

# CFSA News

CANADIAN FIRE SAFETY ASSOCIATION

## IN THIS ISSUE

Fall 2000 • VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3

- 3** Changes in Fire Alarm System Standards
- 4** Fire Prevention Week 2000 – Fire Drills: The Great Escape
- 6** FYI – OFM Fire Code Opinion
- 7** Ottawa Fire Department puts IRC research into practice
- 7** NRC's 10-storey test facility with shafts and other features typically found in multi-storey buildings
- 8** Valiant Hearts that did the Supreme Sacrifice
- 9** CFSA Membership News
- 10** Schedule of Events
- 11** Corporate Members



*Fire Safety is Everybody's  
Business*

## P



The leaves are changing colour and the days are getting cooler. Autumn is perhaps my favourite season. Autumn also brings National Fire Prevention Week. The theme this year was again "The Great Escape". This campaign, developed to promote development and practice of home evacuation plans, has proven successful in saving lives. I hope each of you and your family members have participated in this program within your own home.

As the days grow shorter it reminds me that it will soon be time to turn back the clock. For many of us, this is also a reminder to change the batteries in our smoke alarms.

Remember, the majority of fires and fire deaths unfortunately occur in the home.

CFSA directors are currently busy preparing for future dinner meetings and breakfast technical sessions. Planning of the annual seminar, to be held next April, is also commencing. We are always interested in learning of topics that are of interest

to members. Please feel free to contact any member of the Board if there is a subject that you would like explored at a future CFSA event.

The Board of Directors is also currently reviewing the CFSA by-laws to determine whether changes should be implemented to update the by-laws. Proposed changes, if any, will be brought before the members at the Annual General Meeting in the spring.

The CFSA website has been generating an increasing response from people with interests in fire safety. The CFSA Internet committee continues to examine ways to develop and make further use of this exciting tool.

Some of you may not be aware that the CFSA traces its origins back to the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, Southern Ontario Chapter. On behalf of all our members, I would like to extend our best wishes to the SFPE, Southern Ontario Chapter who are celebrating their 35th anniversary this year. Congratulations !

Jon Winton  
President



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# Changes in Fire Alarm System Standards

Wednesday, September 27, 2000 CFSA Dinner Meeting

Reported by Jason Scovell

The Canadian Fire Safety Association was pleased to present Mr. Fred Leber, the Chief Executive Officer of Leber-Rubes, as the guest speaker for the first dinner meeting of the Fall season. The topic was near and dear to his heart due to the extensive personal involvement he has had with it, namely, the forthcoming changes in the fire alarm system Standards published by Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada.

The fire alarm industry is not unlike any other in the sense that as time passes, change occurs. Whether it be technological, process-based or otherwise, changes in one area require reactions in others. So it has been since 1987 in the fire alarm and construction industries where technology has advanced exponentially and the existing Standards which served to regulate these rapidly changing environments have not been able to keep pace. This is the reason for the changes to CAN/CAN/ULC-S527, Standard for Fire Alarm Control Units and CAN/CAN/ULC-S524, Standard for the Installation of Fire Alarm Systems. The changes represent an attempt on the part of manufacturers, consultants and fire service authorities to update the Standards in order to meet the demands of the new technologies that didn't even exist when the currently legislated editions were referenced (1987 for CAN/ULC-S527, and 1991 for CAN/ULC-S524).

It is important to note that the current CAN/CAN/ULC-S524 derives its authority from the National Building Code because it is referenced as the Standard in accordance with which all required

fire alarm systems shall be installed. CAN/ULC-S527 derives its authority from CAN/CAN/ULC-S524 because it is referenced as the Standard to which all Control Units must conform. All equipment used in fire alarm systems must be tested and approved by an accredited laboratory, and must be labeled indicating such. This is where the process begins. Some of the major changes to appear in the new editions are detailed below.

In the latest editions of both Standards, significant changes have occurred in the 'Definitions' section. For example, whereas "Class A" wiring was previously defined only by its operating characteristics ("continued operation with a single open in circuit wiring"), it is now defined in terms of the physical method of wiring, making it clearer what the Standard means when it uses the term. Another example is the term "Circuit", which is defined as "where conductors connect directly to field devices". This differentiates the wiring for transponders, which are Data Communication Links and therefore subject to different requirements than "circuits".

Both Standards have also addressed the concept of Response Time, which is unique to computer-based systems and is a function of the control unit's capabilities. This had never been an issue in "conventional systems". The closing of contacts in a conventional system takes milliseconds, and with this being virtually the only limiting factor, the response time is insignificant. However, software-driven systems utilizing distributed processors require more

*continues...*

time to operate and a longer process for the information to be passed through. In first generation models, the response time to alarm was measured in minutes. Modern equipment can take 30 seconds, but the requirement of the Standards is for a maximum of 10 seconds. This is the benchmark which will be used in testing commencing in January, 2001.

CAN/ULC-S524 now indicates that "voice commands shall not be used as the alarm signal or alert signal" in fire alarm systems. This typically took the form of a pre-recorded message that instructed occupants to evacuate the building. There is continuing debate in the United States regarding this issue but it is clear at this point the direction the Canadian industry will take.

CAN/ULC-S524 now deals extensively with Data Communications Links (DCL's), including specific indicators to identify a DCL failure, and new Figures and Tables describing performance and loading limits in a distributed system. It was decided that the overriding concern must be the survivability of the fire alarm system. Distributed processing and interconnected transponders provide advanced capabilities and enhance the quantity and quality of information

which can be communicated throughout a building during an emergency.

CAN/ULC-S527 now addresses Annunciators in detail in areas such as sequential displays, and describes them in terms similar to those of transponders with the necessary controls on fault tolerance and operation.

Section 5.6 of CAN/ULC-S524 applies to "Fire Detection" and has been modified to indicate that detectors are not to be placed closer than 450 mm from an air supply or exhaust. The previous requirements were set at 900 mm from a supply and 600 mm from an exhaust. Spacing in relation to Beam Construction has also been modified. Spacing for heats has been reduced to 60% for beams 100 mm in depth or more, and spacing for smokes is reduced by 50% if beams are more than 300 mm in depth when ceiling height is 3600 mm. Also, new Figures have been added to address spacing for corridors and flat ceilings. Aspirating detectors and Flame detectors are also addressed in separate sections.

It is important to note that the foregoing is just a brief snapshot of only some of the changes which will appear in the new fire alarm standards to be

published before the end of this year. CAN/ULC-S524 will be available in November, 2000 and CAN/ULC-S527 is to be implemented for new product testing in December, 2001. If anyone has any questions about the requirements of the Standards, they should feel free to contact the Standards Coordinator for the subject area, Mr. Mike Prasad, at Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada.

Mr. Leber's presentation was gratefully received by a capacity audience and everyone in attendance agreed that a wealth of information had been imparted by a very knowledgeable and accomplished representative of the industry.

*"Fred Leber is the CEO of Leber/Rubes Inc. a building code and fire protection consulting engineering firm with offices in Toronto & Ottawa. Fred has recently been elected to NFPA's Board of Directors and is an active member of NFPA 72's Technical committee on Protected Premises Fire Alarm Systems. Fred has also served as Chairman of the ULC Subcommittee on Control Units for Fire Alarm Systems."*

*Reported by Jason Scovell*

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# FIRE Prevention Week 2000 – Fire Drills: The Great Escape

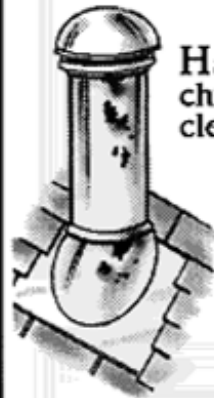


## Fire Prevention Week was October 8-14

The theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign was "Fire Drills: The Great Escape!" This year's "The Great Escape" (a.k.a. the world's largest fire drill) took place on Wednesday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m. "The Great Escape" is a fun, family-oriented activity that gets the public actively involved in home fire planning and practice. Over the past two years, NFPA has documented 58 lives saved as a direct result of this campaign. With help from fire safety advocates throughout the United States and Canada, our goal is to make sure more families are truly prepared to survive a home fire than ever before.

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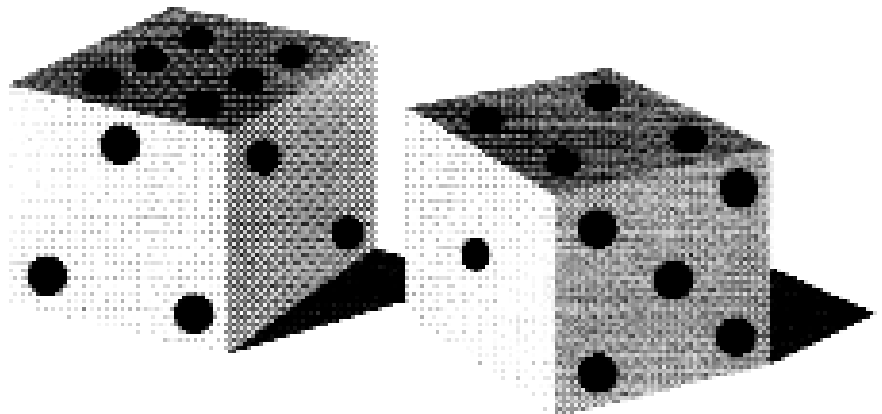
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# FYI - OFM Fire Code Opinion

(taken from [www.gov.on.ca/ofm](http://www.gov.on.ca/ofm))

OFC 2.7.2.2.

“Devices on any required exit door shall be such that the door may be readily opened from the inside without the use of keys and shall be designed to be opened in a conventional manner without the use of unusual devices or requiring a specialized knowledge of the door opening device, except that this requirement shall not apply to exits serving persons under legal restraint.”

Intent: This Article is intended to ensure that all exit doors (except those exempted by Sentence 2.1.1.2.) shall be readily and easily openable by the building occupants in a fire emergency situation to allow for unimpeded egress from the building.

**A** OFM’s interpretation of Article 2.7.2.2. has been to allow a single draw/slide bolt on exit doors as long as there are no other devices on the door that are required to be operated to open the door (i.e. latch sets or panic hardware). As well, the draw/slide bolt shall be visible, readily accessible and easily operable by the general public. This interpretation is consistent with an interpretation by the Buildings Branch of a similar requirement in the Building Code.

Because Article 2.7.2.2. is not specific on the issue of draw/slide bolts on exit doors, the OFM recommends that fire



## Other Resources

NFPA 101, “Code for Safety to Life from Fire in Buildings and Structures” (a.k.a.: Life Safety Code), OBC 3.4.6.15, OBC 9.9.6.8.

**Q** Are draw/slide bolts acceptable on exit doors?

departments develop a municipal policy dealing with this issue to ensure uniform application and enforcement. This policy should detail arrangements where these devices would be considered acceptable and provide discretionary parameters for determining what type of draw/slide bolts would be considered acceptable. The OFM interpretation could then be used to support this policy.



**Editor:** David Johnson

The CFSA Newsletter is published 4 times per year – June, September, December, March

## Advertising Rates (per issue, GST extra)

Back cover	\$250
Full page	\$200
1/2 page	\$100
1/4 page	\$50
Business Cards	\$25

10% discount for CFSA Corporate Members.

All advertisements are required to be camera ready.

## Closing dates for submissions are as follows:

- Issue #1 – May 20
- Issue #2 – Aug. 19
- Issue #3 – Nov. 19
- Issue #4 – Feb. 17

**All general enquiries** and advertising materials should be directed to the CFSA office at  
2175 Sheppard Ave. E., Suite 310,  
North York, Ontario M2J 1W8

Your comments, suggestions and articles are welcome. Please send them to the attention of:

The Editor  
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2175 Sheppard Ave., E., Suite 310  
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Views of the authors expressed in any articles are not necessarily the views of the Canadian Fire Safety Association. Also, the advertisements are paid advertising and in no way recognized as sponsored by CFSA.

## CFSA Chapters

Interested in forming a new chapter?  
Call CFSA at (416) 492-9417.

# Ottawa Fire Department puts IRC research into practice

The Ottawa Fire Department is using the information derived from a recent project carried out at the Institute for Research in Construction (IRC) to develop training programs and guidelines for fighting fires in high-rise buildings. The project used the National Research Council's (NRC) 10-storey test facility to investigate the effectiveness of positive pressure ventilation (PPV) as a means of getting smoke out of high-rise buildings both during and after fires.

The research indicates that PPV can be an effective weapon in fire fighting operations because it helps remove smoke from the building. It can also be used for ventilating contaminated spaces to make them safe so that salvage and overhaul operations can take place.

PPV is achieved by placing portable fans outside a building and blowing air into it. When appropriate openings or

vents are used, the airflow produced by the fan exhausts contaminants to the outside.

This method of venting is already used by North American fire departments to remove smoke from small buildings, including single family dwellings, but until recently, there was very limited information on how well



**In this experiment, smoke was produced by fires in sofas and beds**

this approach worked in high-rise buildings.

In this project, IRC fire researchers evaluated the effectiveness of using PPV to fight fires and ventilate contaminated spaces for various fire scenarios. The NRC facility, with its experimental tower and attached observation area, contains all the shafts and other features necessary to simulate air- and smoke-movement patterns found in the centre core of a typical multi-storey building, including the elevator, stair, smoke exhaust, service, supply- and return-air shafts.

Propane burner fires, which burn at a constant rate, as well as fires involving typical residential furniture (sofas and beds) were used to produce smoke in the stair shaft and corridor. Tests were conducted under both summer and winter conditions to determine the effects of environmental conditions on smoke venting.

## NRC's 10-storey test facility

### with shafts and other features typically found in multi-storey buildings

#### The major findings were:

- The time required to vent smoke from the stair shaft depended on the venting scenario, but was typically less than three minutes.
- The time required to vent the stair shaft was approximately 50% less than that required when natural venting was used.
- PPV was effective under both summer and winter conditions.
- When the corridor on the floor of fire origin was vented, the temperatures at the bottom of the corridor were quickly reduced, suggesting that PPV can be a valuable tool in fire fighting operations because it helps reduce temperature



and remove smoke from the building quickly. However, it must be used judiciously – the timing and specific circumstances are critical – since venting increases the amount of oxygen delivered to the fire, and as a consequence

can increase the size of the fire.

A follow-up project to develop suitable tactics for using PPV in buildings of 20 storeys or more is now underway.

Specific questions can be directed to Dr. Gary Lougheed at (613) 993-3762, fax (613) 954-0483, or e-mail [gary.lougheed@nrc.ca](mailto:gary.lougheed@nrc.ca).

This project was conducted by IRC's Fire Risk Management Program in collaboration with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), Ottawa Fire Department, Tempest Technology Corporation and the Co-operators Insurance. (Taken from *Spring 2000 Construction Innovation*)

# Valiant Hearts that did the Supreme Sacrifice

On Sunday, October 1, 2000, 141 line of duty Firefighter deaths going back to 1848 were Dedicated at a new Millennium Monument for our "Valiant Hearts" that did the "Supreme Sacrifice" while protecting lives, property and the environment in Toronto.

A parade of retired and active firefighters marched along Queen's Quay to Harbourfront Fire Station #9, 339 Queen's Quay West, due south of Sky-Dome on Lake Ontario. They passed under a vertical Canadian Flag, suspended by two new Aerial Fire Trucks. The cortege was lead by the Toronto Fire Services' Pipes and Drums, followed by the 48th Highlanders on Canada, the Toronto Fire Firefighters War Veterans Association Colour Party, the Scarborough Firefighters Retirees Colour Party, the Toronto Police Service Chief's Ceremonial Unit, the Toronto Civic Honour Guard and the Toronto Emergency Medical Services Honour Guard.

Retired firefighters played the Last Post and Reveille. A seven-gun salute ended a one minute of silence, rendered by the 48th Highlanders.

Distinguished speakers were the Honourable David Tsubouchi, Solicitor General, Councillor Brad Duguid, Fire Chief Alan F. Speed and President Jim Lee, Toronto Professional Fire Fighters' Association, Local 3888. A common theme throughout their remarks was the dedication and bravery of those who elect to serve their fellow citizens. Speaking for the families of the Fallen were Jack Simpson and Captain Mark Thomson. Their emotional tributes gave glimpses of the lives of their rela-

tives and in so put a human face to those who did the Supreme Sacrifice.

The monument consists of a bronze life-and-a-quarter sized firefighter, cradling a swaddled baby, with bronze flames lapping at its feet. This is a 360-degree monument. On the other side are six columns with name, date, rank and former municipality of our 141 Fallen, engraved in black granite. The granite is in the shape of the upper part of a cross. Above the Honour Roll, in the upper stem of the cross, a Maltese Cross is suspended. During the sun rise a shadow outlining the Maltese Cross moves across the Harbourfront Fire Station wall. Four granite benches surround the memorial to give an area for quiet reflection.

## **Highlights of significant historical firefighter fatalities:**

The first Toronto Firefighter killed in the line of duty was William Thornton, on Friday, November 24th, 1848. In the 1840's Toronto's firefighting forces had only recently organized into less than a half-dozen volunteer companies, originally operating out of a Fire Hall on Church Street, near Court Street. Firefighters still pulled manual pumps by hand, and horse-drawn tankers secured water filling along the waterfront. In this environment, fires were extremely difficult to fight, and the various companies of firefighters took a fierce pride in their service to the community. It would be just a matter of time until tragedy struck the Toronto Fire Brigade.

Just after 1 A.M. on the morning of Wednesday, November 22nd, 1848, a fire started in Webb's Shoe Shop on King Street near Church Street. The

owner, who lived above the shop, ran to the nearby church to turn in the alarm on the Church Bells. Pulling their apparatus the short distance from the hall on Church Street, the firefighters were confronted with heavy fire spreading to a total of four shops with apartments above on both King Street and Church Street. While operating to cut off the flames, as the structures weakened, Firefighter Thornton was trapped during a wall collapse. Even though he was wearing a helmet, the heavy stone façade crushed his skull. He was carried out by a brother firefighter back to the hall and a doctor was summoned. He lived for two days until he succumbed to his injuries on Friday, November 24th. He was buried two days later with a full Fire Brigade funeral. His mother and two sisters, whom he supported, benefited from donations made by his fellow firefighters. Toronto had lost its first firefighter. (Researched by Firefighter Jon Lasiuk 315-4584).

FIVE firefighters died during a structural collapse at the MacIntosh Grain Elevator at Front & George Streets, July 10, 1902.

THREE names are on the Honour Roll of firefighters that died attributed to the En-Ar-Co Boat Explosion on July 23, 1934 and another FOUR names were added from deaths subsequently attributed to the disaster. Some killed were working for other firefighters that were attending the annual family picnic in Niagra.

On May 17, 1947, Pumper 4 from Berkeley Street Fire Station & Pumper 5 from the Lombard Street Fire Station



collided at the corner of Parliament & Queen Street, while responding to a 2nd Alarm Fire at Queen Alexandria School, killing THREE Firefighters. Coincidentally, the same intersection claimed the lives of ten civilians at the Ruphert Hotel arson fire on December 23, 1989.

Hurricane Hazel swept FIVE firefighters from Kingsway-Lampton into the Humber River on October 16, 1954. One body was never recovered.

On December 4, 1978 THREE firefighters were killed at Kimberly Clark Paper Co. when huge rolls of newsprint, soaked with sprinkler water crushed them during a structural collapse.

A Provincial Millennium Grant of \$42,000 inspired this monumental project. The total cost was \$150,000 with

the difference provided by the City of Toronto.

### Last Alarm

The ringing of the bell and the Firefighter's Prayer are two traditions of the fire service that reflect respect and honour to those who gave their lives to their duty. The ringing of the bell represents the end of an emergency and the return to quarters. It has three rings, three times.

And so, to those who have selflessly given their lives for the good of Toronto, their tasks completed, their duties well done, to our fallen comrades, their last alarm, they are going home.

*When I am called to duty God,  
Wherever flames may rage,  
Give me the strength to save some life  
Whatever be its age.*

*Help me embrace a little child,  
Before it is too late,  
Or save an older person from  
The horror of that fate.*

*Enable me to be alert,  
To hear the weakest shout,  
Then quickly and efficiently  
To put the fire out.*

*I want to fill my calling Lord,  
To give the best in me;  
Halting all the fear and pain;  
Protecting Life and property.*

*And when that moment comes, dear  
Lord,  
When end of life draws near,  
I trust to your eternal love  
All those whom I hold dear.*

# CFSA

## Membership News

**The CFSA Board of Directors has appointed CFSA Past President, and Toronto Fire Chief Alan Speed as a Life Member.** The Grade of Life member is bestowed on CFSA Members, who for an extended period of time, have rendered outstanding service to the Association and receive a two-thirds majority vote from the Board of Directors.

**CFSA Board Member Rich Morris, who recently retired from Siemens – Cerberus Division, has been appointed as the National Fire Protection Association's Canadian Regional Advisor.** Retired Lieutenant Colonel Sean Tracey, former Canadian Forces Fire Marshal heads up NFPA International in Ottawa, Ontario as Canadian Regional Manager. NFPA International has introduced at Canadian Catalogue of NFPA Materials, with prices included in Canadian funds.

## Our Graduates critical Make A Difference

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For more information, contact:  
Stu Evans, Seneca College,  
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The Canadian Fire Safety Association's website is now up and running. So next time your surfing, come check us out. The website has been established as another tool to disseminate fire and life safety information and create a fire safe environment in Canada, the mission statement of our association.

Unfortunately, www.cfsa.ca has already been assigned to The Canadian Figure Skating Association, so you'll have to add [www.canadianfiresafety.com](http://www.canadianfiresafety.com) to your FAVORITES folder.

# schedule of events

## CFSA Dinners:

**November 22, 2000**  
Mark Regimbald  
GTAA Deputy Fire Chief  
Aircraft Fire & Rescue  
**January 24, 2001**  
**February 21, 2001**  
**March 21, 2001**

## CFSA Tech Sessions:

**November 8, 2000**  
**December 6, 2000**

**CFSA Annual Seminar**  
**April 25, 2001**

## Other Related Events:

**November 10, 2000**  
SFPE (Ontario Chapter)  
35th Anniversary Celebration  
The Boulevard Club  
1491 Lakeshore Blvd. West  
Friday, November 10, 2000  
Call Bob Davis  
(905) 403-1545 or (416) 359-3193

Fire & Life Safety Educators'  
Conference 2000  
**November 8-10, 2000**  
Windsor, Canada  
(519) 253-6573

## Other Related Events:

**November 15, 2000**  
Partners in Fire Prevention Auction  
West Block, Parliament Hill  
Ottawa, Ontario  
1-800-668-2955  
Christine@cafc.ca

**February, 2001**  
Construction Specifications Canada  
(Toronto Chapter)  
Trade Show  
February 5, 2001  
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