

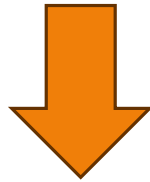
Welland Fire and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention Division



Who Are We?

Deputy Fire Chief Matt Richardson



Chief Fire Prevention Officer (CFPO) Tanya Korolow



Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) Michael Atkins

Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) Ken Dénomée

Fire Prevention Officer (FPO) Alexandra “Alex” Andison



What Do We Do?

Fire Safety Education

- Provide fire and life safety education in a variety of settings to different age groups and demographics.

Fire Safety Inspections and Enforcement

- Determine compliance with the Ontario Fire Code and applicable Codes and Standards.

Fire Investigations

- Determine the origin, cause, and circumstances of fires and explosions in the city.



Fire Protection Model



The Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal sets a comprehensive fire protection model as a basis for all fire services in the province, known as the “**three lines of defence**”.

- 1) Public Fire Safety Education
- 2) Fire Safety Inspections and Enforcement
- 3) Emergency Response (Suppression)

The Fire Prevention Division handles lines 1&2, accounting for 2/3's of this model, but with 5% of the department's full-time staff.

Fire Safety Inspections and Enforcement

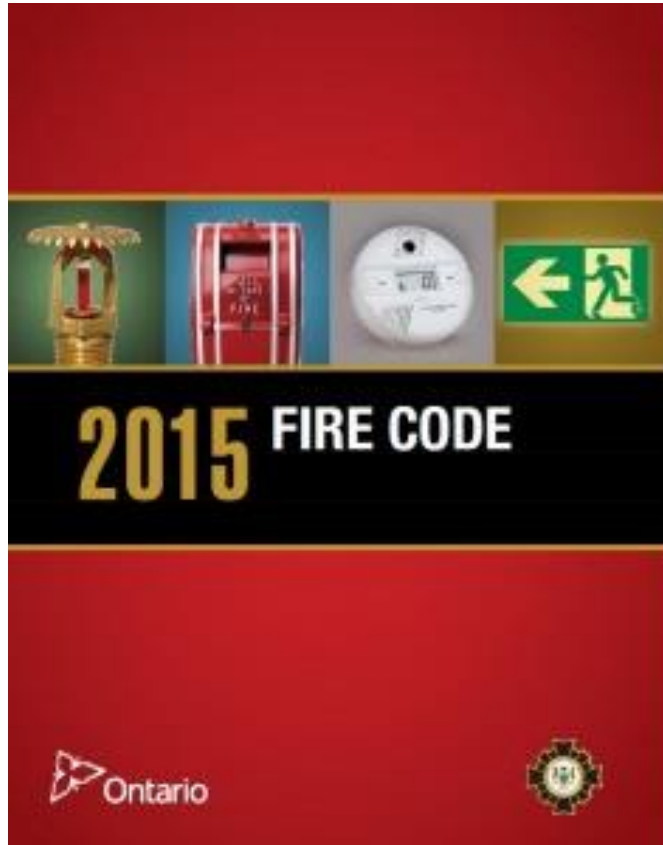
The majority of work for the Fire Prevention Division involves fire safety inspections.

Inspections are conducted and completed pursuant to the authorities prescribed in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA).

Inspections may occur upon receipt of a fire safety complaint, by request, or through a proactive inspection.



Fire Safety Inspections and Enforcement



FPOs conduct “retrofit” inspections of existing, older occupancies to increase the level of fire safety in these buildings which may not have been constructed under the Building Code.

The Fire Code, at present, has application criteria associated with the year of construction which may limit an FPOs ability to use the “retrofit” section.

The new Fire Code, expected to be unveiled this year and take effect in January 2026, is expected to remove the construction year requirements which opens an enormous body of work for FPOs to apply retrofit in the city.

Fire Safety Inspections and Enforcement



The proposed Fire Code update would now remove administrative barriers preventing FPOs from applying provisions of the Fire Code during complaints and proactive inspections.



This body of work will undoubtedly increase the workload of the Fire Prevention Division.



Fire safety complaints are received regularly by the department, but we have also adopted a proactive fire safety inspection and education strategy in the city.



Proactive inspections have resulted in the discovery of significant fire safety issues across the city, many of which would remain undetected without intervention by the Fire Prevention Division.

Proactive Inspections and Education

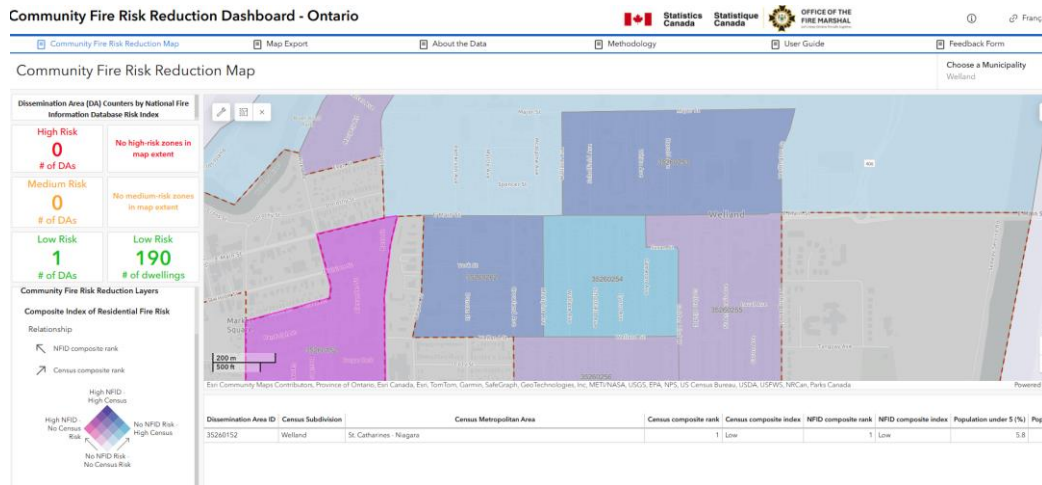
We have utilized proactive inspections effectively in the city, which has identified serious and egregious fire safety violations which FPOs directed property owners to rectify.

FPOs utilize our internal RMS and the Province's "Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard" to identify areas with high rates of fire incidents, coupled with common causes, to inform the types of inspections and education provided in these areas.



Proactive Inspections

-The Province unveiled the “Community Fire Risk Reduction Dashboard”, which is a free portal that utilizes the city’s fire response statistics, census data from Statistics Canada, and ARC GIS to create an overlay map.



-This mapping dashboard has a colour scheme that indicates a risk profile of a certain area, which lists the type of demographic, smoke alarm compliance, and other factors.



Proactive Inspections

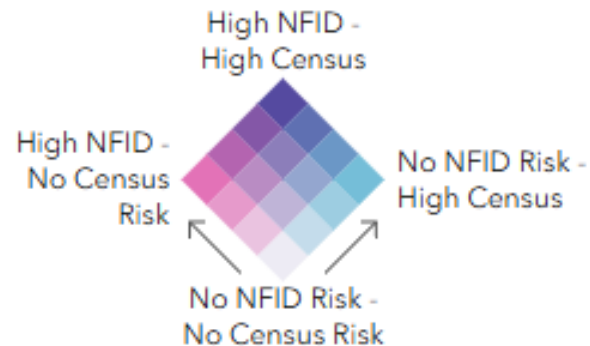
Community Fire Risk Reduction Layers

Composite Index of Residential Fire Risk

Relationship

↖ NFID composite rank

↗ Census composite rank



The colour scheme indicates an “NFID” (National Fire Information Database) risk profile, which takes into account the rate of fires, demographics, and other census data. All of this data is overlaid into the colour identified on the map. These areas help inform our inspection locations and education topics.

Fire Safety Inspections and Enforcement



WELLAND

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

1000

FIRE INSPECTIONS



2020-2025

FIVE YEAR
INSPECTION
PERIOD



\$2.2 MILLION

VALUE OF FIRE
SAFETY
IMPROVEMENTS



\$652K

FPPA FINES IN POA
COURT



Proactive, Complaint, Request Inspections



WELLAND

Fire Safety Inspections and Enforcement



IMPACT OF FIRE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

**NEW FIRE
ALARM
SYSTEMS**
(OR REPAIRS TO
EXISTING)



**NEW SPRINKLER
AND STANDPIPE
SYSTEMS**
(OR REPAIRS TO
EXISTING)



**NEW FIRE RATED
DOORS AND
DRYWALL**
(OR REPAIRS TO
EXISTING)



**NEW FIRE
SAFETY PLANS**

(PROVIDES
INSTRUCTIONS TO STAFF
AND OCCUPANTS)



Proactive, Complaint, Request Inspections



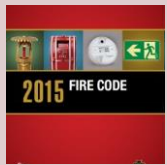
Impact of Fire Safety Inspections



-This work has provided an immediate and long-term improvement in fire safety across the city.



-The proactive initiative is successful and needs to expand in the city, utilizing our risk deduction maps to help inform locations and areas that should be inspected by the Fire Prevention Division.



-However, with the impending Fire Code updates, the removal of administrative barriers in the Fire Code will open an immense volume of work that FPOs will now have to address.



-With the current staffing complement, the ability to maintain the progress and workload of the proactive program in conjunction with complaint/request inspections will be affected by the new Fire Code update.

Operational Concerns



-It's recognized the city's current and expected population over the next ten years will far exceed the industry best practice of 10,000:1 ratio for population per Fire Prevention Officer, with only four (4) staff presently in the division.



-The service level of the Fire Prevention Division will undoubtedly become diluted with the expected population growth and Fire Code updates.



Fire Safety Education

-Fire safety education is a critical component of the Fire Prevention Division.

-Traditional fire safety education initiatives involving static displays or a table at a community event still is effective in some situations.

-However, the pandemic revealed the need for a new medium to reach our residents with fire safety information: social media.



Fire Safety Education



-In 2020, the decision was made to create social media platforms for WFES to share departmental updates and fire safety education.



-The social media platforms for WFES have been incredibly successful.



-Infographics, posters, and videos have been shared across the platforms on a variety of topics depending on provincial initiatives or to respond to certain fire causes in the community.



Fire Safety Education



WELLAND

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION 2023-2025

1.1 MILLION
VIEWS



53,600 PAGE
VISITS



Fire Safety Education – Social Media



Fire Safety Education

Notable Initiatives:

2021 WFES “Dance Video”

- 245,714 Facebook views

- 1302 interactions

- Viewing time on Facebook: 39 days, 4 hours (940 hours total)

- Aired on “Good Morning America” in the United States, which has an average viewership of 5 million people, in addition to several local and national news outlets in Canada.



Fire Safety Education



Between 2023-2025, in-person fire safety education initiatives occurred as well which include: truck tours, station visits, school visits and presentations, and the “after the fire smoke alarm program”.



Between 2023-2025, 224 hours of in-person fire safety education occurred.

Current Fire Safety Issues

-The province has experienced a record number of fire deaths and injuries so far in 2025.

-Most cases involved missing or inoperable smoke alarms

What we ask of you:

- Ask your constituents to embrace fire safety and to install and maintain smoke alarms
- Tell your constituents if they see our trucks or personnel in the community to stop and say hello and chat fire safety.



Welland Fire Prevention Division



The Fire Prevention Division is a proud and committed group of fire safety professionals who work tirelessly in our community to increase fire safety.



The information shared today highlights the crucial work they have completed across our city but also identifies the operational challenges they face presently and in the future.



Welland Fire Prevention Division

Thank You

