

VFRS – Fire Prevention & Public Education

2019 Fire Prevention Initiatives (Figure 1.0)



Description of Current Public Education Initiatives (Figure 2.0)

Activity / Program Name	Description
Sleepover with Sparky	Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) Inspectors have visited with more than 3,297 grade one students each year in 67 participating elementary schools. They have partnered with teachers, provided fire safety education, and provided the students with a stuffed toy fire dog named Sparky (donated through community partnerships) that they take turns bringing home for a night. With their guardian’s help, the children complete a safety checklist (i.e. matches, smoke alarms, escape plan, cooking, etc.). The checklist is sent back to the inspector for statistics and recordkeeping to monitor the success of the program.
VIP (Value Influence Peers)	Program delivered to grade six students in schools by York Regional Police, with a VFRS Inspector providing a fire safety teaching component.
Junior Firefighters	VFRS Inspectors partner with other fire inspectors and public education officers throughout York Region and deliver the Junior Firefighters program each year. After grade three children submit a fire safety poster (escape planning, smoke alarms, hazards, etc.), winners are selected from each

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	municipality and they compete in a fire safety sporting/educational event at one of the municipalities (rotated annually).
Seniors' Symposium	An annual event in partnership with BASSIC (Bringing an Awareness of Senior Safety Issues to the Community), York Region Community and Health Services, York Regional Police, surrounding municipal fire services, and the provincial/federal government. A presentation, approximately one-hour long, is delivered on home fire safety.
Fire Safety Request Presentations	Request may come from property managers, schools, and institutions. Presentations are geared to suit the audience (children, seniors, families, etc.).
TAPP-C	Arson Prevention Program delivered to children on request.
GO Transit Fire Safety Event	In partnership with GO Transit, VFRS provides fire safety messages, fire safety pamphlets, and food/ drinks to morning commuters at the Rutherford or Maple Go Station.
Vaughan's Winterfest	An annual City event held in February at the Vellore Village Community Centre. A fire prevention booth is set-up and education on smoke alarms, CO alarms, escape planning, etc. is delivered. Fire safety pamphlets are handed out.
Maple Lions Club – Annual Pancake Festival	Held in April, a booth is set-up similar to what is done at Vaughan's Winterfest. This event attracts a few hundred people (primarily families with children and seniors).
Fire Prevention Week Community Event	National Fire Prevention Week is observed in Canada and the United States, during the week (from Sunday to Saturday) in which October 9 falls. Fire Prevention themes are provided by the National Fire Protection Association and Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service delivers education to the community through different venues which change year to year. Previous years have included hosting events at local Community Centres with partners from YRP, EMS, TSSA, ESA, Power Stream, Lions Club, Go Transit. Information areas include: carbon monoxide alarms, dialing 911, inspections, kitchen safety, fire

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	investigations, dress-the-firefighter, fire trucks, and general fire safety trivia.
Fire Prevention Week Story Time	A VFRS Inspector visits all eight public libraries during Fire Prevention Week and reads a story to children with guardian(s) present. The Inspector talks and answers questions about fire safety. This is done in partnership with Vaughan Public Libraries who advertise in library magazines.
VFRS Website Information	Information on home sprinklers, videos on home escape planning, information on matches/lighters, fireworks safety, extinguishers, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms.
Fire Truck Visits	Firefighters visit schools, camps, and events on request and provide truck tours and general fire safety information.
After the Heat	Firefighters conduct the Alarm for Life program immediately after a house fire and deliver the program to 40 surrounding houses.
Fire Extinguisher Training	Provided on a request basis.
Fire Safety Presentations for High School Students	Presentations delivered to five high schools, to co-op and home economic students, regarding cooking safety, home fire safety, and fire safety in the workplace.
Home Alone Workshop with Vaughan Firefighters	A four-hour class provided to children from ages 11 to 14 at a community centre. Children learn about home safety, including how to answer the phone, when to call 9-1-1, and how to make simple meals without using the stove and/or oven. An extra hour dedicated to home fire safety, taught by VFRS Inspectors. Topics include smoke alarms, fire escape planning, fire hazards, and a presentation on cooking safety.
School Tour City Hall	Presentation about the different career opportunities within the fire service and show a short video.

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Junior Firefighter Workshop	A two-hour basic training workshop for children ages 6 to 9 provided by fire inspectors and firefighters. Children compete (as a team) in five fire safety activities: putting out a stove top fire; using a fire hose; tying firefighter ropes and knots; inspecting a fire truck; and, playing a game of family feud. Workshop includes a showing of 'Timon & Pumbaa: Safety Smart', a visit from Sparky the toy fire dog, and a firefighter helmet, colouring book and certificate from Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.
Fire Safety Workshop: Parent & Child	Fire safety education classes for children ages 4 to 6 and delivered in three 1 1/2-hour sessions at local community centers by VFRS fire inspectors and firefighters. Parent-assisted, fire prevention activities include: making a home fire escape plan with a Sparky toy fire dog; putting out a stove top fire and making a paper plate smoke alarm; tying firefighter ropes and knots, and touring a fire truck. Workshops include a showing of 'Franklin & The Fire', a visit from Sparky the toy fire dog, and a firefighter helmet, colouring book and certificate from Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.
Shrove Tuesday	VFRS Chief Officers and fire inspectors interact with parents and students and promote fire safety while serving pancakes at St. Cecilia Catholic Elementary School.
High School Co-op Program	VFRS visit various high schools throughout the Vaughan region and talk about safety in the workplace, kitchen safety, fire extinguishers, sprinklers, fire alarms. This is done to prevent injuries in the workplace. Approximately 10 to 20 presentations per school year delivered to 15 to 20 students at a time.
Fireworks Training	Presentation to all the vendors that are selling fireworks and to keep them current with the rules and regulations of selling fireworks and to make sure that they comply with the Ontario Fire Code.
Senior Calendar	BASSIC (Bringing Awareness of Senior Safety Issues to the Community) is in collaboration with the fire service, police and other non-profit organizations who develop a calendar with safety messages for seniors. They also conduct free seminars on seniors' issues.

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Senior Buildings	VFRS visits various senior's buildings to conduct presentations regarding fire safety. Typically, presentations are 2 to 2.5 hours long.
United Way	Fire Truck Pull, supporting the City in raising funds for United Way. Team of City employees compete to pull a fire truck a short distance in the fastest time.
Take Your Kid to Work Day	This is a national program organized by The Learning Partnership to give grade nine students a one-day real-life experience in a work environment.
Chief's Breakfast	A breakfast for all City of Vaughan employees, and Vaughan Fire, where donations for the Vaughan Food Bank are collected and donated.
Santa Claus Parade	Supporting the community by marching in the parade each year.
Newcomers Bus Tour	This is a program aimed at assisting those new to the community by providing a way to discover all of the services offered in Vaughan. A fire inspector talks about smoke alarms, CO alarms, cooking safety, and calling 911.
Autism Awareness	VFRS supports local schools with community classes, by interacting with students with special needs. Teaching fire safety.
Holiday Gala	VFRS hosts a meal for families in need. VFRS interacts with the families and discusses fire safety during the holiday season.
Recent Immigrants	A VFRS Inspector enters ESL classes for adults and delivers a 20-minute to 45-minute presentation on smoke alarms, CO alarms, escape planning, kitchens safety, and calling 911. This is delivered approximately 3 to 4 times a year and classes range from 10 to 15 students at a time.
Youth Firefighter Camp	A five-day basic fire and rescue training session for youth ages 16 to 18. Up to 20 campers spend the week at the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Training Centre, experiencing a day in the life of the emergency rescue team. They extinguish a live fire with a

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	fire extinguisher, operate a pump, climb an aerial ladder, break down a door, and observe an auto extraction demonstration. Certificates are awarded at the end of the session.
Junior Firefighter Camp	One 4-day and one 5-day basic fire and rescue training session for children ages 12 to 14. Up to 20 Junior firefighters per camp visit a local Vaughan fire hall and the Vaughan Fire and Rescue Training Centre to experience a day in the life of the emergency rescue team. They extinguish a live fire with a fire extinguisher, learn how to escape a confined space, break down a door, observe an auto extraction demonstration, and prepare for a firefighter physical exam.
Vulnerable Persons Registry	Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service offers special assistance to residents with a disability when an emergency occurs. Submitting information through the Vulnerable Persons Registry ensures that respondents are better equipped to aid in the event of an emergency.
March Break at IKEA	Vaughan Firefighters and Fire Inspectors host a two-day fire safety event at IKEA for over 10,000 people. Visitors of all ages meet firefighters and take a tour of a firetruck. Inside the store, an interactive education zone is set up that includes a spinning wheel of fire safety questions, fire safety prizes, and an area where children are read “No Dragons for Tea”. Sparky the robot dog attends, and a 911 simulator provides children an opportunity to practice making emergency phone calls. Encouraging everyone to spread their own fire safety messages, attendees dress up as firefighters and have their picture taken with members of our team in a photography and social media area. In another area, a white blanket is waved over the children to simulate smoke while they practice the “stay low and go” principle by crawling under the blanket to safety, all while dressed up as junior firefighters. Children are provided with activity booklets and plastic fire helmets to take home.
Coffee with a Firefighter	McDonald’s provides free coffee to customers and sets up a table where firefighters, fire inspectors, and senior officers meet with the public to discuss fire safety and firefighting. The event originated in Vaughan and has since been expanded to a province-wide campaign with Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal.

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Alarm for Life	<p>Firefighters are assigned up to 3,500 homes per year and go door-to-door and offer to check smoke alarms and CO alarms. If smoke alarms are malfunctioning, missing, or have a low battery, firefighters provide temporary smoke alarm(s) and/or batteries as may be required. The program may also be offered when firefighters are called to a house emergency, or in response to a non-emergency request. The residents are educated on how to maintain their smoke/CO alarms and firefighters answer questions on other fire safety practices, such as: home escape planning, cooking safety, electrical fire safety, and how to address other fire hazards around the home.</p>

Note: These fire prevention and public education programs vary from year to year, depending on resource availability and budget approvals.