



Chilliwack Fire Department Fact Sheet

Updated 31 Aug 2020

1. Comprehensive Public Fire Protection Plan

- Mayor & Council and the Fire Department staff have developed a comprehensive public fire protection plan for the City that meets WorkSafe BC requirements and industry standards for fire service best practices
- Our successful composite fire department includes:
 - A firefighter staffing complement that is based on a safe, effective and efficient composite department model
 - A staff currently comprised of 36 career (full-time) firefighters and 141 paid on-call (POC) firefighters.
 - Two career fire trucks (Engine 1 - Downtown & Engine 4 - Sardis) that respond 24/7 as one company
 - These 2 career platoons are supported 24/7/365 by our 141 dedicated and well trained paid on-call firefighters

2. Career Firefighter Hiring Plan

- A career firefighter hiring plan was created in 2000 to address the current and future staffing needs for our growing community.
- Since 2000, we have hired 25 full-time firefighters
- In 2020, we will hire 2 firefighters
- In 2021, we will hire 2 firefighters
- This will provide 4 full-time firefighters per fire truck at Halls 1 & 4 on a 24/7/365 basis.
- A total of 40 career firefighters is required to staff 2 fire trucks on 24/7/365 basis.

3. Engine 4 Operational Data

- In 2018, Engine 4 (Sardis) was operational 97% of the time
- In 2019, Engine 4 was operational over 99% of the time
- To date in 2020, Engine 4 has been operational 100% of the time
- Firefighters off duty due to sickness or other factors are either replaced using overtime coverage or existing staff are moved to keep Engine 4 operational.

4. Community Risk Assessment and Community Risk Reduction Plans

- We regularly update our community risk assessment (CRA) and community risk reduction (CRR) plans to proactively plan for and deliver effective fire and life safety programs that meet the needs of our City.
- An important component of these plans is to work with City planning and engineering staff on future population growth and OCP projections.
- Three (3) performance measurements are used in our fire risk assessment and reduction programs to ensure we focus on our fire department goals and objectives. These performance measures include:
 - Safety – e.g. fire fighter deaths, fire fighter injuries, injuries to the public
 - Effectiveness – e.g. education, enforcement, economic incentives, engineering and emergency response affect fire loss frequency and severity
 - Efficiency – e.g. public fire protection cost per capita (Note: we are the most financially efficient department in BC for population size)

5. Fire Prevention – The Key to a Fire Safe Community

- In 2007, we implemented an important and successful public/private fire protection strategy which requires sprinkler installation in all buildings, including homes in Promontory and the Eastern Hillsides.
- We have very pro-active fire prevention programs that focus public education planning and delivery to our higher risk and vulnerable population groups such as young families and older adults.
- Fire and life safety inspections are conducted by trained staff to ensure BC Fire Code and bylaw compliance in public and high risk buildings.
- We complete comprehensive fire investigations to identify fire origin and cause and then target our fire prevention programs to reduce or eliminate future fires
- Two (2) full-time fire prevention staff plan and deliver our fire prevention programs such as the home smoke alarm program. Our full-time and paid on-call firefighters support the delivery of these important programs.

6. Evidence-Based Firehall Location Planning

- An evidenced-based approach is taken to ensure optimal City firehall location planning
- We currently have 6 strategically placed firehalls in our City.
- Incident response data analysis (10-year period) indicates that an average of 85% of our incidents occur in the Downtown Firehall 1 and Sardis Firehall 4 response zones.
- A city-wide 5-year fire loss data analysis indicates an average of 84 total structure fires per year, with 70 of these fires (84%) occurring in the downtown Firehall 1 and Sardis firehall 4 response zones
- Based on this evidence, we have focused our full-time firefighter staffing priorities on these 2 firehalls.
- Historical fire loss data analysis revealed that in 2019, we had a total of 28 structure fires in Sardis. Only 6 (21%) of these structure fires occurred in Promontory whereas 22 (79%) were on the valley floor in the Sardis response area.
- To date in 2020, we have had a total of 8 structure fires in Sardis. Only 2 (25%) of these structure fires occurred in Promontory whereas 6 (75%) were on the valley floor in the Sardis response area.
- Based on historical fire loss data/evidence, we strategically built and operate out of our Sardis (South Sumas) Firehall 4 location. At this time, there is no justification to build or add another firehall near or in Promontory.