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Urgent Notice

June 1st, 2013.

Dear Customers,

Re: New Changes to the Ontario Fire Protection & Prevention Act.

The Ontario Fire Marshal (OFM) has released an updated guideline to all Ontario Fire Services. Changes to the manner in which Fire Services conduct fire code violation inspections were required in response to statements and judgements made by judges in relation to court cases on violations to the Fire Code by building and/or business owners.



The OFM guideline indicates that the Fire Protection and Prevention Act that governs the Fire Code is clear in that it requires owners to be 100% responsible to ensure their premises are maintained in accordance with the Fire Code at all times. This Act also requires Fire Services to use "Notices of Violation" in dealing with Fire Code violations as these are the only legislated reporting tool.

Fire Services, in the past, have visited a business or property and found Fire Code violations. The Fire Inspector has then indicated these violations in a report to the business and/or property owner. This report usually allowed the owner about 30 days to correct the concerns noted. If the concerns were not corrected then the Fire Inspector would work with the owner to obtain compliance. As a last resort, and usually after a few months, an "Inspection Order" or "Notice of Violation" could follow if the concerns were not met. This has now changed.

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act stipulate a Fire Inspector shall lay a "Notice of Violation" to any owner that has a property in violation of the Fire Code. The Fire Inspector shall return after a stipulated time frame (could be days to as long as a month) and check that the violation has been rectified. If it has not, the owner must proceed to court and a justice of the peace will decide upon the fine assessed. The fines can and usually range from \$20,000.00 to \$50,000.00 per item.



The items that fall under the Fire Code include Fire Safety Plans, Fire Sprinklers, Fire Alarm, Emergency Lighting, Fire Extinguishers, Kitchen Extinguishing Systems, etc.

As you can imagine, this can be very costly and devastating for a business.

We are sending you this information as it appears Toronto Fire may be going down this path already. If this is the case, property and business owners cannot delay in requesting quotes and having the work started.

1) We advise that you always ask them the date the item or items must be completed. This date will be listed on the "Notice of Violation".

2) You can appeal a notice, but you must follow the system under the Act. It is usually listed on the notice or on the back of the notice. An appeal is the only manner in which the time frames can be extended.

3) Contact the Fire Inspector and advise them that you are willing to correct the violations and obtain more clarification, if required.

4) If delays such as a backordered Flammable Liquid Safety Cabinet occur, you must advise the Fire Inspector prior to the return date, or the court proceedings will continue, and so far the owners have not been successful in court.

5) We can accommodate quick turn around times however we must have access to the buildings day or night. Also the information we request from the owner or agent of the owner must be supplied immediately.

In conclusion of the above it is imperative that if you receive a violation notice, act immediately do not delay. You can contact one of our Customer Service agents to assist you 24/7, 905-722-7911 or toll free at 800-665-3473.

