



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2010

INCLUDE FIRE SAFETY IN LONG WEEKEND PLANS

To minimize the risk of fire and burn injuries this Easter weekend, the Town of Caledon Fire & Emergency Services is urging residents to include fire safety in their weekend plans.

Spring season increases the potential for grass fires, and Caledon Fire & Emergency Service encourages the public to use caution. As the grass and brush begins to dry out, it only takes a small amount of wind for a fire to spread uncontrollably. Unattended burning is the most common cause of grass fires; careless burning and improper discarding of smoking materials also pose hazards.

An "Open Air Burning Permit" must be obtained by all persons who intend to conduct open air fires in Caledon. Open air burning permits are \$10, and photo identification is required to complete the application. All permits expire on December 31 of each year. Permits will be issued to properties in non-settlement areas only and must be obtained in person at the Fire Administration Headquarters' new location at 6097 Old Church Road, Caledon East between 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Failure to obtain an open air burning permit or failure to be in conformance with the permit will result in a minimum fine of \$245.00, in addition to a minimum invoice of \$381.00 per vehicle, per hour for fire services.

Candles are a common cause of home fires. Keep lit candles safely away from children and pets and blow out all candles before leaving the room.

Caledon Fire Chief Brad Bigrigg adds "for those travelling to cottages, cabins and seasonal homes, consider purchasing new smoke alarms and batteries in case they need replacing when you arrive. It's the law for all Ontario homes, cottages, cabins and seasonal homes to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. If you have a fuel-burning appliance in your seasonal dwelling, check your carbon monoxide alarm."

Other important fire safety tips for the weekend include:

- remember to call 9-1-1 in the event of a fire incident, no matter how minor it may be;
- ensure that your emergency address sign number is clearly visible from the road, in case of emergency;
- and keep barbecue lighters, matches and fireworks out of sight and reach of children.

"We want everyone to enjoy this long weekend, and that includes staying safe," Chief Bigrigg adds.

-30-

Media Contact:

Laura Johnston, Communications
Town of Caledon
905.584.2272 x4106 | laura.johnston@caledon.ca

TOWN HALL
6311 Old Church Road, Caledon, ON L7C 1J6
905.584.2272 | 1.888.CALEDON | FAX 905.584.4325 | www.caledon.ca

MR-2010-24