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Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week: test your alarms this fall

November 1 to 7 is Carbon Monoxide (CO) Awareness Week in Ontario. Oshawa Fire Services is reminding residents to change the batteries in their smoke and CO alarms when turning clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1. Ontario law requires working CO alarms in all homes with fuel-burning appliances, fireplaces or attached garages. As of January 1, 2026, in addition to CO alarms required outside all sleeping areas, CO alarms are also required on every storey of your home. Removing or tampering with smoke or CO alarms can result in significant fines and penalties.

Smoke and CO alarm safety: Install smoke alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas. For added protection, install one in every bedroom. Install CO alarms on every storey and outside all sleeping areas if your home has a fuel-burning appliance, fireplace or attached garage. Test alarms monthly and replace batteries every spring and fall. Create and regularly practice a home escape plan. Replace alarms according to the manufacturer's recommendations or when they are more than 10 years old. What is Carbon Monoxide? Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas known as the "silent killer" because it cannot be seen or smelled.

Durham cop charged by OPP after child sexual exploitation investigation in Northumberland County

Constable Tre-Jamal Hamad faces nine charges stemming from an OPP investigation that began on Oct. 21 after provincial police received a report regarding the alleged sexual exploitation of a youth.

In a statement released Tuesday night, the Durham force said it “takes the allegations against Const. Hamad very seriously” and added the officer has been suspended without pay pending the outcome of court proceedings.

A Durham police constable is facing charges related to child sexual abuse and exploitation following an investigation by Ontario Provincial Police in Northumberland County.

The officer, Tre-Jamal Hamad, faces nine charges stemming from an OPP investigation that began on Oct. 21 after provincial police received a report regarding the alleged sexual exploitation of a youth.

Hamad, a 31-year-old Ajax resident, was arrested on Oct. 25 after the OPP carried out search warrants in Whitby and Ajax.

The Durham police digital forensics unit also helped with the investigation.

In a statement released Tuesday night, the Durham force said it “takes the allegations against Const. Hamad very seriously” and added that the officer has been suspended without pay pending the outcome of court proceedings. The police service said it would not provide any further comments or information. Hamad has been charged with possession of child sexual abuse and exploitation material, making sexually explicit material available to a person under 18 years of age and two counts of sexually explicit material available to a person under 16 years of age.

He also faces charges of luring a person under 18 years of age by means of telecommunication, two counts of luring a person under 16 years of age by means of telecommunication and indecent exposure to a person under 16 years of age.

Hamad has also been charged with makes, prints, publishes or possesses for the purpose of publication of any child sexual abuse and exploitation material. The accused is scheduled to appear in a Cobourg court on Oct. 29.

Hamad is the second Durham cop in just over two weeks to face criminal charges.

The Durham force announced on Oct. 16 that one of its own officers — Const. Brandon Welsh-Battiste — has been charged with one count of assault in connection with an on-duty incident. Welsh-Battiste, an officer with three years of service, works in West Division which covers the municipalities of Ajax and Pickering.

He was released on an undertaking and has been reassigned to administrative duties until court proceedings are complete, at which point an investigation will be conducted under the Community Safety and Policing Act, said the Durham force.



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