



Urgent Bulletin

Maintenance of the garage door
to the interior of your house





Fire Chief Chris Nearing is advising all residents of the City of Markham:

Inspect the door from the garage to the interior of your house.

If you have a door leading from the interior of your house to an attached garage, please inspect it to ensure the following:

- The door is undamaged,
- The door swings in to the house and not in to the garage,
- The door has a latch and is secured when closed, and
- The door has a working self-closing device so that it closes automatically when you release it.

The number of garage fires is increasing and there is a risk of a fire rapidly spreading from an attached garage to the interior of the home. A closed door between the garage and the home will create a barrier to slow the spread of fire and smoke. But the door will only be effective if it is working and installed in the way it was designed. It needs to close on its own and it needs to be secured in the doorframe with a latch. If your self-closing device is disconnected or missing, please re-connect it or replace it immediately. If the door is not latching properly when closed, please adjust it immediately. In a fire emergency every second counts, so any protective measures you have in your home need to be maintained so they will work properly when needed.

At this time please also ensure that you have working and up-to-date **smoke alarms** installed on every level of your home, and working and up-to-date **carbon monoxide alarms** installed on every level of your home. And please make sure you have discussed a **Home Escape Plan** with everyone who lives in your home so that everyone will know what to do and where to go in an emergency.

These actions that you take in your home will make the difference between having a safe home for your loved ones, or having a potentially tragic incident requiring immediate emergency response.

Please take action today.