

Ministry: Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services

Regulation Number: Ontario Regulation XXX/13 (Registry and Inspections of Vulnerable Occupancies)

Bill or Act: Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997

Summary of Proposal:

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) is proceeding to draft a regulation under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*.

The proposed regulation will require municipal / community fire chiefs to ensure at least an annual fire safety inspection is conducted of all care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies and retirement homes within their jurisdiction, once they receive notice of a prescribed fire drill in those occupancies. In municipalities without a fire department the community fire safety officer or the head of the community fire safety team is required to ensure the inspection is conducted. In unorganized communities without a fire department, the Fire Marshal is required to ensure the inspection is conducted.

The proposed regulation supplements O. Reg. 150/13, which comes into force on January 1, 2014 and requires all owners/operators of care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies or retirement homes to conduct, and, notify the local Chief Fire Official within an agreed upon time frame, of an annual fire drill. The fire drill must represent the lowest staffing level so that the fire department can validate the implementation of the approved fire safety plan, including adequacy of staffing levels. The fire department will also be expected to confirm Fire Code compliance for key elements of the building.

No later than one month following the inspection, the municipal / community fire chief, community fire safety officer or the head of the community fire safety team will be required to file information with the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) concerning the occupancy. The information to be filed includes:

- The operating name;
- The street address;
- Whether it is a care occupancy, care and treatment occupancy or a retirement home; and,
- The date of the inspection.

The proposed regulation is in response to recommendations tabled by the Fire Code Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to enhance fire safety in occupancies housing vulnerable Ontarians. The TAC recommendations specific to this proposal called for:

- Fire Departments to participate in fire drills at least annually to validate fire safety plans; and
- Municipalities to develop a registry of occupancies housing vulnerable Ontarians

In order to enhance transparency and centralize data across the province, MCSCS is proceeding with the development of a system to capture the information that fire departments will be required to file. This information will constitute the registry of occupancies housing vulnerable Ontarians. The registry will be administered through the OFMEM instead of municipalities. A centralized registry will aid fire departments in keeping and accessing the prescribed records.

Supporting Fire Marshal Directives will be issued by OFMEM to clarify the obligations and operational requirements of each fire department under the proposed regulation.

Once filed, the proposed regulation will come into force on January 1, 2014.

Contact:

Al Suleman

Assistant Deputy Fire Marshal - TECHNICAL SERVICES

Place Nouveau, 7th Fl.

5775 Yonge St

Toronto ON M2M4J1

Phone: 416-325-3230

Email: al.suleman@ontario.ca