

## Shannon Violo

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**To:** Ashley Millar  
**Subject:** RE: Fire SAFE supports new fire sprinkler legislation for high rises

**For:** Fire SAFE Ontario  
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**Attention:** City Editor, Home/Garden Editor, News Editor, Photo Editor, Government/Political Affairs Editor

### **Fire SAFE supports new fire sprinkler legislation for high rises**

*Calls on government to extend to new homes*

Toronto, Ontario, PRESS RELEASE, Jun.18 /CCNMatthews/ - Fire SAFE (Sprinkler Alliance for Everyone) congratulated Premier McGuinty and Minister Watson for delivering on a commitment to bring Ontario in line with all other provinces in having residential fire sprinklers in all residences that are four stories and higher. "This is an important milestone in saving lives," said Al Speed, former Fire Chief of the City of Toronto and official spokesperson for Fire SAFE. "The government has recognized what many of us in the fire safety business have for a long time, sprinklers save lives and reduce risks for firefighters."

Fire SAFE has advocated residential fire sprinklers for all residences including single and multi-family; apartments; condominiums and others since 2003. Several private member's bills have been presented before the Legislature calling for provincial legislation for all new homes to have residential fire sprinklers. Bill 72 is currently before the Legislature having passed Second Reading and compliments the government's announcement by allowing individual municipality to pass local by-laws requiring residential fire sprinklers in their community.

"With this announcement the government has the opportunity to make Ontario a leader in fire safety," said Speed. "With our homes having more synthetics that burn hotter and faster, sprinklers can buy the extra time to allow seniors, children and the disabled to flee a burning building. We call on the government to make Bill 72 government legislation and extend fire safety to all Ontarians and not just those living in high rises."

More than 220 North American jurisdictions currently have legislation in place making residential fire sprinkler systems mandatory. In Vancouver, where such systems have been mandated for 10 years, there has not been a single accidental fire fatality in a home where there is a properly installed and maintained residential fire sprinkler system.

Fire SAFE Ontario is a not for profit organization that has been working with a variety of organizations to promote, educate and advocate for residential fire sprinkler systems in Ontario.  
- END RELEASE - 18/06/2008

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