

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

From: Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department

Report Number: SF-24-36

Date of Report: September 11, 2024

Date of Meeting: September 16, 2024

Subject: Fire Prevention Week

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recognize Fire Prevention Week and highlight public engagement initiatives from October 6-12, 2024 to raise fire safety awareness.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Report SF-24-36, dated September 11, 2024 concerning Fire Prevention Week, be received for information.

3.0 Input From Other Sources

- Fire Services

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Background

On October 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire occurred resulting in over 250 fatalities, leaving 100,000 people homeless, destroying 17,400 structures and 2,000 acres land burned. Fire Prevention Week was first established in 1925 and declared as a national observance dedicated to fire safety and prevention by President Calvin Coolidge. This observance highlights the importance of public education and the proactive measures that can be taken to prevent fire-related casualties and property loss. Public education is at the forefront of Fire Prevention week and targets all age groups, from children to seniors ensuring everyone understands the role they play in fire prevention and reinforcing the importance of fire safety.

4.2 Fire Prevention Week

The purpose of Fire Prevention Week is to educate residents of the importance of fire safety and best practices, ensuring everyone can protect themselves and their community. The theme for 2024, "Smoke Alarms: Make them work for you!", emphasizes the critical role that smoke alarms play in early fire detection and life safety.

During Fire Prevention Week, Oshawa Fire Services will engage the public through various activities aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of fire safety. Oshawa Fire Services staff will be present at the following locations:

- Tribute Communities Centre - Oshawa Generals game on Sunday, October 6.
- Oshawa Senior Citizens Centres- To be determined.
- North End Bowl- Saturday, October 12.

At each location, the Fire Prevention Division of Oshawa Fire Services will set up an educational booth featuring demonstrations, displays of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and a variety of giveaways. Educational handouts will also be provided in collaboration with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council. These efforts aim to equip residents with the knowledge and tools needed to ensure that their smoke alarms are functioning correctly and that they are prepared in the event of a fire.

Fire Prevention Week serves as a critical reminder of the importance of fire safety and the collective responsibility we all share in protecting our homes, families, and communities from the dangers of fire. By engaging with the public during this week, Oshawa Fire Services reaffirms its commitment to reducing fire risks and enhancing the safety of all residents.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Care: Safe and Sustainable Environment” with the goal to enhance emergency preparedness and response, including preparing for potential climate emergencies and significant weather events.



Stephen Barkwell, Chief,
Fire Services



Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department