



## Education Day

### 207: Hoarding: Working together for solutions

James Hind CFEI



## What is Hoarding?

- acquiring and failing to throw out a large number of items that would appear to have little or no value to others (e.g., papers, notes, flyers, newspapers, clothes)
- severe cluttering of the person's home so that it is no longer able to function as a viable living space
- significant distress or impairment of work or social life



## Why do people hoard?

- The Cognitive Behavioral Model
  - Neural mechanisms
  - Evolutionary biology
  - Genetics



2

## Information Processing Deficits

- Attention
- Categorization
- Memory
- Perception
- Association
- Complex Thinking
- Decision-making difficulties



3

## Emotional Attachments and Beliefs

- Control
- Mistakes
- Responsibility waste
- Completeness
- Identity/potential identity Beauty/aesthetics
- Memory
- Utility/opportunity
- Sentimental
- Comfort
- Safety



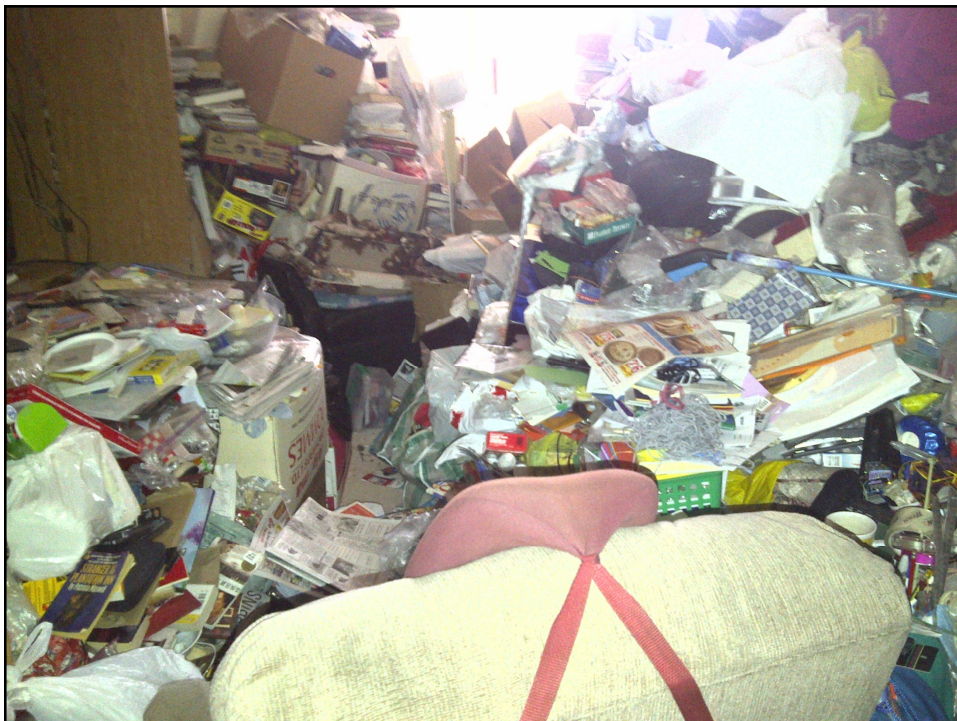
4

## Why don't people change?

- COST OF CHANGE
- OUTWEIGHS THE BENEFITS



5



## Section 21 - FPPA

21. (1) An inspector who has carried out an inspection of land or premises under section 19 or 20 may order the owner or occupant of the land or premises to take any measure necessary to ensure fire safety on the land and premises and may for that purpose order the owner or occupant....

(c) to remove combustible or explosive material or any thing that may constitute a fire hazard:



8

## Section 21 - FPPA

....(f) to do anything respecting including anything relating to the containment of a possible fire, means of egress, fire alarm and detection, fire suppression and preparation of a fire safety plan;



9



## Immediate Threat to Life: Section 15

15(1) If the Fire Marshal, an assistant to the Fire Marshal or a fire chief has reasonable grounds to believe that a risk of fire poses an immediate threat to life, he or she may, without warrant, enter on any land or premises and, for the purpose of removing or reducing the threat, may...



## Immediate Threat to Life: Section 15

remove persons on the land or premises;

b) post a fire watch

c) remove combustible or explosive material or anything that may constitute a fire menace;

c.1) dispose of any material or thing that was removed under clause (c), in accordance with any directives issued by the Fire Marshal'



12

## Immediate Threat to Life: Section 15

d) eliminate ignition sources

e) install temporary safeguards, including fire extinguishers, and smoke alarms

f) make minor repairs to existing fire safety systems



13

## Immediate Threat to Life: Section 15

g) do any other thing that the Fire Marshal, an assistant to the Fire Marshal or a fire chief has reasonable grounds to believe is urgently required to remove or reduce the threat to life. 1997, c. 4, s 15(1): 2002, c 18 Sched. N s. 3



14

## Immediate Threat to Life: Section 15

- The measures that can be taken are generally temporary, readily implemented and limited in scope
- Before taking action under Section 15, it must be established that an Immediate Threat to Life exists. An Immediate Threat to Life must involve a determination that two elements exist as follows:
  - a risk of fire, and
  - that human life would be placed at serious risk.



15





### Clutter Image Rating: Bedroom

Please select the photo that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.



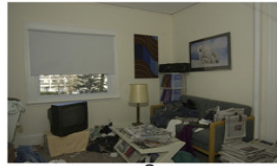
19

### Clutter Image Rating: Living Room

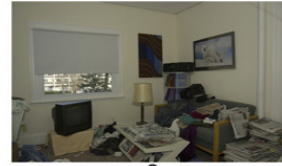
Please select the photo below that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.



1



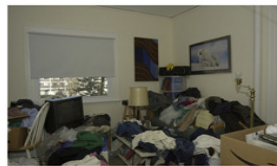
2



3



4



5



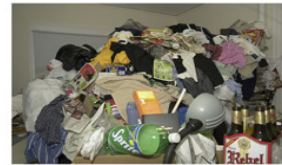
6



7



8



9



20

### Clutter Image Rating Scale: Kitchen

Please select the photo below that most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in your room.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



21

## Occupant and Building Safety

- Increased smoke development
- Faster Fire Spread
- Blocked windows
- Pile collapse
- Water absorption
- Biological



22

## Occupant and Building Safety

- Difficulty maneuvering
- Sharps
- Exposures
- Unknown stored items
- Fire Safety Systems overwhelmed



23

## Occupant and Building Safety

- Unknown at time of response
- Tenant
- Structural failure
- Bed Bugs
- Disorientation
- Salvage and Overhaul



24





James Hind CFEI  
CITY OF LONDON FIRE SERVICE  
519-661-2500 ext 2612  
[jhind@london.ca](mailto:jhind@london.ca)

