

Housing Division Notice

Date: January 23, 2006

HDN# 2006 - #100

This applicable legislation/policy is to be implemented by the housing provider(s) under the following programs:

Please note, if your program is **not checked**, this change is **not applicable** to your project.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Non-Profit Housing Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private Non-Profit Housing Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-operative Non-Profit Housing Program
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal Non-Profit Housing Program (Pre-1986)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local Housing Corporation

Subject: AMENDMENT TO THE ONTARIO FIRE CODE REGARDING SMOKE ALARMS

Background:

On December 13, 2005 an announcement was made detailing an amendment to the Ontario Fire Code to require working smoke alarms on every level of every home. The Fire Code currently requires that smoke alarms be installed near all sleeping areas in a home. O. Reg. 650/05 amends the Fire Code that effective March 1, 2006, smoke alarms must also be installed on each storey of a dwelling unit that does not contain a sleeping area.

For tenants and individual landlords, non-compliance with the Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$25,000.

The Office of the Fire Marshall (OFM) has identified a number of safety tips for smoke alarms. The OFM recommends that:

- If anyone in the household sleeps with the bedroom door closed, install an alarm inside their bedroom
- Batteries must never be removed from smoke alarms. If nuisance alarms are a problem, try moving the alarm to another location or purchase an alarm with a "hush feature" that temporarily silences the alarm
- Smoke alarms be replaced every 10 years
- Smoke alarms be tested once a month and the batteries be replaced every year
- Everyone in the household knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds. Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with the entire household.

Action:

Housing Providers to ensure that effective March 1, 2006 that working smoke alarms be installed on every level of every home.

Louise Stevens
Director of Municipal Housing