

Fire Prevention seeks compliance on a number of criteria for bar, nightclub and event venues.

The information contained in this brochure is for managers and owners of event venues, bars and nightclubs in the City of St. Catharines. It introduces and explains the Public Safety issues from a Fire Safety perspective.

**The St. Catharines Fire Prevention Division is dedicated to increasing safety in bars, night clubs and at special events throughout the City of St. Catharines.**

**The St. Catharines Fire Prevention Division will work closely with local businesses, specifically, bars, nightclubs and event venues, to ensure building, fire and safety code compliance.**

**As part of the Joint Public Education Initiative and Bar Inspection program, the St. Catharines Fire Prevention staff will work to identify fire and life safety hazards, while raising public awareness of fire prevention.**



## Fire Safety in Bars and Nightclubs

Raising the bar on public Safety



**St. Catharines Fire and Emergency Management Services  
Fire Prevention Division**



“Our commitment to ensuring the life safety of all occupants while they are inside these establishments is a priority for St. Catharines Fire & Emergency Management Services.”

*Fire Chief Dave Wood*

## What does Fire Prevention Inspect?

Through property inspections, the Fire Prevention Division promotes an environment that is safe for staff and occupants at bars, nightclubs and special event venues in the community. The inspections are conducted with various other life safety departments on a random, variable basis and are not prearranged with property owners and managers.

### **Adherence to Maximum Occupant Load**

The building's capacity (maximum occupant load) must be clearly stated on the establishment's occupant load certificate, which is posted at or near the entrance.

- Establishments must not be overcrowded and building capacity not to be exceeded

### **Unsafe Exits**

- Exits must not be locked or blocked (this includes any bolts, chains or other devices that require keys or special knowledge to open)
- Corridors and aisles leading to the exits must remain clear
- Outside exits must be free from any outside impediment such as snow or parked cars
- Lineups must not block exits

### **Emergency Systems**

- Functional Exit lighting (exit signs lighted and clearly visible)
- Functional Emergency lights
- Fire Alarm System power (if required)

### **Open Flame**

Any entertainment involving open-flame requires a permit. This requirement also pertains to bars that serve flaming drinks or ignite alcohol for effect. These activities are not permitted unless approval is granted by the Chief Fire Official or designate.

### **Holiday-themed Decorations**

Decorations must not interfere with fire or smoke detectors or sprinkler heads.

## Non-Compliance with Ontario Fire Code

Corporations can face fines up to \$100,000 and individuals can face fines up to \$50,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year for violating the Ontario Fire Code.

## Contact Us

St. Catharines Fire Prevention  
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For more information on fire safety in bars and nightclubs, please visit:

<http://www.stcatharines.ca/BarSafety>