

Thursday, April 8, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE



FIRE PREVENTION SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION

Welland, ON – On June 20, 2019, the Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) attended the property 240-242 East Main Street, City of Welland to respond to a fire safety complaint. On their arrival, Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) found a multi-residential building with seven (7) apartments.

Inspecting the building, FPOs discovered numerous Ontario Fire Code violations, and issued an inspection order to direct the owner(s) to correct the deficiencies. Some of the deficiencies included holes in fire separations, inadequate fire separations between apartments and hallways, and the lack of a fire safety plan. Following the compliance date on the inspection order, FPOs re-attended the property January 20, 2020 to verify compliance to the order. During the inspection it was discovered that the deficiencies were not corrected. Accordingly, a prosecution was initiated against the property owners for failing to comply with an inspection order, pursuant to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997.

On July 14, 2020, WFES attended the same property for a reported structure fire. On their arrival, firefighters discovered a fire in a second floor apartment, which they extinguished. During the fire investigation, FPOs found six (6) smoke alarms in the building not in operating condition. Due to the egregious nature of these fire safety issues, a further prosecution was initiated against the property owner(s) for contravening the Ontario Fire Code, pursuant to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997.

On April 8, 2021, the property owners of 240-242 East Main Street City of Welland were convicted in Provincial Offences Court for failing to comply with an inspection order and contravening the Ontario Fire Code, and fined \$15,000 plus court costs pursuant to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA), 1997.

The existence of Fire Code deficiencies in a building during a fire incident compounds the risk and dangers to building occupants, and firefighters responding to the building. Fortunately, no injuries occurred at the fire incident. To date, the property has now been brought into compliance with the inspection order.

WFES would like to remind property owners to ensure their properties meet the requirements of the Ontario Fire Code. WFES would also like to remind property owners that compliance with an inspection order is mandatory, and that deficiencies are required to be corrected within the timeframe listed on the order.

- 30 -

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