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Fire Marshal

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## For Immediate Release

### ATTENTION: NEWSROOMS

## Be fire-safe while participating in Earth Hour

**TORONTO (March 27, 2008)** – Earth Hour organizers are encouraging individuals, businesses and government to help reduce electricity and create awareness on climate change by turning their lights off for one hour. It is expected that millions of Ontarians will participate in Earth Hour on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

With the lights turned off, the fire services strongly recommends that people use flashlights or battery operated lanterns for light.

If you must use candles, you need to take special care to prevent fire:

- Use sturdy candleholders that won't tip or burn. Those with glass shades or chimneys are best.
- Keep lit candles a safe distance away from anything that can burn.
- Keep candles, matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
- Always stay in the room where candles are being used. Blow all candles out when you leave the room.
- Keep candles out of all bedrooms.

“With an increase in candle use, there is an increased risk of fire,” explained Patrick Burke, Fire Marshal of Ontario. “Before you light any candles, make sure to test all of the smoke alarms in your home to ensure they are working.”

It's the law to have working smoke alarms on every storey of your home. Smoke alarms can provide an early warning of fire and a home fire escape plan will help ensure you and your family get out safely.

“While I do encourage everyone to get involved in this worthy initiative, I am strongly urging people to prevent fires while participating,” said Burke.

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### For more information, please contact:

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