

Risk Guardian



PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY IN ONTARIO

Risk Watch support in Ontario keeps growing

More than fifty firefighters, teachers, health care professionals and police officers got together for the fourth annual Risk Watch Symposium at the Ontario Fire College in June 2002.

The Risk Watch advocates participated in workshops, listened to guest speakers and made the most of the opportunity to learn from each other's experiences.

"Between 1990 and 1999, 68% of non-incendiary fire fatalities occurred when the fire department's response time was five minutes or less. What does this tell us?" Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle asked the audience. "It means we cannot save people through emergency response alone."

Mr. Moyle explained how this realization was one of the catalysts that forced a shift in focus to tap into the resources of the whole community.

The Fire Marshal outlined the bigger picture showing how a collaborative approach was needed to prevent injuries – whatever their cause – that result in more than 730,000 Ontarians requiring medical attention each year. From this total, 2,800 people die as a result of their injuries.

"Our challenge is: how do we reduce these preventable and predictable injuries and death?"

All the speakers agreed that a commitment to the program and willingness to address the problem together was needed for



OODLES OF NOODLES: Hands-on workshops were part of the Risk Watch Symposium as a demonstration by educators on involving kids in injury prevention. Pictured is OFM Public Education and Media Relations Manager, Bev Gilbert, demonstrating a swimming pool novelty - a noodle, which can be a hazard if used as a personal flotation device..

Risk Watch to succeed.

School Principal Karen Cook from Dunsford District Elementary School gave presentations based on her own personal experience, on how to make Risk Watch work in schools.

Another educator, Sonja Vandermeer, a Curriculum Coordinator from Trillium Lakelands District School Board, gave symposium participants a chance to experience interactive education through a series of hands-on workshops.

Guests from Emergency Measures Ontario and the New Brunswick Fire Service provided insight into injury prevention issues within their organizations and offered their assistance.

This year's symposium was sponsored by Tim Horton's, who are helping pilot Risk Watch in 2002 throughout Ontario.

Seven Risk Watch coalitions attended, including: Huntsville, Woodstock, Atikokan, Toronto, Marathon, West Nipissing and Moose Factory Island.

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A different view

By Kelly Collard
OFM Program Specialist



In late 2001, I left the municipal fire service to join the OFM as a program specialist. At the municipal level, I was involved with piloting Risk Watch. At the OFM, my involvement with Risk Watch continued at a provincial level.

At a municipal level, typical Risk Watch issues involved obtaining support from leaders and members of the organizations involved. I also had to determine how best to support the educators and follow through with the assistance, while ensuring that funding and resources were accessible.

There was the need for constant promotion of the program, training teachers, evaluation of the program's effectiveness and raising the community's awareness.

At a provincial level, the work involves obtaining support from other injury prevention oriented organizations. There is the need to determine how best to support the coalitions and communities, and ensure that tools and materials are available to support the ease and effectiveness of Risk Watch.

My work now involves the ongoing promotion of the program, training coalitions, evaluation of the effectiveness of provincial implementation and raising provincial awareness.

Whether provincial or municipal, the bottom line is the same: It is time to change how people perceive risk and encourage children to take control of their lives.

The number one cause of death for Canadians up to 46-years-old is predictable, preventable injuries. Last year, 70% of teenagers' deaths were the result of injuries. In Canada, \$9 billion a year is spent on treating preventable injuries and \$2.9 billion a year is spent on treating falls (mainly children under five-years-old and mature adults).

The OFM and the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council is committed to reducing these statistics and assisting the implementation of Risk Watch. For further information, contact Kelly Collard 416-325-3138.

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Building a successful team

Retired Brockville educator Dorothy Stewart gives a few pointers, based on her experience, on how to make your Risk Watch team a winner!

What needs to be done?

Your Risk Watch team will work together to:

- 1. **Understand:** provide teachers with information regarding the need for injury prevention education for children.
- 2. **Support:** provide ongoing support to the teachers (start small so you can give lots of support from the start);
- 3. **Train:** provide training to ensure that teachers, subject experts and others are prepared to assume their roles within the Risk Watch program;
- 4. **Evaluate:** measure program effectiveness (pre and post tests).

How can you accomplish this?

- 1. Get to know each other and each others concerns.
- 2. Do a "gifts and gaps" analysis. Solicit members with strengths that your coalition needs.
- 3. Conduct a community audit and see who is out there. You may be surprised at who you find that shares your interest in injury prevention.
- 4. Tap into the talents of your coalition members (talent pool).

Why form a coalition?

"The main reason to form a coalition is that it makes sense to the students. If the adults who promote safety in the school and in the community are connected through Risk Watch, this sends a powerful message to our young citizens: the grown-ups are working together to keep them safe." – Eleanor Newman, Superintendent of Program, Upper Canada DSB.

Benefits of Coalition Membership

- 1. Community partners share a common goal and unified support for the teachers and their role in delivering the program.
- 2. Community partners provide financial support and ensure sufficient resources.
- 3. Use the specific strengths and skills of each organization.
- 4. Community partners maintain regular contact and promote Risk Watch with colleagues.
- 5. All partners are visible and active at schools and in classrooms and vocal in support of each other and the program.



Dorothy Stewart

CSC gives approval

Curriculum Services Canada (CSC) gave their seal of approval to Risk Watch for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten and Grades 1 through 8.

At all five levels, Risk Watch was "recommended to support the (grade level) curriculum across Canada that is related to personal safety and injury prevention". As part of the review, Risk Watch will be listed in the Supplementary Resources.

See y'all in the fall!

Plans are well underway for the 2002 public educators conference taking place in Huntsville on November 13, 14 and 15.

Entitled 'Trip of a Lifetime', the cost is only \$175 for the action-packed conference and \$89 for accommodation in the Deerhurst Resort, telephone 1-800-461-5201.

For more information and reservation forms, please call Huntsville Fire Chief Stephen Hernen 705-789-5201.

A first for Northwest Ontario

More than 60 people participated in the first public fire and life safety educator's conference in Northwestern Ontario. The conference took place on May 31 and June 1 and was hosted by Dryden Fire Service.

Local experts shared their knowledge and experience while the province's leaders in fire and life safety also took the trip north.

Talking to the audience of health care professionals, police officers, teachers and fire service personnel, Kenora Fire & Emergency Service Chief Warren Brinkman, welcomed delegates as the local Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs representative.

"The need to forge new coalitions has never been so critical. We are all inextricably linked and connected through common interests and passions," said Chief Brinkman, adding that he hoped the conference would provide grounds for more coalitions and partnerships.

Ontario Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle was a keynote speaker and added a Northwestern twist to his presentation on the role of the OFM and the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council.

"If we take sole ownership of the problem, we will fail because we do not own the problem. We can find the solution within our communities. The networking in the community is important when trying to find a solution. What we can take ownership for is the leadership to build a team," said the Fire Marshal.

The Northwestern Ontario Fire Safety Coalition in partnership with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council and the OFM took the opportunity to recognize the contribution of some individuals and organizations to fire and life safety programs.

Plaques were presented by Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle and OFM Public Education and Media Relations Manager Bev Gilbert.



Deanna Pacheco is a Grade-7 teacher who has been a driving force in the continuation of Risk Watch for the Kenora and Rainy River districts.



Michelle Ott has put countless hours and hard work into implementing the protocol for the TAPP-C Program in the Kenora and Rainy River districts.



Fawcett Broadcasting has supported fire and life safety by helping to deliver safety messages in the area. Pictured centre is Bruce Walchuck, Dryden Regional Manager.



Weyerhaeuser Canada has provided the funds to purchase fire and life safety materials. Pictured is Ontario Operations Manager and Dryden Complex Manager, Norman Bush.

Ontario candle fires are on the increase

The number of accidental home fires in Ontario caused by candles is the only ignition source that is on the increase, members of the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council were

there has been an increase in the number of accidental home fires started by candles of 39%.

The Council also heard an appeal from Kevin Kistler, President of the Little People of

told at their semi-annual meeting on June 20.

According to OFM statistician Alison Wilson:

"Like matches and lighters, a low incidence of fires are started by candles. However, it is the one ignition

source that increased over the past five years."

Between 1995 and 2000,

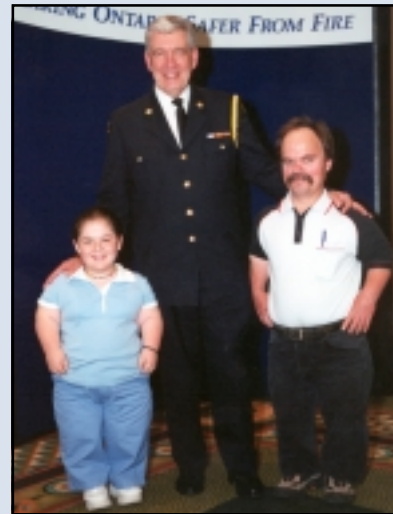


Photo happy: Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle with Kevin Kistler (right), President of Little People of Ontario, and Nicole Boyer (left).

Ontario, for fire safety information pertinent to little people.

He invited a member of Council to attend next year's conference, while Fire Marshal Bernard Moyle promised that the OFM would look into the matter.

The next

Council meeting is planned for September 11, 2002 at the Ontario Fire College.

TAPP-C manual update

Last spring, the OFM and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) conducted focus groups around the province to solicit input about the TAPP-C program and related materials.

As a result, the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council is embarking on a project to revise and update the fire education manual used by fire departments when delivering the program.

Also in the works, is a community implementation manual to assist new and existing TAPP-C sites with the management of their program.

To complete the package, CAMH is working on an intervention manual to assist mental health professionals with their portion of the program.

The manuals are expected to be completed and available by the end of this year.

Summertime safety tips for outdoors

Summertime — and the living is easy. It's the time when campers, cottagers and backyard barbecue enthusiasts use propane-burning appliances for cooking, lighting and refrigeration. But it is also a time for caution. Careless use of propane and propane appliances can be deadly.

Follow these safety tips from Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) for a safe summer!

▫ Propane cylinders must be stored outside in the upright position.

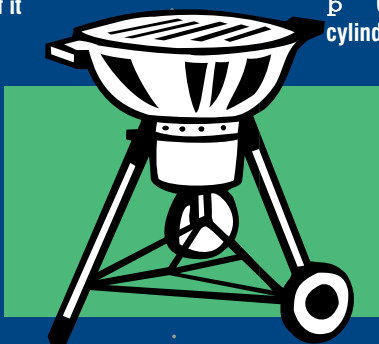
▫ Replace any cylinder immediately that is damaged or corroded. Do not keep it around.

▫ Ensure your cylinder is properly secured to your barbecue.

▫ When transporting your cylinder in a vehicle, secure it in an upright position so it cannot

tip over or move. If it is inside a vehicle, secure it properly and keep the windows open.

▫ If you must repaint your cylinder, use light coloured, high-gloss paint to reflect light and help keep the cylinder from overheating. Dark, flat colours will



absorb heat and could cause the propane to expand and be released through the safety valve.

▫ When purchasing a new cylinder be sure that it is the size that fits your appliance bracket.

▫ Check that the cylinder valve connection is compatible with the type on your barbecue.

▫ Check that the cylinder valve is closed whenever it is not in use and before connecting or disconnecting the cylinder.

▫ Check that all valves on appliances are closed before connecting a cylinder.

▫ Check for leaks after connecting a cylinder to an appliance. Use a solution of liquid soap and water to test for leaks. Using a small brush, put soapy solution on all connections. If there is a leak, bubbles will form. Do not use a match or lighter to check for leaks.

TSSA's Fuels Safety Division regulates the safe use of propane and propane-fuelled equipment in Ontario and regularly promotes safety in this area through bulletins and public outreach activities.

Visit the TSSA web site at www.tssa.org for more information on propane safety.

Kids on Wheels: A Quick Checklist

When kids are riding around on their bicycles, skateboards, scooters and in-line skates, many parents are concerned about their child's safety. Children can be seriously injured when they ride or skate near cars, do not use safety gear or fall because they lose control or are riding too fast.

The most common injury is a broken bone, but the most serious problem is a head injury—particularly in children not wearing helmets. Make sure your child is ALWAYS wearing a properly fitted helmet when riding or skating.

For skateboarding and in-line skating, elbow pads, knee pads, and wrist guard are also recommended. Wrist guards are not recommended for scooters because they may interfere with the rider's ability to grip the handle and steer the scooter.

SHOULD YOUR CHILD RIDE A BIKE ON THE ROAD?

Children under 10 years of age should not ride their bicycles in traffic. Research shows that

children younger than 10 years of age have trouble staying safe in traffic. They do not have enough physical skills to handle their bike safely near moving cars. They have not yet developed the thinking skills to understand what car drivers expect.

Children over 10 years of age need good training and lots of practise before they can ride on the road. Kids need to practice these skills with adult supervision in safe places. There are resources and classes that may help your child learn to ride safely. To find out more, visit the Safe Kids Canada web site www.safekidscanada.ca or call 1-888-SAFE-TIPS.

CAN YOUR CHILD RIDE OR SKATE SAFELY?

Watch your child while they ride and skate. Your child should be able to:

- Keep their balance;
- Control their speed;
- Ride or skate in a straight line;
- Turn without losing control or falling;
- Stop without losing control or



falling;

- Notice other people or things and avoid running into them;
- Check over their shoulder without losing control.

CHECKLISTS!

Bicycle!

The bike is not too big. That is dangerous. Have your child sit on the bike seat. Adjust the seat until their toes touch the ground on both sides. The brakes are working, the tires have air and the chain is in place. The bike has a bell or horn and reflectors.

In-Line Skates!

The skate size is the same as your child's shoe size. Skates that

are too big are not safe.

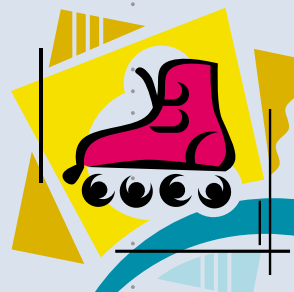
Skateboard!

If your child is just learning to ride a skateboard, choose a small board with small wheels.

Scooter!

The scooter handlebars are adjusted to the right height.

Your child should be able to hold the handlebars without leaning forward.



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