must be installed adjacent to every sleeping area.
- CO alarms must be installed on every storey of the dwelling.
- Multi-unit buildings require alarms in service rooms and in units adjacent to service rooms or garages.
- Tampering with CO alarms is prohibited.

### FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

Under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA):

- Individuals can face fines up to \$50,000.
- Corporations can face fines up to \$100,000.
- Additional penalties may apply for disabling or tampering with alarms, or failing to maintain required safety equipment.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

Homeowners:

- Install required alarms and maintain them.

Landlords:

- Install required alarms.
- Test alarms annually, after tenant changes, after battery changes, and after electrical work.

Tenants:

- Notify the landlord immediately if alarms are not functioning.

### SAFETY REMINDERS

- Test alarms monthly.
- Replace batteries as needed.





# Calvin Fire Department

- Replace alarms at end-of-life (typically 7–10 years).
- Have fuel-burning appliances inspected annually.

## IF A CO ALARM SOUNDS

1. Leave the building immediately.
2. Call 911 from a safe location.
3. Do not re-enter until cleared by emergency services.

For more information, contact the Calvin Fire Department at 705-744-2700 or visit [Ontario.ca](http://Ontario.ca) for more information on the updated fire code.







# Calvin Fire Department

## Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors vs. Fuel Gas Detectors

### Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

- **What they detect:** Carbon monoxide — a **colorless, odorless, tasteless gas** produced when fuels (wood, natural gas, propane, oil, gasoline) burn incompletely.
- **Danger:** CO builds up indoors and prevents your body from absorbing oxygen → causes headaches, dizziness, unconsciousness, and even death.
- **Where to install:** Near sleeping areas, and on every level of the home.
- **Key point:** You **cannot smell or see** carbon monoxide — only a CO detector can warn you.

### Fuel Gas Detectors

- **What they detect:** Combustible gases such as **natural gas (methane)** or **propane**.
- **Danger:** These gases are **explosive and flammable** if they leak and accumulate.
- **Where to install:** Near appliances (furnaces, stoves, water heaters) and in basements or areas with fuel lines.
- **Key point:** Fuel gas detectors are about **explosion/fire prevention**, not poisoning.

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### Summary:

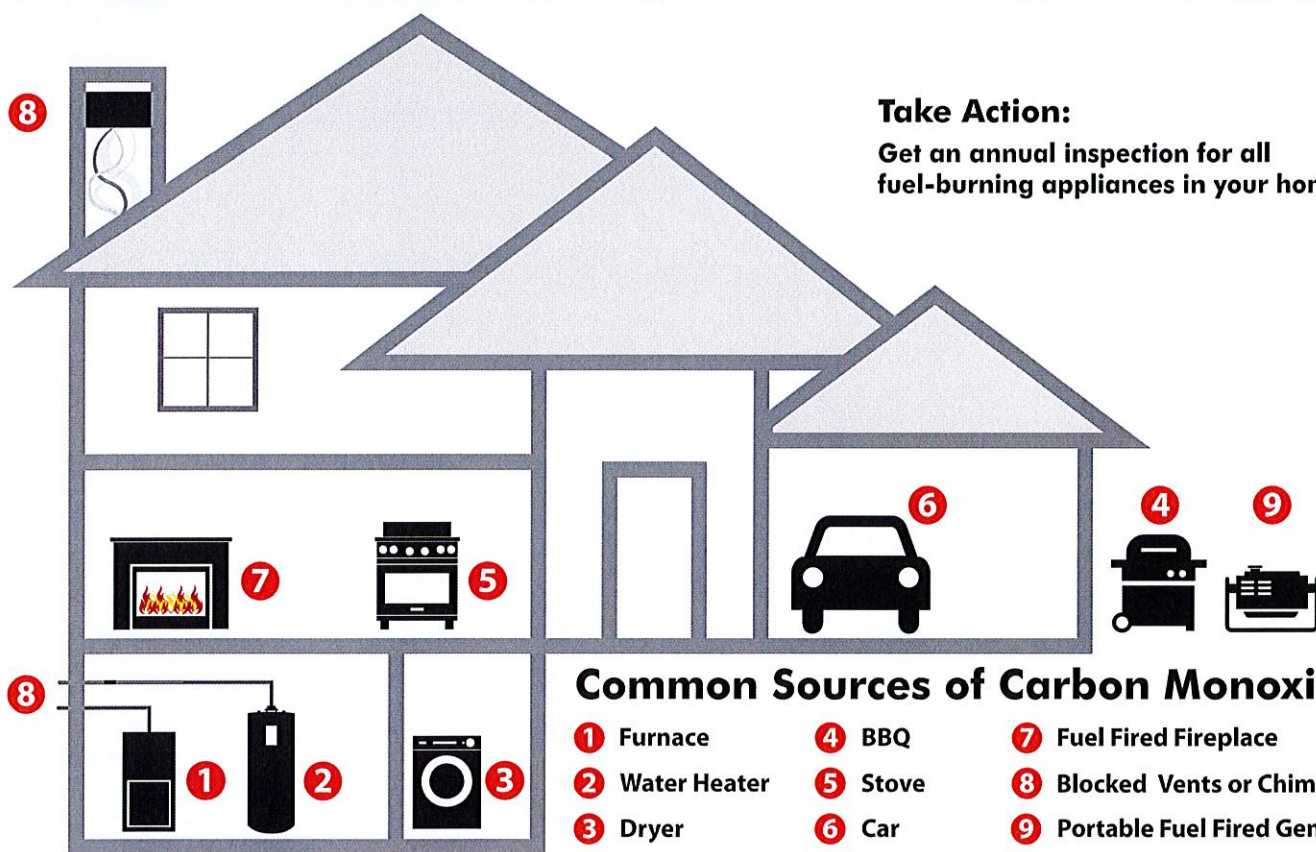
- **CO Detector = Protects from poisoning** (gas you can't smell or see).
- **Fuel Gas Detector = Protects from explosion/fire** (gas you might smell, but leaks can go unnoticed).

Many homes benefit from **both** types of detectors for full safety coverage.



# Beat the Silent Killer

## Carbon Monoxide Prevention



COSafety.ca  
@TSSAOntario  
ontario.ca/firemarshal  
@ontfiremarshal



## In Ontario, over 80% of all injuries and deaths due to carbon monoxide occur in homes.

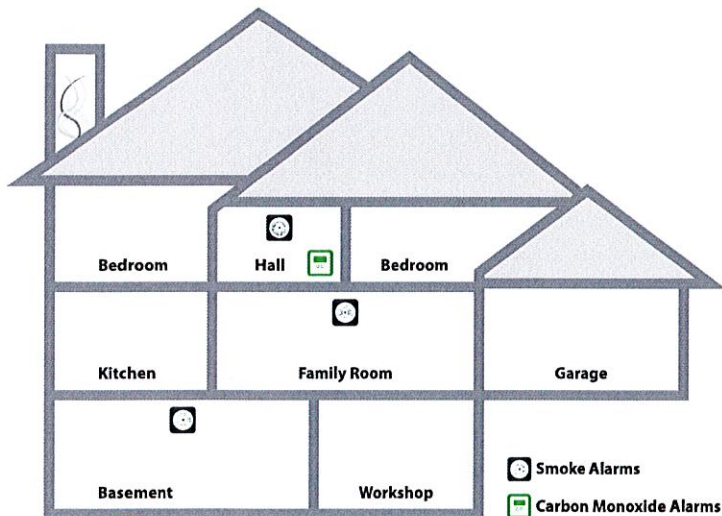
If your home has a fuel-burning appliance or an attached garage, install a carbon monoxide alarm adjacent to each sleeping area.

For added protection, install a carbon monoxide alarm on every storey of the home according to manufacturer's instructions.

### Alarm Locations

#### Take Action:

1. Install and regularly test carbon monoxide and smoke alarms.



**COSafety.ca**  
@TSSAOntario  
ontario.ca/firemarshal  
@ontfiremarshal

## Make sure YOUR household is safe from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Homeowners and landlords are responsible for ensuring their properties have working carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. This includes:

#### Testing:

- It is recommended that carbon monoxide alarms be tested monthly or in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

#### Batteries:

- Replace batteries in carbon monoxide alarms once a year or whenever the low-battery warning sounds.
- Know the difference between a low-battery warning and an emergency alarm – consult the CO alarm manufacturer's instructions.

#### Replace CO alarms:

- In accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Know what the "end-of-life" warning sounds like – consult the CO alarm manufacturer's instructions.

#### Landlords:

- Landlords are responsible to ensure working carbon monoxide alarms are installed and maintained in their rental properties.
- The law requires landlords to test CO alarms in rental units annually and when the battery is replaced, changes are made to the electric circuit or a change in tenancy occurs. CO alarms must be tested by pressing the test button.
- The law requires landlords to provide CO alarm manufacturer's maintenance instructions to tenants.

#### Tenants:

- The law requires tenants to notify the landlord if the CO alarm is inoperable.
- It is against the law for tenants to remove the batteries or tamper with the alarm in any way.

#### Exposure to CO can cause flu-like symptoms.

If your CO alarm sounds, and you or other occupants suffer from symptoms of CO poisoning, get everyone out of the home immediately. Then call 9-1-1 or your local emergency services number from outside the building.

If your CO alarm sounds, and no one is suffering from symptoms of CO poisoning, check to see if the battery needs replacing, or the alarm has reached its "end-of-life" before calling 9-1-1.



# Emergency Preparedness

Calvin Fire Department

Are You Prepared?

## Preparedness at Home

**No matter what kind of emergency, you should be prepared at home for any kind of event. Have disaster supplies on hand, specifically:**

- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Portable battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food, e.g., canned goods and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines.
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes

### Your Emergency Plan:

During an emergency it may take emergency services sometime to reach you. You should be prepared at home to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hrs. Having a home emergency guide can help prepare you for these times. Your plan should include things like a floor map of your home with emergency exits labeled, a plan to reconnect with family members, a known meeting area for children, lists of medications you may need, food and water supplies, important phone numbers and much more. Guidelines for emergency plans can be found at <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/>





### Other at Home Tips:

- Family members should know where to shut off the water, power and gas and should place the proper tools at each location.
- Make sure the water heater is strapped to the wall.
- Ensure that anything that could fall on one's head has been secured to the wall.
- Move the bleach and ammonia to separate locations.
- Make sure that all residents know the unsafe locations in the house.
- Have an emergency plan, escape routes and meeting places.
- Install emergency lighting in selected outlets.
- Ensure that residents know the location of the nearest police, fire station and hospital.
- Residents should know which neighbors have medical experience.
- Talk with neighbors about emergency preparedness.
- Let neighbors know how to turn off your utilities when you are not at home.
- Give neighbors a list of important phone numbers.
- Conduct a home evacuation drill.
- Educate children about how to get help from neighbors and 911.
- Have each family member carry a family photo.
- Evaluate supplies your family needs to store.
- Have the proper amount of water stored for emergency use.
- Have stored emergency food supplies.
- Have stored cooking items for emergency use.
- Have stored emergency items to use as shelter.
- Have a first aid kit.
- Have stored emergency lighting equipment.
- Have stored items to keep in touch with the world, e.g., radio and cell phone.
- Have positioned tools needed in an emergency.
- Have stored sanitation supplies.
- Have stored misc. supplies, including money for emergency use.

### Developing an emergency communication plan:

In case family members are separated from one another during a weather event (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), develop a plan for reuniting after the disaster. Have a family member from outside of your community to know your plan and have the contact information needed for emergency services to reconnect family members.



# Burning Regulations

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**Make sure you know the rules** for outdoor fires and follow safe practices. Each year dozens of residents and cottagers across Ontario lose structures and property to fire caused by careless burning. Your Fire Department would like to remind you that **outdoor burning regulations are enforced between April 1 and October 31**. If you burn, follow these steps:

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## **Choose a safe time**

Any fire is most likely to get out of control on a hot, dry or windy day. Burn during the coolest dampest and calmest time of day. **Two hours before sunset, or later, and extinguish two hours after sunrise.** Don't even consider burning when it is windy. Be aware that in the spring after the snow melts and before the grass and buds have started to grow, it is extremely hazardous to burn.

## **Choose a safe site**

If you are burning an area of grass or leaves, make sure the area is surrounded by a fireproof boundary. Roads, ditches or ploughed ground provide good barriers against fire spread. Your fire should be at least 18 meters (50ft) away from any structure or forest debris that might catch fire.

## **Put that fire out**

Remember, coals can smolder for hours and hot embers can be blown by the wind, easily setting fire to dry grass or twigs. Drown hot coals thoroughly, and then cover with sand or gravel.

## **Stay in control of your fire**

Many injuries are caused by careless use of flammable materials and underestimating fire behavior. Never use gasoline to start your fire as it is highly explosive. A responsible person must be available to tend the fire at all times, even if it is contained in an incinerator. You must have adequate tools (shovel, rake) and water on hand to control the fire if it begins to spread. Use caution around hydro poles and be aware of over head and underground cables. Be sure your fire does not cause irritation or inconvenience to your neighbors.

## **Keep your fire small**

Small fires can be controlled by one person using hand tools and water. When burning piles of wood, brush or wood by-products make sure it's less than 2m (6.5ft) high and 2m (6.5ft) in diameter. Keep your fires limited to one pile burning per acre. Burning an open field is not a good idea, but if it is necessary make sure you have the equipment and people available to do it safely.

## **DON'T BURN DURING THE DAY**

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It is your responsibility to be aware of the Rules, Regulations and By-laws pertaining to outdoor burning in this area. Your municipality follows the provisions of the Forest Fire Prevention Act. The O.P.P. and M.N.R. have the authority to lay charges if you are found negligent.

At any time the M.N.R or Fire Department may ban or restrict outdoor burning in this area until further notice. Be aware that if a forest fire results because you have used fire improperly, you could be held responsible for the cost of putting out the fire and any property damage that may occur.

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**If you have any further questions or if you would like a description of an approved incinerator, please call the Calvin Municipal Office 705-744-2700. A copy of the Burning By-law is available upon request from the Municipal Office or on the website [www.calvintownship.ca](http://www.calvintownship.ca)**