

# THE PARAGONIAN

S e p t e m b e r 2 0 2 5



Proudly Canadian

## Quick Thinking Prevents a Disaster



In July, Shift Supervisor Paras faced a situation that could have gone very wrong. While making his rounds at 2 Bloor, he caught the smell of something burning coming from one of the vacant units. Investigating further, he found that an unhoused individual had started a fire inside.

There was no time to lose. S/S Paras grabbed a fire extinguisher, then another, and worked quickly to put out the flames before they spread. Within minutes, the fire was under control and the damage kept to a minimum.

It's moments like this that remind us how much our team's vigilance matters. S/S Paras' alertness and fast action kept a dangerous situation from becoming a serious incident.



We're proud to have people like S/S Paras on the front line, ready to step in when it counts most.



# Housekeeping Matters

## Health & Safety on Post

Housekeeping isn't just about appearances—it's a key part of keeping ourselves healthy and safe on the job. Whether you're in a gatehouse, at a desk, or out on site, a tidy workspace makes a big difference, helps prevent accidents, and promotes a positive impression for clients and visitors.

Cluttered areas can quickly become safety hazards. Bags, cords, or papers left on the floor can cause trips, while spills or food waste can lead to slips. Even at a desk, disorganized equipment makes it harder to respond quickly in an emergency.

Good housekeeping also extends to the areas you monitor. While on duty, keep an eye out for blocked fire exits, unsecured doors, or obstacles in common areas. Report hazards immediately and, when appropriate, take simple corrective actions—such as moving obstructions or cleaning up minor spills.

Cleanliness also plays a role in illness prevention. Shared spaces like gatehouses, desks, and patrol vehicles can easily spread germs. Wiping down high-touch surfaces such as keyboards, phones, and doorknobs helps reduce the risk of illness—not just for you, but for your colleagues and visitors too.

A clean, organized post also shows professionalism. Visitors and clients notice when your station looks cared for, and it reflects positively on you and the entire security team.

Making housekeeping part of your routine doesn't take long. Toss garbage promptly, wipe down your work area, and keep equipment stored neatly where it belongs. These small habits go a long way in creating a safer, healthier, and more professional environment for everyone.





# Our Role in Fire Safety & Alarm Response

Security guards play a vital role in fire prevention, early detection, and emergency response. Our actions protect lives, property and business continuity.

**Know the Plan:** Be fully trained on the site's fire safety procedures, evacuation routes, and alarm panel operation.

**Use It or Lose It:** Keep skills sharp through regular fire drills and refresher training. Confidence and muscle memory fade without practice.

**Stay Alert:** Watch for hazards (such as blocked exits, tripping hazards in stairwells, faulty wiring, or unsafe storage of flammable materials) during patrols and take immediate action to report or correct them.

**Respond Quickly:** Follow your site-specific fire response protocols when an alarm sounds and contact emergency services without delay.

**Assist Occupants:** Direct people to the exits if an evacuation is triggered. Help those with mobility challenges and ensure no one re-enters until it is safe.

**Communicate Clearly:** Make calm and clear announcements. Maintain constant contact providing timely updates with your control room, supervisors, and first responders.

**After the Incident:** Secure the area, assist investigations, and document events accurately. Debrief with your team and look for areas to improve on for the next event.

Prepared, calm, and decisive action by security guards ensures emergencies are handled with professionalism, instilling confidence, minimizing harm, and protecting the community.



# Stairwell safety

As security guards, we know that safety is not just about responding to emergencies—it's about preventing them. We spend a lot of time moving through stairwells—patrolling, responding to calls, or simply checking that everything is in order. While stairs are simple and routine, they can quickly become hazardous if not used with care.

When walking or patrolling stairs, the basics matter most. Always keep one hand free for the handrail—it's the simplest way to stop a stumble from turning into a fall. Take your time on each step and avoid rushing, especially if you're carrying equipment or paperwork. If your hands are full, make two trips rather than trying to juggle too much at once. Good visibility is also key: keep your eyes on the steps, not your phone, and use extra caution if lighting seems dim.

For guards on patrol, stairwells should be treated like any other checkpoint. Look out for hazards such as spills, clutter, or damaged steps. Pay attention to the condition of handrails and lighting, and report anything that seems unsafe right away. A blocked or poorly maintained stairwell is more than an inconvenience—it's a risk for everyone in the building.

The truth is that stair safety is everyone's responsibility. Whether you're on duty or just heading to a meeting, a few simple habits—holding the rail, watching your step, and reporting hazards—go a long way. One careful step at a time helps keep all of us safe.

## Find 10 differences

Submit your answer, name and employee number by June 11th for your chance to win the \$100 prize draw: [newsletter@pplguard.com](mailto:newsletter@pplguard.com)



Congratulations to last month's winner

**Sukhpreet Kaur**

Last month's answer:



[www.paragonsecurity.ca](http://www.paragonsecurity.ca)