

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF RETROFIT SECTION 9.8

In July 1994, the Ontario Fire Code was amended to incorporate Section 9.8, Two Unit Residential Occupancies. To raise awareness of the new retrofit regulation, the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and several fire departments have been informing building landlords and tenants of the fire safety requirements contained in the regulation. To continue enhancing awareness of these fire safety requirements and remind homeowners of their responsibility to comply with the retrofit provisions, a number of options are available to fire departments:

- English and French radio stations throughout Ontario have been provided with a pre-recorded thirty second public service announcement that promotes awareness of the new Fire Code regulation and its application. Fire departments are encouraged to contact their local radio station and request that this important fire safety message continue to be aired.
- Local newspapers should also be approached to feature an article on the new retrofit regulation. The article could highlight the concerns of fire departments regarding fire safety and the need to inform landlords and tenants that apartments in houses must meet minimum fire safety standards. The article could also encourage owners to proceed with any upgrading that may require exterior excavation in order to take advantage of the warmer weather before the compliance date of July 14, 1996.
- Over the past year, the OFM's Regional Offices have been conducting educational seminars on Retrofit Section 9.8 throughout the province. Any fire department that is interested in hosting one of these seminars in their area should contact their Regional Office of the Fire Marshal. These seminars should be open to the public to enable interested individuals (landlords, tenants etc.,) to attend.
- The OFM has developed a pamphlet, Fire Safety for Apartments in Houses, which provides information on the new fire safety regulations for homeowners and tenants. Fire departments and other interested groups should contact their Regional Office of the Fire Marshal for copies. The Ministry of Housing also has companion pamphlets available on Bill 120 (Residents' Rights). To obtain copies, contact the Rent Control Office (listed under the blue pages in the local telephone book) or the Ministry of Housing, Customer Assistance Line at (416) 585-7041.
- Copies of the Ontario Regulation 385/94, together with background information on the Fire Code amendments and a detailed Commentary, are available to the public at a nominal cost from: