

# Fire Department



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

## Second Quarter Report, 2020



**CITY OF  
CHILLIWACK**

## Administration - Personnel

### Career Staff:

**Promotion:**

Keith Corbett  
Captain  
April 1, 2020

**Promotion:**

Ross Trout  
Lieutenant  
April 17, 2020

**New Appointment:**

Rosemary Kelly  
Public Educator / Fire Inspector  
June 1, 2020

## Community Activities

The Fire Department continues to be actively involved in many community events and fundraisers. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, activities have been cancelled or postponed at this time. During this quarter the Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society donated to Chilliwack Restorative Justice in support of their many programs.

### Education Awards

- The Chilliwack Firefighters Education Fund provided four post-secondary awards to high school graduates.
- The Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society provided six awards to graduating students from School District 33.



**Presentation of Education Fund Award,  
June 2020**



**Fire department  
parade in support  
of Firefighter Jon  
Van Huigenbos**

**April 2020**

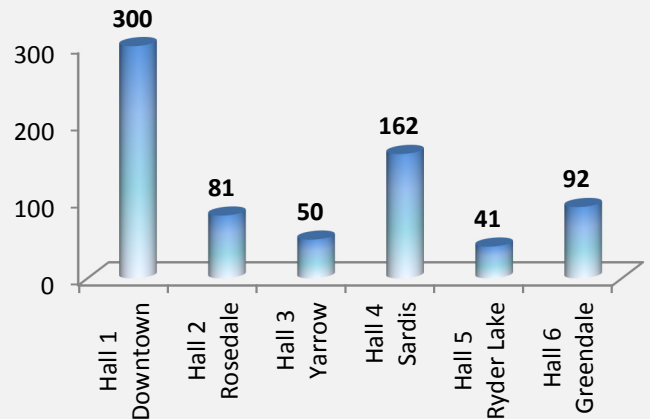


## Operations – Incident Responses

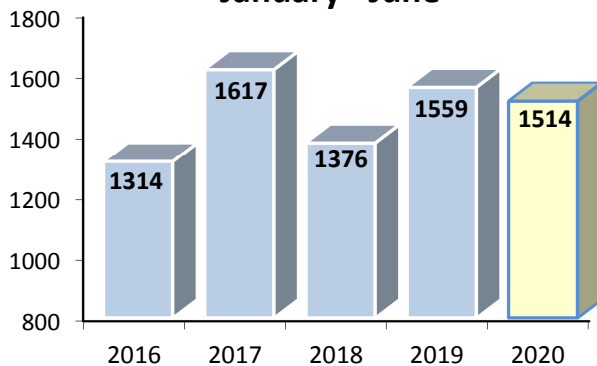
### Incident Responses

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 728 calls for service in the second quarter (1,514 year to date). This is a decrease of 45 calls compared to this time in 2019. Incidents for this quarter included 59 fires, 90 motor vehicle incidents, 20 emergency medical aid calls, and 126 burning complaints. Thus far in 2020, the three leading calls for service were public service, alarms activated, and motor vehicle incident responses. These three incident response types accounted for 1,043 incidents or 69% of the total calls responded to thus far year to date.

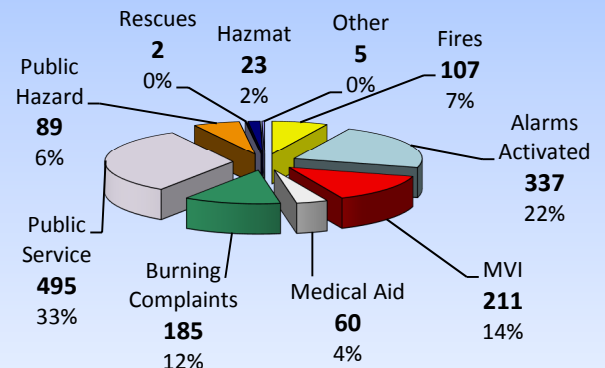
### 2020 Paid On-Call Responses by Hall



### Incident Responses January - June



### Incident Responses - Year to Date



**Structure Fire**  
Second Avenue, April 2020



**Vehicle Fire**  
Trans Canada Highway, April 2020

## Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Year to Date
	April	May	June			
<b>FIRES</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>107</b>
Structures	3	7	5			40
Vehicle	4	5	4			18
Outdoor / Other	12	10	9			49
<b>ALARMS ACTIVATED</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>337</b>
Single family residential	20	15	19			94
Multi-family residential	21	14	15			117
Non-residential	15	18	19			126
<b>MVI (NO FIRE)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>211</b>
Auto Extrication	1	1	2			7
Provide Medical Care	10	18	15			101
Routine Cleanup / No injuries	10	9	13			82
Cancelled/Fire not required	4	2	5			21
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>BURNING COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>185</b>
Illegal	47	30	38			167
Legal	6	3	2			18
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>495</b>
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	20	23	17			113
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	45	39	60			312
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	7	3	3			31
Post Fire Recheck/ Post Fire Investigation	0	1	1			4
Trapped in Elevator	0	2	1			7
Assist with lift or entry (non-medical/private)	0	0	0			7
Assist with water issue	0	3	0			18
Other	0	0	1			3
<b>PUBLIC HAZARD</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>RESCUES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>MUTUAL AID</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>1,514</b>

### Previous Years:

2019  
2018  
2017  
2016  
2015

2nd Qtr	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	YTD
834	725	1,559
693	683	1,376
730	887	1,617
678	636	1,314
671	531	1,202

## 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 47 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community thus far in 2020. In 2020 to date, 630 residents have been educated or trained in fire and life safety, and emergency preparedness. Fire and life safety education programs were severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in the second quarter of 2020. To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Provincial Health Authority declared a public health and provincial state of emergency which restricted access to the fire hall, and our access to get out in the community to deliver our programs.

2020 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	0	0
Fire Safety Classes	6	96
Fire Extinguisher Training	2	88
Fire Hall Tours	0	0
Emergency Preparedness Classes	0	0
Other Public Education Sessions	39	446
<b>Totals</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>630</b>

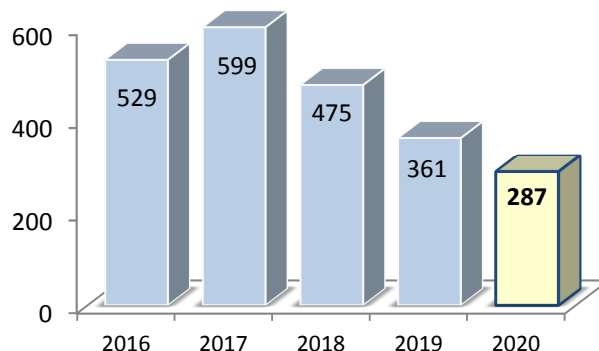
### Code Enforcement

The department completed 102 fire and life safety inspections in this quarter including health and safety inspections with the Bylaw Department, RCMP, and BC Safety Authority. Inspection numbers have been affected by the Phase 1 and Phase 2 restrictions put in place by B.C. Provincial Health Authority due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Engineering

The department completed 26 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 \$255,635, bringing the total dollar loss to \$3,049,035 thus far in 2020. One (1) civilian suffered a fire related injury during this quarter. A total of 8 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter, with 100% 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.

### Hall 3 Participation in Yarrow Community School Teachers' Parade, April 2020



## Training

COVID-19 drastically changed how the department approached training during the second quarter. Not being able to gather in numbers and having to maintain physical distance from each other meant we had to rethink our approach to meaningful training for firefighters. All practical training was suspended until we could develop processes and procedures to maintain firefighter safety. Technical training moved to online platforms, zoom meetings, and video presentations based on our online platform.

### Technical Training

- ❖ **COVID-19 Response Video** – video outlining our response procedures and personal protective equipment when responding to medical aid calls during COVID-19.
- ❖ **Vehicle Rescue Awareness Video** – video outlining the initial steps and procedures all responders should be taking when responding to motor vehicle incidents.
- ❖ **Rescue 1 Orientation** – a video orientation for all firefighters on our specialty equipped rescue response vehicle.
- ❖ **Engine 1 and Engine 4** – video orientation of our career engines and the additional equipment they carry to mitigate emergencies.
- ❖ **Landing Zone Set-up** – Video outlining procedures and practices for setting up a BCEHS helicopter landing zone for critical patient transport.
- ❖ **Fire Alarm Panel and Pull Stations** – video outlining the process and procedures when responding to alarms activated in buildings.
- ❖ **Narcan** – zoom training on the use and administering of Narcan to overdose patients.

### Educational Training

- ❖ **WHIMIS Online Training** – All firefighters participated in WHIMIS refresher training.
- ❖ **Psychological First Aid Self Care** – with the additional stress of the COVID-19 pandemic all firefighters were signed up to participate in the Canadian Red Cross psychological first aid self care course.
- ❖ **Firefighter Survival Awareness** – an online course designed to promote firefighter safety during firefighting operations.
- ❖ **Swiftwater Awareness** – an online course providing awareness and education on precautions and procedures when operating around bodies of water.
- ❖ **ICS 100** – Introduction to the Incident Command System was delivered to all firefighters.
- ❖ **Zoom Meetings** – Weekly zoom meetings were held with all six paid on-call officer groups to communicate updates and operational changes due to COVID-19.

### COVID Relief

- ❖ 20 minute workout video was developed and made available to all firefighters.
- ❖ 20 minute yoga video was developed and made available to all firefighters.



Technical training videos developed for online training platform.

## Emergency Preparedness

Fraser River freshet preparedness and response was the main focus of Chilliwack Emergency Program activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. A freshet advanced planning team with representation from the Chilliwack Emergency Program, Skwah First Nation, RCMP and Shxwhá:y Village was formed in late March and met regularly until the freshet concluded. Earth berm construction, joint communications and messaging and evacuation planning were the main topics of focus for the team. These collective efforts produced a strong framework for freshet response to these two communities and enhanced the strong working relationship between the agencies represented on the team.

The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated briefly to support the City of Chilliwack Engineering Department's management of the freshet response. Evacuation alerts were distributed to six properties outside the dyking system in anticipation of rising waters. Thankfully, water levels did not rise to the point of declaring a local state of emergency and issuing evacuation orders for affected properties.

From a wildfire perspective, the wildfire season is expected to be normal, however it will likely start later in the summer according to current provincial forecasts. The recent wet weather experienced in June has contributed to lowering the wildfire risk in our City and we have not experienced any wildland fires or wildland urban interface fires to date this season.

Both the Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club and the Chilliwack Emergency Support Services Team met virtually to maintain physical distancing requirements and reduce exposure to these key emergency program members.



### Fraser River freshet planning team meeting, June 2020

Representatives from Skwah First Nation, Shxwhá:y Village, RCMP and Chilliwack Emergency Program