



# FIRE WATCH

ONTARIO INDUSTRIAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

Fall 2009

***Newsflash...** good news on the horizon for industry for an OIFPA member... CAMI Automotive, Ingersoll was recently awarded \$90 million dollars and recalled 150 employees. Great news for the south-western area and the automotive industry.*

*PAN AM Games coming to Greater Toronto Area for 2015 bringing job opportunities and new business to that area.*

*Are we starting to see an upturn in the economy in which we all have been affected? Let's hope so!!!*

## Responsibility for Fire Code Compliance

Most property owners and managers are not aware that they are responsible for ensuring that their property is maintained and operated in compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. They believe that it is not their responsibility to review their operations and fire protection systems to ensure that their facilities are designed, constructed and maintained in compliance with the Fire Code. If the fire department has not inspected their facility or identified any deficiencies they don't think that they have a problem. They should think again.

Article 1.1.1.1. of the Fire Code states "Unless otherwise specified, the owner shall be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this Code." Failure by the Fire Department to identify the deficiencies or to adequately inspect the building does not relieve the owner from the responsibility and liability for compliance.

An example would be a change in use from steel fabrication occupancy to a plastic manufacturing occupancy. A sprinkler system designed to protect a steel fabrication facility will not be adequate to protect a plastics manufacturing operation.

The Ontario Fire Code contains requirements for the property owner to maintain the fire protection systems in a building and also requires that fire protection systems must be upgraded if there is a change in hazard. Article 2.1.2.2. states "Activities that create a hazard and that are not allowed for in the original design shall not be carried out in a building unless approved provisions are made to control the hazard."

In the Fire Code "approved" means approved by the Chief Fire Official who is usually the Fire Chief of the municipality. The owner is required to upgrade the building fire protection systems or seek approval for compensating measures to offset the existing conditions from the Chief Fire Official. If the owner does not upgrade the fire protection including the sprinkler system, they are in direct violation of the Fire Code.

Inspection reports are often prepared by the property insurance inspectors and provided to the owner. These reports often identify deficiencies in the sprinkler system or other fire protection systems. In many cases the owners opt

for paying a higher insurance premium rather than spending the capital for fire protection system upgrades. Where it is determined that a fire protection system is not adequate to protect the existing occupancy, the owner is responsible for correcting the deficiencies regardless of any fire department inspection or any agreement by their insurers to accept an inadequate system. At the very least the owner must develop an alternate fire protection plan and have it approved by the Chief Fire Official.

Recent changes to the Criminal Code have placed an even greater onus on the property owners and managers to ensure that their facilities are in compliance with the Fire Code. Section 217.1 of the Criminal Code states "Every one who undertakes, or has the authority, to direct how another person does work or performs a task is under a legal duty to take reasonable steps to prevent bodily harm to that person, or any other person, arising from that work or task." As an owner and business operator a person could be held criminally responsible if some one was injured or killed because they had failed to comply with the provisions of the Fire Code. Something to think about the next time there is an issue regarding compliance with the Fire Code or any safety regulations that may affect employees or building occupants.

Cyril W. Hare  
President  
Cyril Hare & Associates Inc.

## Sunrise Propane faces charges in blast cleanup

*Updated: Tue Sep. 01 2009 10:47:26 AM ctvtoronto.ca*

The province has laid charges against Sunrise Propane Energy Group and its directors more than a year after a massive explosion rocked a northwest Toronto neighbourhood.

The environment ministry has charged the company with five offences under the Environmental Protection Act. The province is accusing the company of failing to clean up the site of the blast.

In addition, two directors of the company are each charged with failing to take reasonable care to ensure the company complies with a provincial order.

The charges could carry millions of dollars in fines if there is a conviction.

The directors, listed as Shay Ben Moshe and Valery Belahov, are expected in court on Sept. 17.

A propane tank at the Sunrise plant, located in the Lawrence Avenue and Keele Street area, exploded on Aug. 10, 2008, damaging dozens of homes and killing an employee. A firefighter also died while fighting the intense blaze.

The company was also charged in July by Ontario's labour ministry for violating the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Toronto also announced it is suing Sunrise after more than \$1 million was spent to clean up the surrounding area, provide adequate fire services plus related public health costs.

More than 1,000 people had to be evacuated after the explosion released asbestos into the air.

## OIFPA Member is now the new fire chief at Stirling-Rawdon

Stirling – Council has officially elected a new fire chief to serve Stirling-Rawdon starting July 2009.

At a special meeting held June 11, council voted unanimously to name Gene Thompson the new fire chief and inspector for the municipality.

Thompson has served with the Centre Hastings fire department for 23 years as a senior captain. He will take over on July 6, and oversee 38 volunteer members of the north and south fire stations, working alongside two deputy fire chiefs.

“It’s a big job that you’re taking on, but you have two outstanding deputies to work with,” Mayor Peter Kooistra told Thompson.

Former Stirling-Rawdon Fire Chief Kevin Schooler announced in April he was leaving Stirling-Rawdon after two years of service with the fire department to accept a position with the Ontario Fire Marshal’s Office in Thunder Bay.

### Update Seminars...

This past year we have been very appreciative of Chris Wood, Response Training Associates who has travelled updating OIFPA members and non members on Changes to the Ontario Fire Code. We were fortunate to have a diversified audience from all types of industry and business in the areas where the seminars took place. Seminars were held in Simcoe, Sarnia, Mississauga, Toronto and Belleville. All feedback from these seminars has been very positive and more detailed and pertinent sections will have to be looked at for future dates.

We would like to extend our thanks from the members of the OIFPA to Chris Wood who has facilitated each of the seminars and has accommodated all those attending for their specific needs. Chris can be contacted directly at [burning-issues@rogers.com](mailto:burning-issues@rogers.com) or 416 520 7101 for further information and updates.

## HINI Virus

Another virus strain has hit our province recently, much like SARS invaded us quickly back several years ago leaving everyone vulnerable and cautious about visitors and outside contacts. Seminars were cancelled, travel plans halted and everyone was told to “sit tight” until the Health Dept. gave us the “all clear notification”.

OIFPA will be doing the same as companies have told their employees that outside events could not be attending and other extenuating circumstances. This means that seminars will be put on hold temporarily, until the last wave of the virus passes, and we will keep you informed of our forthcoming seminars.

In the meantime, please take all necessary precautions that you have been informed of.

## **Ministry of Labour Safety Alert! Is your mobile ladder stand safe?**

***Several warehouse workers have suffered serious injuries when the mobile ladder stands they were on collapsed under them.***

Workers falling from these stands often land on a concrete surface, so even a short fall can be dangerous. Some of the reasons for these ladder failures were bent frames, damaged casters, metal corrosion, overly worn parts, cracked welds, or inadequate makeshift repairs.



### **Safe work practices:**

- Do a visual safety check of each stand before you use it, and pull it out of service if you find any defects or damage.
- Ensure that all mobile ladder stands are maintained in safe operating condition.
- Ensure that each mobile ladder stand is fitted with a label that displays information on maximum load rating, proper ladder use, and maintenance instructions.

**Ensure that each mobile ladder stand complies with the minimum requirements of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Standard A14.7-1991, *Safety Requirements for Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Stand Platforms.* ♣**

## **Suncor Lubricants Centre has ordered a new Crimson Aerial Fire Truck!**

This new truck is expected to be delivered next year. It features a 75' Aerial Ladder - Water Tower and will pump 3,000 gallons per minute of water/foam! ♣



## **New Suncor Oakville Fire Training Facility**

### **Lubricants Employees use the new facility for the first time!**

Over the past few months a new fire training centre has been established at the Oakville Terminal. The first training took place at the beginning of April and ran until November and it was a great success. The two day training involved an in class portion filled with theory on hose handling tactics, accountability, fire extinguishers, incident command system, and fire ground safety.

The second portion of the training was practical experience involving the extinguishment and control of live fires with the use of fire extinguishers and hose lines.



## What to do when your tank roof collapses?

So you are responding to an emergency and find out that you have a problem with one of your tanks. Roof is sinking or possibly already sunk.

What do you need to think about – here are some quick tips to get you through this incident:

- ➡ **What is the product contained in the vessel?** - This is perhaps the most important question to ask, right after you find out that your workforce is accounted for. The material in an open floater is usually a low flash or crude type material. This means that once exposed to the atmosphere flammable or perhaps toxic vapours could be present.
- ➡ **Is the roof totally or partially sunk?** - How do you know the vessel roof was sinking, did someone see it? If so, they are your best contact. If not, did the unit alarms or vapour alarms go off indicating the problem? Is there a different problem in the area? Once you determine it is the tank, and yes, you might have to climb the steps to check it out. (PPE is a must) Take gas detectors with you for VOC's, explosive meter, H<sub>2</sub>S etc. depending on the product. In the case of a light ends product like Benzene as an example, skin absorption is also possible so be prepared for that. Also, in this case, if the roof is still sinking a potential for a spark through static is a very real concern. Determine if you need to put yourself or others in the line of fire to determine the level of the roof prior to securing the tank.
- ➡ **Are vapours sufficient for a vapour cloud explosion or toxicity concerns?** - Clear downwind areas as immediate precautions. Set up gas detection monitoring for the hazard. You can never have too much information at your fingertips. Shelter in place or evacuation of nearby residents needs to be considered. Which is safer to lock them in their homes or to try and move them through a potentially dangerous environment?
- ➡ **Are there potential ignition sources nearby?** - Eliminate these as quickly as possible. Don't be a part of the ignition source, vapour clouds and big diesel fire apparatus don't mix, make sure they are upwind. Also if you are potentially in this type of fire service your apparatus needs to be equipped with an emergency s/d switch that closes the intake air.
- ➡ **What firefighting equipment is available?** - You had better have a good supply of foam concentrate (for this hazard) and equipment to apply it properly. If not available you should have a list of suppliers for emergency service. Or a mutual aid agreement with industrial response teams.
- ➡ **Are foam chambers present?** - Use these to apply the foam, hook up to all the chambers, and apply foam solution through these. Optimal through a foam chamber is not to exceed 80 psi at the device. Check with manufacturer for proper application procedures. (prior to the event) Once foam is applied minimum 30 minutes to an average of 60 minutes, the material should be secure. Providing good foam application, the correct type for the hazard, and no extenuating circumstances such as weather. Rain will break down a foam blanket quickly. Gas detection monitoring is imperative to determine the length of gaps between foam applications. **Remember** with light products grounding of everything is also imperative. If a static shock is created during foam application an ignition could occur.

➡ **Should I do an over the top foam application?** - If foam chambers are not present, or you don't have access. The next best thing is an over-the-top foam application. Here's your chance to use that master stream device you've been practicing with all those years. It is more difficult to not create a static charge with an over-the-top application, but the results are worth the risk. Foam must be applied one way or the other, so attempt to apply it against a back wall of the vessel if possible. The more foam applied the less likely of an ignition occurring. Once foam attack starts don't interrupt until you have applied the desired amount.

➡ **Are water streams of any use?** - Water can be used downwind to knock down vapours. Make sure that the water streams won't interfere with the foam application.

Once your foam blanket is secure you have bought yourself some time. Depending on the material in the tank, foam molecules will be affected differently. Anticipate one (1) hour minimum to a maximum of four (4) hours for re-application of foam. Re-applications of foam will not require as lengthy an application due to agitation of existing foam. You will have to determine the application rates as they will differ with each hazard.

Author - Jim Belrose, Fire Marshall at Imperial Oil's Sarnia Manufacturing Site, has been involved in several tank incidents with over 30 years of experience.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Wm. Beatty Golf Tournament

The Wm. Beatty Golf Tournament took place at the Greens at Renton, in Simcoe. A glorious setting, a challenging course and a terrific day was enjoyed by all those attending this event. Winners this year were

<b>Low Gross</b>	<b>Blake Willock</b>	<b>Low Net</b>	<b>Baird Jones</b>
<b>Longest Drive</b>	<b>Blake Willock</b>	<b>Closest to the Pin</b>	<b>Kip Cosling</b>



We had a special privilege this year with the attendance of Wm. Beatty's daughter – Tev. Page. I think she too was surprised at the outpouring of respect of her father from all those attending.

### Scholarship Receipt for 2009 - 2010

Mark Duffy 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of \$900.00 and Stephen Anderson 2<sup>nd</sup> place for \$600.00  
Presentation of their awards will be held November 17<sup>th</sup>, at Lambton College, Sarnia



## Summer of 2009 Co-op at Imperial Oil

My name is Linsey Austin. I am originally from Waterloo, moved to Sarnia to attend college. I have graduated out of the pre service firefighting program at Lambton College, and am now in my third year of the Fire Science Technology program. For the last four months I have been on a co-op term at Imperial Oil working in the fire department.

Working at Imperial Oil was a remarkable experience from the day I started right through until the end. The fire department consisted of four fire techs, fire marshal, and myself. Working with each and everyone, they were all a pleasure to work with. Working together, we were able to complete monthly assigned jobs such as fire extinguisher checks, fire extinguisher change outs, checking block valves, hose testing, hose change outs, and hydrant maintenance.

My goals and expectations going into my co-op at Imperial Oil was that I would obtain new knowledge and be able to put my skills to use in order to help me in my future job search. I had hopes to get my DZ license along with any extra training they were willing to offer. My expectations were to work alongside trained professionals and learn from their ways by doing things such as fire training and spill training. The most important goal was to work safe and have no injuries. In my four months at Imperial Oil, all my goals and expectations were met and exceeded.

Each month I attended fire, spill training with the fire techs, and volunteer fire fighters. Every training session attended, I gained more knowledge on industrial fire fighting and procedures. I became more familiar and comfortable working with appliance and tools of the trade. During my work term, Imperial Oil had small fire

occurred where I was able to respond and observe the proper procedure during an emergency. Attending NEOP (new employee orientation) my first two days at Imperial is where I learn the importance of working safe and having no injuries. I was very fortunate to receive my DZ license along with my transportation of dangerous goods.

My co-op experience at Imperial Oil will be a memory that will last forever. The environment and the people were great to work with. The knowledge I gained was very beneficial and will stick with me for years to come. Thanks to all who made it such a positive experience working at Imperial Oil.

BY: Linsey Austin

### **Board of Directors 2009**

President - Roy Graham, Suncor, Mississauga

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Jim Belrose, Imperial Esso, Sarnia

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Todd Wilson, PepsiCo Foods, Peterborough

Past President – Cyril Hare, Cyril Hare & Associates, Mississauga

Treasurer – George Fawcett, Leber/Rubes Inc., Ottawa

#### **Directors**

Doug Scale, Lambton College Industrial Fire School, Sarnia

George Hatfield, Suncor, Sarnia

Craig Anderson, Imperial Oil, Nanticoke

Derek Roy, Tyco / Scott Health Safety, Toronto

Mark Harrop, Randal Brown & Associates, Toronto

Gene Thompson, Stirling-Rawdon Fire Dept., Stirling

Mario Mocerri, Daimler Chrysler, Windsor

Rich Rattray, Suncor, Oakville

Your comments are appreciated and articles that you feel are of interest to others in the Industrial Fire Sector.

## **Lambton College Fire and Emergency Response Training Centre Announces Major Infrastructure Spending**

Lambton College's fire school is pleased to announce that it has been awarded \$9.8 million in stimulus spending. The federal and provincial governments will each contribute half to the project which will see almost the entire training facility upgraded. The plan includes new classrooms, a new burn tower, new industrial props, an upgrade to the waste water system and a move to cleaner burning fuels to reduce the school's emissions.

"Local lives will be saved because of the major upgrade" says Steve Bolt, a former Dow Chemical executive and president of Lambton College's Board of Governors. "The plants will always want their staff to achieve the top levels of Fire Safety training". Having the school here in our Chemical Valley and accessible to first responders from across North America will raise awareness of how important live hands-on fire and hazmat training is to the emergency response community.

The renovations which will be completed by the end of March 2011 will allow the school to also increase enrolment in the Pre-Service Fire Fighter and Fire Science Technology post secondary programs.

For course curriculum and reservations contact Sandra Morrison at 1-800-791-7887 ext 21 or [Sandra@lambton.on.ca](mailto:Sandra@lambton.on.ca)

