

## ***FIRE SAFETY NOTICE: Hunt Camp and Trailer Safety Tips from McDougall Fire Department***

### **FIRE SAFETY FOR UPCOMING HUNTING SEASONS:**

NOBEL (September 20, 2008) - In August, 2007, three people died tragically in a fire at a hunting and fishing camp in the County of Haliburton. In June of 2008, two separate fires in trailer homes resulted in the deaths of four people. There was no evidence of working smoke alarms in any of these fires.

The Ontario Fire Code requires every 'dwelling unit' in Ontario to have working smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. The term 'dwelling unit' includes seasonal homes such as park model trailers, cabins and cottages and also includes trailer homes, motor homes and other recreational vehicles.

"To prevent further fire injuries and fatalities, anglers and hunters should remember to pack a new smoke alarm and some extra smoke alarm batteries." urges **Brian Leduc, McDougall Fire Chief**. "Fire safety is not just for homes; it's for cottages, cabins, seasonal hunt camps, RVs, trailers, and mobile homes too. It's the law in Ontario to have working smoke alarms in every dwelling."

In addition to working smoke alarms, anglers and hunters are encouraged to thoroughly check and clean all heating appliances, (i.e., woodstoves, propane heaters, kerosene heaters, naphtha stoves and lanterns) in their cabins, camps, trailers and recreational vehicles before using them. Chimneys also need to be inspected for any damage or obstructions prior to use and cleaned if deposits of creosote are present. Other important safety tips for anglers and hunters include:

- Bring a flashlight with extra batteries and a carbon monoxide alarm.
- Ensure standby and portable generators are properly maintained in good working order
- Ensure combustibles are kept well away from heating appliances, stoves and lanterns.
- Smoke outside and keep a large can with water nearby so smoking materials can be safely discarded. Tobacco use and excessive alcohol consumption are contributing factors in many fires and can lead to serious injuries or death.
- Check with the local fire department, municipality, or the Ministry of Natural Resources for any restrictions on burning before starting campfires or burning brush.
- **ENJOY YOUR TIME AT THE HUNT CAMP AND TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT THIS YEAR IS NOT YOUR LAST YEAR.**

Failure to comply with the applicable Fire Code smoke alarm requirements can result in a ticket for \$235 or a fine of up to \$100,000. If you require more information about smoke alarms or fire safety, please contact McDougall Fire Department at (705) 342-5252. Additional information is also available at the Municipality of McDougall website at [www.municipalityofmcdougall.com](http://www.municipalityofmcdougall.com)