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For Immediate Release

Trent Hills Smoke Alarm Blitz

Where there's smoke, there's fire.

Now where there's no alarm, there will be no tolerance.

Campbellford, Ontario, February 6, 2005 – “Some 70 per cent of fire deaths have been connected to missing or non-functional smoke alarms,” said Campbellford/Seymour Fire Chief Tim Blake. “Since fire can grow and spread so quickly, a smoke alarm may be the only warning a sleeping family will get before it is too late to escape. Spending \$5 to \$10 for a smoke alarm is a small price to pay for possibly saving your life in a fire.”

Fire Chief Blake and Hastings/Warkworth Station Fire Chief Bill Kelly have noticed a dramatic increase in the number of disabled or missing smoke alarms in their regular fire safety inspections of homes, apartments and residences. It is infuriating to the Trent Hills firefighters to find no working smoke alarms on the premises they are inspecting. The devices are proven to be lifesavers in the event of fire, yet so few people seem to pay them the attention they deserve.

As a result, the Trent Hills Fire Department has announced the start of a massive smoke alarm blitz within the Municipality, in which firefighters will be setting their sights on those who do not possess functional smoke alarms, either by accident or design.

“A working smoke alarm is required by law on every level of a home,” indicates Fire Chief Blake. “At this time, there will be zero tolerance for disabled or missing smoke alarms. If it is discovered that someone is in contravention of the law, warnings will be issued over the next month, but as of March 1, 2006, the property owner or tenant will be fined \$235.00 for this offence.” It is Chief Blake’s personal goal to try and get a working smoke alarm inside every home in Trent Hills.

To help spread the word and to educate landlords and tenants on the importance and requirements of having working smoke alarms, the fire department is hosting an open house information session at the Campbellford/Seymour, Warkworth and Hastings Fire Halls on February 15, 2005 at 7:00pm.

For more information regarding smoke alarms and the fire department open house, please contact:
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