

Fire Risk & Safe Smoking



Fire Risk

According to a study by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, smoking related fires account for approximately 70 deaths and 300 injuries in Canada yearly.

Smoking is the leading cause of fatal fires among the elderly.

In households where one or more members smoke, the risk of fire related injuries to the people who smoke or a family member is 5x higher compared to non-smoking residences.

Compared to the general population:

- the risk of dying in a fire for people age 65+ is **2.5** times greater than for those under 65.

The risk increases with increasing age:

- 65-74 the risk is 1.8 time greater than the general population
- 85+ the risk increases to 4.6 times greater

- As of Oct 1, 2005 the Ignition Propensity Standard came into effect which requires that

” all cigarettes manufactured in or imported into Canada must burn their full length no more than 25% of the time when tested using ASTM International method *E2187-04: Standard Test Method for Measuring the Ignition Strength of Cigarettes*” (Health Canada, 2005 http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/pubs/tobac-tabac/ignition-incend/index_e.html)

Simply, this means that all cigarettes manufactured or imported into Canada will be more fire safe with less chance of igniting other materials (upholstery, clothing, sheets, etc).

Safe Smoking

- The Smoke-Free Ontario Act protects all staff and residents by reducing the risk of fire related fatalities and injuries by requiring all residents who smoke in Controlled Smoking Areas (CSA) to be assessed as safe smokers
- Sample safe smoking assessment forms are available to help staff assess residents smoking ability

For more information on fire risks and safe smoking or for an example of a safe smoking assessment form please contact:
