

Fire Prevention Code enforcement hands out over \$26,000 in fines for non-compliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2021

Welland, ON - The Fire Prevention Division of the Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) continues to inspect properties across the City to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. Unfortunately, egregious violations discovered on several occasions prompted the prosecution of several property owners and landlords.

On June 24, 2020, WFES attended the property 255 Prince Charles Drive to respond to a fire safety complaint. Fire Prevention staff discovered that the three-storey building was being used as a rooming house. During the fire safety inspection, the fire alarm system provided in the building was tested by Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) and found inoperable. Fire prevention staff directed the building operator to have the fire alarm system immediately repaired and restored to ensure the safety of residents. Due to the seriousness of the violation, a prosecution was initiated against the corporate ownership. On September 13, 2021, the corporate ownership was convicted in Provincial Offences Court for failing to maintain a fire alarm system in operating condition and failing to ensure testing and inspection of the fire alarm system. As a result, they were fined \$6500 plus courts costs pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)*.

On August 4, 2020, the Fire Prevention Division attended the property at 256 Alberta Street, to respond to a fire safety complaint. Fire Prevention staff discovered that the dwelling was being used as a rooming house and provided accommodation within a trailer in the yard. FPOs discovered that no working smoke or carbon monoxide alarms existed in the entire dwelling or trailer during their inspection. Due to the seriousness of the violation(s) a prosecution was initiated against the property owners. On September 23, 2021, the property owners were convicted in Provincial Offences Court on numerous counts, including failing to maintain smoke alarms in operating condition, failing to install carbon monoxide alarms, failing to replace expired smoke or carbon monoxide alarms, and failing to implement an approved fire safety plan. Upon conviction, the property owners were fined \$10,000 plus court costs pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)*.

On March 31, 2021, the Fire Prevention Division attended the property 792 Townline Tunnel Road, City of Welland, at the request of the Police. Fire prevention staff discovered that an illicit marijuana grow operation existed within the single-family residence. Due to the seriousness of the violation(s), a prosecution was initiated against the property owners. On September 23,

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2021, the property owners were convicted in Provincial Offences Court for conducting hazardous activities and failing to install carbon monoxide alarms and fined \$10,000 plus court costs pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)*. As a result, the marijuana grow operation was removed by Police.

WFES will continue to enforce the Ontario Fire Code across the City. It is incumbent on property owners to ensure their properties remain in compliance with the Fire Code at all times to ensure the safety of occupants and emergency personnel who may need to respond there.

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