

2003 aPHa RESOLUTION NO. A03-4

TITLE: Hot Tap Water Burn Injuries Prevention

SPONSOR: Regional Municipality of Durham

WHEREAS the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes is leading a national consultation on the development of objective-based National Building and Fire Codes; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is conducting a parallel provincial consultation on the development of objective-based Ontario Building Code; and

WHEREAS the hot water temperature found in a typical Canadian and Ontario home is 60°C; and

WHEREAS a child's skin will burn <1 second at 60°C; and

WHEREAS decreasing the temperature of hot water from 60°C to 49°C, the current maximum hot water temperature at shower outlets as set by the National Plumbing Code, will increase the time to escape severe burn from 1 second to 10 minutes; and

WHEREAS a 49°C hot water temperature standard has been established in several American and Australian states and New Zealand; and

WHEREAS hot tap water in the home is responsible for the highest number of fatal and severe scalding injuries among children and the elderly in Canada; and

WHEREAS the majority of scalding incidents (87.4%) happen in the home and just over half of the injuries occur in the bathroom;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing are urged to amend the National Building and Fire Codes and the Ontario Building Codes, respectively, such that maximum hot tap water temperature in the home is reduced to 49°C;

AND FURTHER THAT the federal Ministers of Health, Industry and Transport and Ontario's Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Municipal Affairs and Housing are so advised.

Action from Conference:

Moved:

R. Kyle (Durham Region)

Seconded:

L. O'Connor (Durham Region)

Carried