



**Ontario
Association
of
Fire Chiefs**

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2010-2011

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Codes and Standards Administration,
NFPA,
1 Batterymarch Park,
Quincy, MA 02169 - 7471

Dear NFPA

Re: Organization and Deployment of Fire Investigation Operations,
Code Enforcement Operations and Public Education Operations to the
Public

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) supports the establishment of a Committee to examine the Organization and Deployment of Fire Investigation Operations, Code Enforcement Operations, and Public Education Operations to the Public.

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs represents the Chief Fire Officers from the 468 Fire Departments across the Province of Ontario, Canada. These Chief Officers are ultimately responsible, by provincial statute, for the management and delivery of fire, rescue, and emergency response; and for the health and safety of the 30,000 firefighters who deliver these services. Since 1997 they have also had legislated responsibility to "establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention".

Since our focus on fire prevention and public education we have seen a decline in the number of deaths and property losses due to fire; however, there still remains a lot of work to do. The O AFC members have been seeking guidance on the issues of code enforcement, and public education and we have had a Fire Prevention Committee for a number of years. One of our challenges is that it is hard to generate political and financial support for these roles and to establish adequate levels of staffing. We believe that the establishment of an NFPA Committee would provide great assistance.

The issue of this new NFPA Committee was debated by our membership at our Annual General Meeting in May 2010 and the membership approved a resolution supporting the establishment of the Committee.

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs would also like to express that it is interested in participating as a member on the Committee when it is established.

Your partner in public safety,

Tim Beckett
President

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