

Fire Department



The Chilliwack Fire Department is committed to community safety through public education, code enforcement, fire suppression and rescue services.

Second Quarter Report, 2019



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Administration - Personnel

Career Staff:



Retirement:
Craig Philbrook
Lieutenant
April 30, 2019



New Appointment:
Tim Mastin
Firefighter
May 27, 2019



New Appointment:
Matthew Wilkinson
Firefighter
May 27, 2019

Exemplary Service Medals / Long Service Awards

The department presented Federal Exemplary Service medals and British Columbia Long Service medals at our Annual Appreciation & Awards Banquet to the following members in recognition of their dedication and service to our community, province, and country in the protection of life and property.

BC Long Service Awards:

35 years of service: Firefighter John Huisman
Firefighter John Van Esch

25 years of service: Firefighter Shawn Burke
Firefighter Rudy Toews



Federal Exemplary Service Awards:

20 years of service: Captain Len Blackstock
Firefighter Ken Bodholdt
Assistant Chief Andrew Brown
Captain Rob Hume



Retirement Appreciation Awards

Appreciation plaques were presented from the City of Chilliwack to the following paid on-call and career members who retired during the year, and provided ten or more years of service to our department and community.

- Ian Smith – Hall #1 – 32 years of service
- Paul Liddle – Hall #5 – 10 years of service
- Len Blackstock – Hall #6 – 20 years of service
- Rick Meeres – Career – 36 years of service

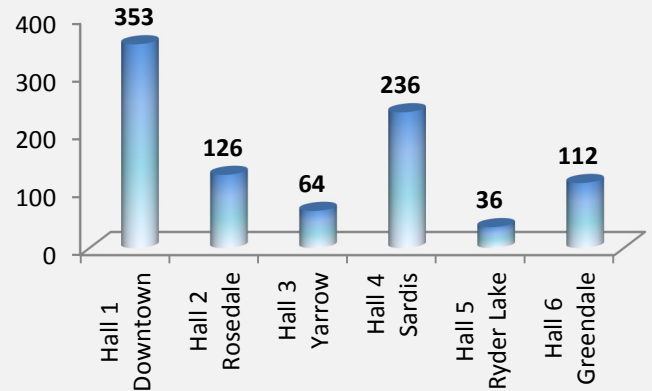


Operations – Incident Responses

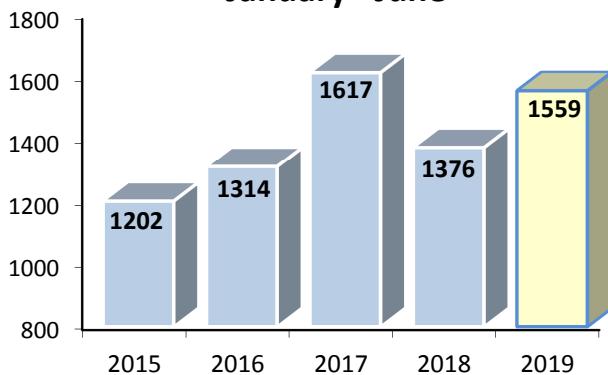
Incident Responses

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 834 calls for service in the second quarter (1,559 year to date). This was an increase of 183 calls compared to this time in 2018. Incidents for this quarter included 111 fires, 120 motor vehicle incidents, 29 emergency medical aid calls, and 111 burning complaints. Thus far in 2019, the three leading calls for service were public service, alarms activated, and fire incident responses. These three incident response types accounted for 1,007 incidents or 65% of the total calls responded to thus far year to date.

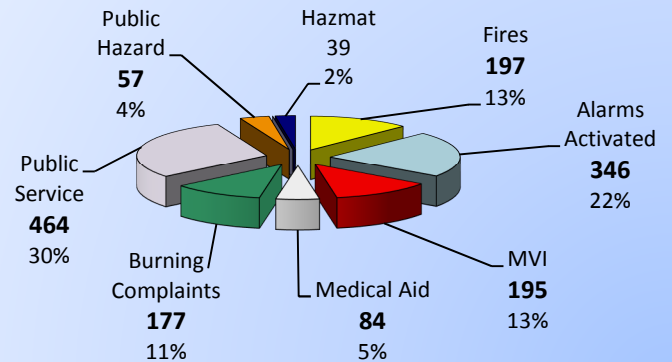
2019 Paid on-Call Responses by Hall



Incident Responses January - June



Incident Responses - Year to Date



Structure Fire
Fourth Avenue, May 2019



Structure Fire
Bearstone Place, June 2019

Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			2 nd Quarter	1 st Quarter	Year to Date
	April	May	June			
FIRES	26	48	37	111	86	197
Structures	9	15	12			67
Vehicle	2	5	4			25
Outdoor / Other	15	28	21			105
ALARMS ACTIVATED	61	56	66	183	163	346
Single family residential	24	28	26			120
Multi-family residential	17	13	13			86
Non-residential	20	15	27			140
MVI (NO FIRE)	42	40	38	120	75	195
Auto Extrication	0	2	1			5
Provide Medical Care	22	22	21			94
Routine Cleanup / No injuries	17	13	16			86
Cancelled/Fire not required	3	3	0			10
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID	6	14	9	29	55	84
BURNING COMPLAINTS	33	42	36	111	66	177
Illegal	27	36	36			153
Legal	6	6	0			24
PUBLIC SERVICE	61	80	90	231	233	464
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	5	11	24			114
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	44	46	53			270
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	6	4	3			27
Post Fire Recheck/ Post Fire Investigation	1	8	0			24
Trapped in Elevator	2	4	3			10
Other	3	7	7			19
PUBLIC HAZARD	4	8	10	22	35	57
RESCUES	0	0	0	0	0	0
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	10	9	8	27	12	39
MUTUAL AID	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	243	297	294	834	725	1,559

Previous Years:

2018
2017
2016
2015
2014

2nd Qtr	1 st Qtr
693	683
730	887
678	636
671	531
488	445

YTD
1,376
1,617
1,314
1,202
933

Fire Prevention – Public Education & Code Enforcement

The Chilliwack Fire Department is proactively working to reduce fire losses and injuries through education, engineering, code enforcement, and fire investigations.

Fire & Life Safety Education

A total of 49 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community thus far in 2019. In 2019 to date, 2,921 residents have been educated or trained in fire and life safety, and emergency preparedness. Fire hall tours have allowed firefighters to proactively educate children and their parents on the hazards of fire, and how they can better prepare their family if a fire occurs in their home.

2019 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews		
Fire Safety Classes	13	487
Fire Extinguisher Training	10	210
Fire Hall Tours	15	368
Emergency Preparedness Classes	3	56
Other Public Education Sessions	8	1,800
Totals	49	2,921

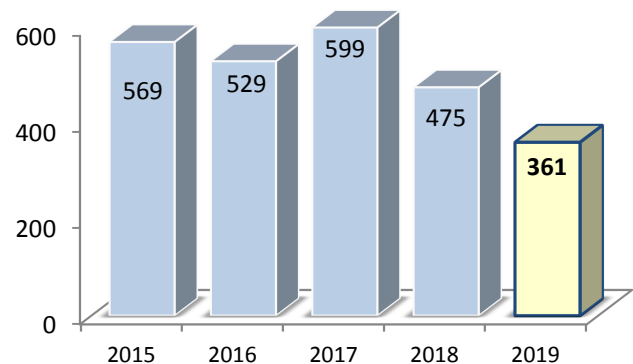
Code Enforcement

The department completed 180 fire and life safety inspections in this quarter including health and safety inspections with the Bylaw Department, RCMP, and BC Safety Authority.

Engineering

The department completed 32 plan and sprinkler reviews this quarter. Fire Department personnel also conducted numerous on-site inspections to ensure Fire Code compliance.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections January - June



Investigations / Losses

Second quarter fire losses were \$2,755,300, bringing the total dollar loss to \$11,588,550 thus far in 2019. Three (3) civilians suffered fire related injuries during this quarter. A total of 28 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 19 (or 68%) occurring in residential occupancies. Fire origin and cause investigations were completed to identify fire loss trends and focus our education efforts to prevent future losses.

Fire Hall Tour, June 2019



Training

In addition to maintaining our structural firefighting skills this quarter, firefighters also participated in specialized training. The goal of the specialized training is to target areas and situations that are high hazard, low frequency events, or that are becoming more frequent.

Technical Training

- ❖ **Rural Water Supply** – With the summer months approaching firefighters from all fire halls participated in Rural Water Supply Training using tenders and engines.
- ❖ **Wildland Fire Training** – 15 firefighters attended a wildland firefighter course in Sunshine Valley.
- ❖ **Apparatus Operator Training** – Is ongoing this quarter with another 9 apparatus operators completing 40 hours of combined driving and pumps training.
- ❖ **Vehicle Extrication – Vehicles into Water**– 4 Firefighters attended a course put on by Rescue Canada. The course is designed to help keep first responders safe as they rescue people trapped in vehicles that have ended up in bodies of water, like water filled ditches.
- ❖ **Scenario Training** – Firefighters put their skills together during simulated firefighter survival scenarios, where they had become trapped, lost, or disorientated in a structurally compromised building, and had to calmly navigate their way to safety.
- ❖ **Career Firefighter Recruit Camp** – 6 new firefighters completed a 3 month training camp to prepare them to safely meet the needs of our community as they respond to calls for service.
- ❖ **Aerial Strategies and Tactics** – 12 firefighters attended a 2 day train the trainer course for aerial operations.
- ❖ **Pre-Hospital Care** is a large component of our training curriculum and includes regularly scheduled CPR, AED, and FR 3 classes that are taught by in-house instructors, as all firefighters are certified in this program through the Ministry of Health.

Educational Training

- ❖ **Fire Officer Development** – 10 Firefighters are currently enrolled in the Fire Officer Program at the Justice Institute of B.C.
- ❖ **Conferences and Seminars** are vital networking platforms that promote innovation, growth, and support the attainment and adherence to industry best practices.
 - ✓ **British Columbia Training Fire Officers Association (BCTFOA)** was held in Nelson B.C. and was attended by the Training Officer. The weeklong conference saw training officers and firefighters from all over British Columbia attend, to participate in over 30 topics related to fire service training and educating firefighters.
- ❖ **Resilient Minds** - The Resilient Minds program is offered through the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and local fire departments. The goal of this program is to enhance resiliency. It engages and informs first responders in three crucial areas relevant to their work: trauma, mental health issues, and building resiliency.



New Career Firefighters Training Program

Low Slope Rescue Training (left)

Confined Space Training (right)



Emergency Preparedness

The 2nd Quarter of 2019 continued to see an early melt of already record-low snowpack levels. Typically in early June, approximately 40% of the annual provincial snowpack has melted; this year 55-100% of annual snow had melted. On the positive side, Chilliwack did not experience a Fraser River freshet event due to the record low amounts of snow and early melt. However, these weather conditions have increased the potential for wildfire activity and drought in some areas of the province. The South Coast region of the province is expected to remain consistently warmer and drier than normal heading into the summer months.

In preparation for the upcoming wildfire season, the following readiness efforts have been undertaken by the Chilliwack Emergency Program:

- Public awareness of wildfire risk and preparation through a very successful 2nd annual “Wildfire Preparedness Day” held in Yarrow during Yarrow Days
- Staff training and planning through an Emergency Operations Centre exercise and training on wildfire suppression and evacuation planning
- More wildfire suppression equipment has been purchased to increase the Chilliwack Fire Department’s wildland firefighting capacity
- Ongoing discussions with the BC Wildfire Service on planning, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts

The Chilliwack Emergency Program continues to hold bi-monthly meetings with internal and external stakeholders to further emergency planning efforts, relationship building, and review of learnings from past emergency incidents. Recent discussions have included wildfire preparation, neighbourhood (gated community) emergency preparedness, emergency communications system interoperability, evacuation planning and transportation of people during a disaster.

The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club met weekly and continues to provide regular training to their membership. On June 21st and 22nd, the club took part in a 24-hour long field day to raise awareness of amateur radio communications and to showcase the capabilities of the club. The club has also been involved in planning to support the upcoming Revel Marathon in August with emergency communications support in the Chilliwack River Valley.

The Chilliwack Emergency Support Services Team met bi-monthly to train and discuss past emergency incidents. In May and June, the team completed an exhaustive inventory of their two Reception Centre/Group Lodging trailers to ensure readiness in the event of a large scale evacuation.



Wildfire Preparedness Day (Fire Hall No. 3, Yarrow)
June 2019

Community Activities

The Fire Department continues to be actively involved in many community events and fundraisers. This quarter, Chilliwack firefighters and the Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society (CFFCS) volunteered and raised money for the Society at the following events:

- Mountainview Harley Davidson: Pancake breakfast, Ride to Live, Poker Run and Father's Day Barbeque;
- East Chilliwack Elementary PAC barbeque;
- Old Yale Brewery barbeque fundraiser for Canadian Mental Health;
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart Day;
- Bike to Work Event with City of Chilliwack and Fraser Valley Regional District;
- Drive Thru Breakfast with Ann Davis Transition Society;
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Fraser Valley Golf Tournament;

The CFFCS donated in support of the following during this quarter:

- Cyrus Centre
- Prostrate Cancer Foundation of BC
- Ann Davis Transition Society
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Chilliwack Children's Foundation
- Chilliwack Hospital Foundation
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters of the Fraser Valley
- Casino Royale fundraiser for BC Professional Firefighters Burn Camp

Education Awards

- The Chilliwack Firefighters Education Fund provided 7 post-secondary awards to high school graduates.
- The Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society presented awards to graduates from School District 33 as follows:
 - Two \$500 awards at G.W. Graham awards night (presented by Firefighter Tim Mastin);
 - Two \$500 awards at Sardis Secondary School Awards Night (presented by retired Firefighter Bill Higginbottom);
 - Two \$500 awards at Chilliwack Secondary School Awards Night (presented by Captain Eric Davies).



Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society
Donation Presentations to:
Cyrus Centre (above), and
Chilliwack Hospital Foundation &
Chilliwack Children's Foundation (below)



Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society
Mountain View Harley Father's Day Barbecue