

HARBORD VILLAGE
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION



BOX 68522, 360A Bloor St. W.
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1

E: info@harbordvillage.com

W: harbordvillage.com



Harbord Village Fire Safety is a Serious Matter

In the past 5 years
there have been
three devastating
multi-house fires in
the Harbord Village.

2005:
61 to 67 Major Street

2007:
56 to 64 Robert Street

2009:
19 to 27 Major Street

**Houses in our
neighbourhood
are vulnerable to
devastating fires.**

Find out why.

**Most residential fires
can be prevented from
starting and spreading.**

Find out how.

Resources

Office of the Fire Marshal

P: 416-325-3100

W: ofm.gov.on.ca

Fire Prevention Canada

P: 613-749-3844

W: fireprecan.ca

Toronto Fire Services South Command,
local Fire Prevention Office

240 Howland Avenue, Toronto, ON M5R 3B6

P: 416-338-9381

Credits

Funding: Harbord Street Business Improvement Area
Members of HVRA and Residents of Harbord Village

Firewall Diagram: Paul Jurecka, Architect

Research: Colin Furness

Design: Donna Endacott

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Stop Fires from Starting

Three things you probably didn't know



In Toronto, 1 in 5 house fires starts as a cooking fire.

- Disposable (non-refillable) home fire extinguishers have a shelf life of only about 1 year.
- Keeping a large can of baking soda near the stove is a cheap, smart and effective alternative – and it just needs to be shaken up once a year to be ready to dump on any cooking fire before it gets out of control.

Most houses in Harbord Village have hidden knob and tube wiring.



- Previous owners may have removed all visible signs of old wiring, joining it to newer wiring.
- Joining old knob and tube to new wiring can result in dangerous, overheated wires.
- A licensed electrician can test for knob and tube wiring, and can make repairs that can save your life.

Using both firelogs and real wood logs in the same fireplace is dangerous.



- Firelogs deposit wax on chimney linings; real wood sends sparks up into chimney linings.
- Neither of these are dangerous, but adding sparks to waxy build-up can cause hot, devastating fires.
- Use either one or the other exclusively, and have your lining cleaned or changed before switching.

Stop Fires from Spreading

One thing you may really need to do

Do you share an open attic with your neighbour?

The three recent, devastating, multi-house fires in our neighbourhood spread rapidly through open, shared attics. Open, shared attics allow fires to spread so rapidly that it's astonishing that there was no loss of life in any of the three fires. Open, shared attics are a common fire danger in Harbord Village.

You may have an open, shared attic and not know it! Talk to your neighbours and find out.

Installing a simple firewall can save your house, your life and your neighbours lives. Consider sharing the cost of building a firewall together with your neighbours. It may be the smartest money you will ever spend.

The diagram below illustrates what an effective firewall looks like. Like many safety features, it is not especially difficult or expensive, but it does take some time and effort.

