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IPVF Council Supports Efforts of Canadian Automated Sprinkler Association (CASA) and Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC), Advocating Changes to Ontario Building Code

CIPH's Industrial Pipe, Valve & Fittings Council has written in support of the efforts of the Canadian Automated Sprinkler Association (CASA) and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) in calling for changes to the Ontario Building Code to require installation of residential fire sprinklers in new one and two-family residential dwellings.

The IPVF Council is in agreement with CASA and O AFC that the requirement for residential fire sprinklers will save lives, reduce serious injuries and reduce property damage.

Based on statistics from the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal, there have been over 850 lives lost in fires in Ontario since 2000. Many of these lives might have been saved had their homes been protected with automatic sprinklers. While smoke alarms have had a significant impact on reducing the number of fatalities over the past 10 years, the National Fire Protection Association reports that a combination of fire sprinklers and smoke alarms can cut the risk of dying in a home fire by approximately 80%. The presence of automatic sprinklers would also serve to reduce risks faced by firefighters when fighting fires in buildings constructed from lightweight engineered wood framing systems.

Fire Service leaders suggest that the range of cost to install residential fire sprinklers is \$1.50 to \$3.00 per sq. ft., depending on the size of the units. It is estimated that savings on property insurance for units with sprinklers can range from 10% to 15%.

Residential sprinkler systems in residential occupancies will:

- Significantly reduce the loss of lives and property;
- Reduce the impact on the environment due to limited release of toxic and other hazardous combustion products; and,
- Reduce some construction costs due to offsets.

The ultimate goal behind this advocacy effort is to create a nation-wide strategy that would require such sprinkler installations in all provinces and territories in Canada.

For more information visit:

<http://www.casa-firesprinkler.org/>

<http://www.oafc.on.ca/home.asp>

The Canadian Institute of Plumbing & Heating is a not-for-profit trade association. Founded in 1933, the Institute is a vibrant organization committed to providing members with the tools for success in today's competitive environment. More than 250 companies are members of this influential Canadian industry association. They are the manufacturers, wholesaler distributors, master distributors, manufacturers' agents and allied companies who manufacture and distribute plumbing, hydronic heating, industrial, waterworks and other mechanical products. CIPH wholesalers operate more than 700 warehouses and showrooms across Canada. Total industry sales exceed \$5 billion annually.



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