

Fire Code enforcement resolution nets \$4,700 in fines

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2022

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. Recently, a long-standing Fire Code enforcement matter was resolved in Provincial Offences Court.

On August 28, 2019, WFES attended the property at 43 Regent Street to follow up on a fire safety complaint. While on the scene, Fire Prevention Officers (FPOs) discovered that a single-storey mercantile storefront on the property's southwest corner was being used as a repair and salvage shop. The basement area of the storefront was being used as a residential apartment.

The FPOs discovered egregious fire safety violations in the storefront and the unlawful residential apartment, including: six-foot-high ceilings in the apartment, insufficient smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, fortified egress doors, inappropriate use of extension cords, and a high volume of combustible items stored in an unsafe manner. In addition to these issues, FPOs discovered the bathroom shower stall in the basement apartment contained an open, uncovered electrical panel.

Due to the immediate risk of fire and potential injury or death of occupants, WFES acted immediately under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) to serve an "Immediate Threat to Life" notice, removing persons from the building and disconnecting power to the unit.

During this time, a fire safety inspection occurred within the two-storey residential apartment adjoining the building on the northeast corner of the property. The FPO identified Fire Code deficiencies and issued an inspection to the property owner to correct the Fire Code deficiencies. Following the compliance date on the inspection order, a re-inspection of the property occurred.

As a result of this re-inspection, a prosecution commenced against the property owner, and on January 27, 2022, the property owner was convicted in Provincial Offences Court of failing to comply with an inspection order pursuant to the FPPA and was fined approximately \$4,700, including court costs and a victim fine surcharge.

WFES can report the inspection order for compliance is now in good standing.

Media Release



WFES would like to remind residents that compliance with the Fire Code is always mandatory. If a property owner or occupant receives an inspection order, it is mandatory to comply with the order before the compliance date.

WFES would like to remind everyone, particularly landlords, that Fire Code deficiencies will not be tolerated.

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