



Fire Chief Reminds Everyone to be Fire Safe During COVID-19 Pandemic

Township of Greater Madawaska – April 9, 2020, the Greater Madawaska Fire Department is urging everyone not to forget about fire safety as they deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. As people find themselves spending more time at home for work, self-isolation, or practicing physical distancing, they should remember the importance of preventing home fires.

Along with other essential services, the fire department has had to implement safeguards and physical distancing protocols in the workplace. Residents of Greater Madawaska are advised of the following changes to fire department services during the COVID-19 pandemic response:

As of March 18, 2020, a Level 2 Fire Ban has been implemented to reduce non-Emergency calls. All fire permits have been suspended and no open-air burning is permitted.

Fire Chief Darryl Wagner is also urging the public to remain vigilant in the ongoing battle to prevent unintentional fires and injuries by practicing fire prevention and fire safety during these extraordinary times. "Regardless of the circumstances, additional time at home with family members provides an excellent opportunity to discuss fire safety and review your home fire escape plan," said Chief Wagner.

Here are some simple things that people can do to protect themselves and their families:

- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms using the test button. If the alarm fails to sound, check and replace batteries if necessary. Make sure everyone knows the sound of the alarms.
- Develop or review your home fire escape plan to make sure everyone in the household knows what to do if a fire occurs. Make sure to designate someone to help older adults, children, and anyone else who may need help to escape.
- Use care when using and recharging electronic devices such as laptops, tablets, or mobile devices. Check electrical cords and charge cables to ensure they are in good condition. Don't overload electrical circuits. Avoid placing electronics on soft surfaces like beds or upholstered furniture when recharging to avoid the risk of overheating.

As the Greater Madawaska Fire Department continues to do our best to protect the community under these extraordinary circumstances, it is imperative that the public does all that they can to practice fire safety in the home and take the necessary steps to protect themselves and their families from the risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

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