

Fire Department



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

Fourth Quarter Report, 2017



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Administration - Personnel

Career Staff - December 31, 2017:

Fire Chief	1
Assistant Chiefs	3
Fire Officers	8
Firefighters	24
Training Officer, Captain	1
Training Officer, Lieutenant	1
Public Educators / Fire Inspectors	2
Administrative Support Staff	2

Total Career Staff 42



Photo Courtesy of Cory Carruthers Photography

Paid On-Call (POC) Firefighters

Hall 1 Downtown	37	Hall 4 Sardis	35
Hall 2 Rosedale	19	Hall 5 Ryder Lake	11
Hall 3 Yarrow	14	Hall 6 Greendale	13

Total POC Members - December 2017 129

Note: In 2017, 12 POC members left the service, 1 POC member was hired as new career firefighter, and 12 new POC members graduated from the Recruit Training Program.



Operations – Incident Responses

Incident Responses

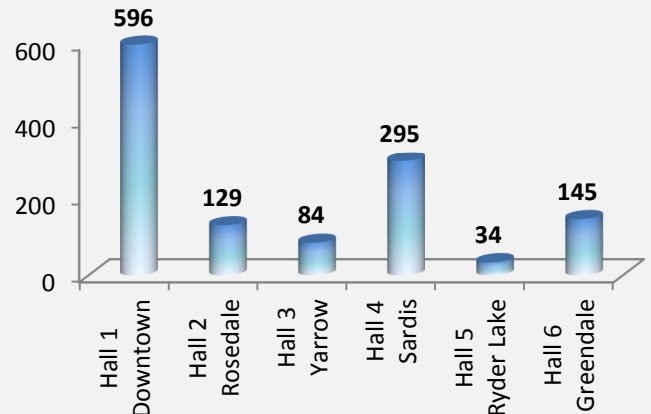
The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 777 calls for service in the fourth quarter of 2017, for a total of 3,252 incidents for the year. This was an increase of 445 calls for service over 2016. Incidents for the quarter included 290 public service calls, 155 alarms activated, 75 motor vehicle accidents, and 62 fires.

In 2017, the five leading calls for service were:

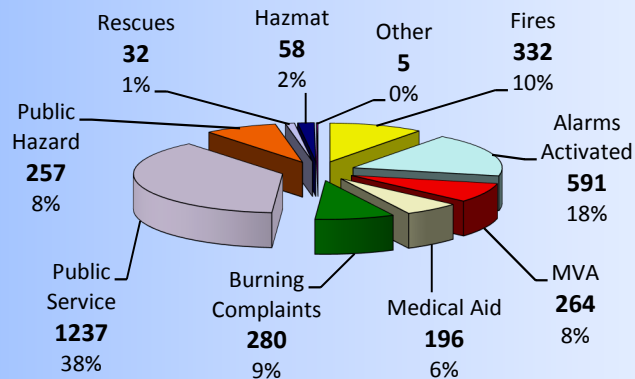
- 1) Public Service (assist RCMP, BCAS, home smoke alarm, and CO alarm calls)
- 2) Alarms Activated (industrial, commercial, multi-family, and single family residential)
- 3) Fires (structures, vehicles, outdoor, dumpsters, trees, and bark mulch)
- 4) Burning Complaints (legal and illegal)
- 5) Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA's)

The above incident responses accounted for 2,704 calls, or 83% of the total calls responded to in 2017.

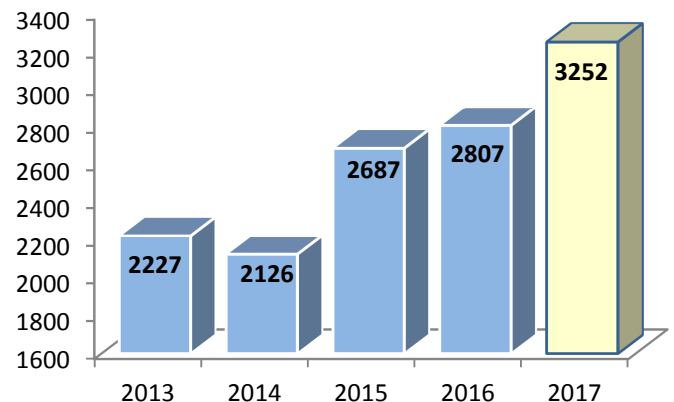
2017 Paid On-Call Responses by Hall



2017 Incident Responses



Incident Responses by Year



Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			4 th Quarter	3 rd Quarter	2 nd Quarter	1 st Quarter	Annual Total
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
FIRES	24	19	19	62	130	83	57	332
Structures	4	7	7					77
Vehicle	4	2	4					48
Outdoor / Other	16	10	8					207
ALARMS ACTIVATED	49	56	50	155	150	145	141	591
Single family residential	18	16	12					162
Multi-family residential	8	13	12					164
Non-residential	23	27	26					265
MVA (NO FIRE)	21	20	34	75	64	60	65	264
Auto Extrication	2	1	4					21
Provide Medical Care	5	5	5					55
Cancelled/Fire not required	14	14	25					188
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID	13	9	11	33	51	61	51	196
BURNING COMPLAINTS	43	19	11	73	96	73	38	280
Illegal	36	18	11					237
Legal	7	1	0					43
PUBLIC SERVICE	102	75	113	290	322	261	364	1,237
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	50	24	35					405
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	44	43	71					734
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	8	7	7					97
Other	0	1	0					1
PUBLIC HAZARD	17	7	42	66	15	27	149	257
Electrical line down	17	7	42					256
Grow Operation	0	0	0					0
Structure collapse	0	0	0					1
Bomb threat/explosion	0	0	0					0
Other	0	0	0					0
RESCUES	2	3	2	7	8	8	9	32
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	5	3	5	13	20	12	13	58
MUTUAL AID	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	5
Totals	276	211	290	777	858	730	887	3,252

Previous Years:

2016

2015

2014

2013

2012

2011

2010

4 th Qtr	3 rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	1 st Qtr	Total
716	777	678	636	2,807
721	764	671	531	2,687
534	659	488	445	2,126
501	689	558	479	2,227
521	666	521	552	2,260
477	591	569	512	2,149
600	594	521	513	2,228

Fire Prevention – Public Education & Code Enforcement

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

Fire & Life Safety Education

A total of 192 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community in 2017. This includes 94 safety sessions held at the Chilliwack Safety Village for local school children. In 2017, 8,694 residents have been educated or trained in fire and life safety and emergency preparedness.

2017 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	6	12
Fire Safety Classes	31	1,026
Fire Extinguisher Training	16	276
Fire Hall Tours	20	569
Chilliwack Safety Village	94	2,186
Emergency Preparedness Classes	15	306
Other Public Education Sessions (including Fire Prevention Week)	10	4,319
Totals	192	8,694

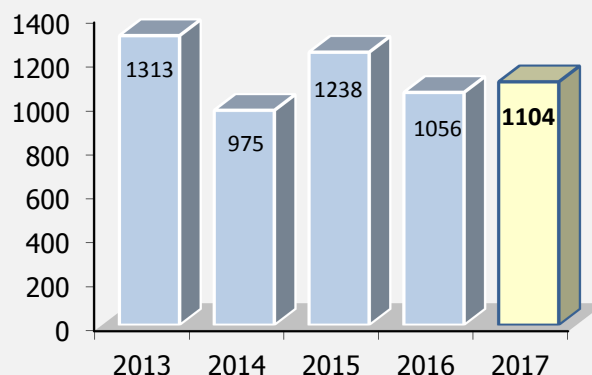
Code Enforcement

The department completed 1,104 fire and life safety inspections during 2017, including health and safety inspections with the Bylaw Department, RCMP, and BC Safety Authority.

Engineering

The department completed 54 plan and sprinkler reviews this quarter. Fire Department personnel also conducted numerous on-site inspections to ensure fire code and bylaw compliance.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections Summary by Year



"24 Days of Fire Safety"
Christmas Public Safety Messages

Fire Prevention Week
Open House – Home Depot,
October 2017



Fire Hall Tour
December 2017

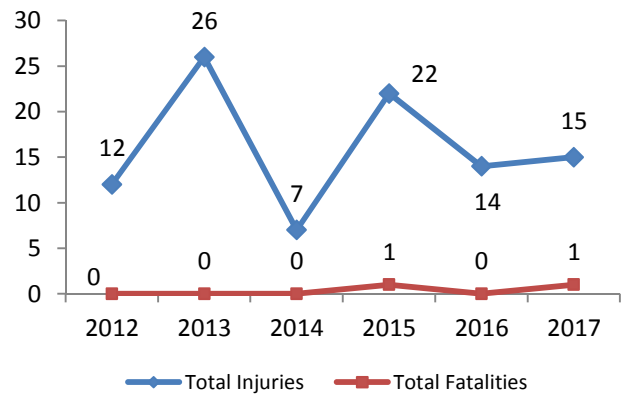


Fire Prevention – Fire Investigations

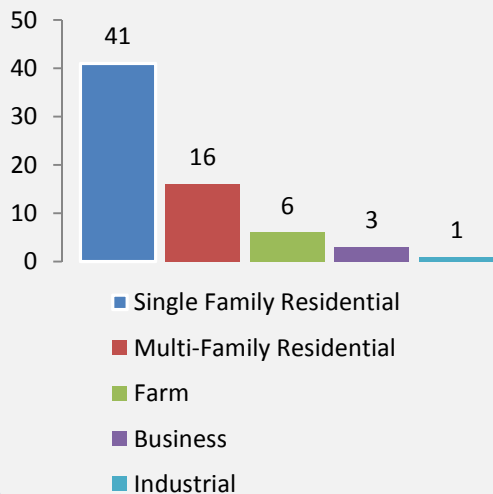
Fire Investigations / Losses

Fourth quarter fire losses were \$2,053,800 for total losses in 2017 of \$5,143,056. Thirteen civilians and two firefighters suffered fire related injuries during the year, and one civilian fire death occurred in December 2017. Twelve of the fire related injuries occurred in residential buildings. A total of 17 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 14 (82%) occurring in residential occupancies. Total 2017 structure fire losses were 67, with 57 (85%) 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.

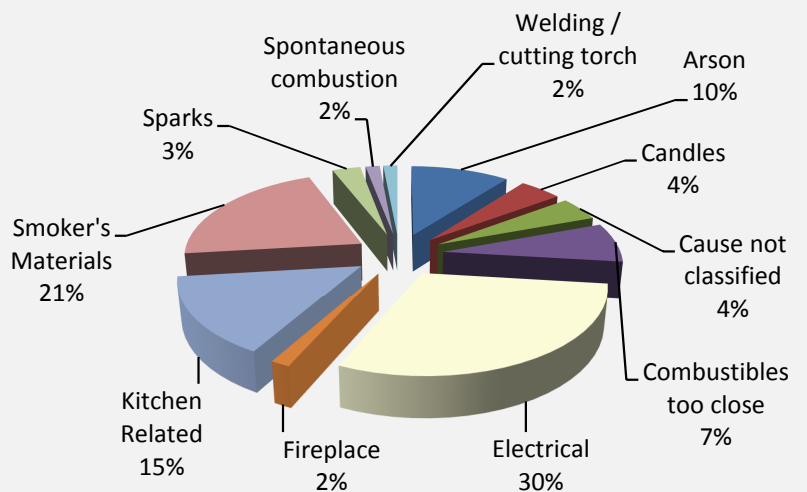
Summary of Injuries & Deaths by Year



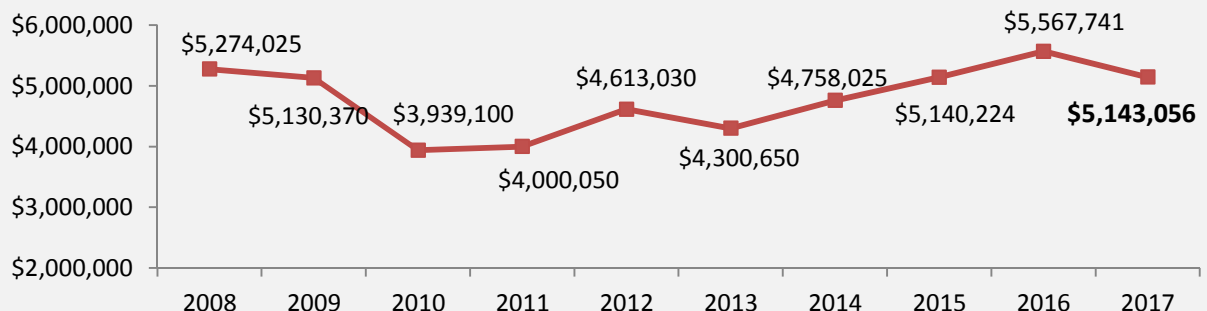
2017 Structure Fire Losses by Occupancy Type



Causes of 2017 Dollar Loss Structure Fires



Chilliwack Fire Losses by Year



Training

The last quarter of 2017 was a very busy period for the Training Division. In addition to our regular training, we began our recruit training program for paid on-call (POC) firefighters. This program is designed for the new firefighters entering into our paid on-call ranks. The program focuses on fundamental firefighter training, and this year's training program had 12 new members. This training equips new firefighters to operate safely and effectively during emergency incidents.

Technical Training

- **Driver Training** – 20 apparatus operators were instructed and evaluated in a 16 hour program using the International Association of Professional Drivers (IAPD) education, techniques, and training that includes a combination of theory, track maneuvers, and road evaluations.
- **Pre Hospital Care** is a large component of our training curriculum and includes regularly scheduled CPR, AED, and First Responder (FR) 3 training.
- **Commercial Vehicle Rescue** – Three of our Vehicle Rescue Instructors attended a commercial vehicle rescue course. The techniques and knowledge gained in the course will be applied to our existing vehicle rescue program.
- **Emergency Scene Management** – Five of our senior firefighters attended a five day course designed around industry best practices to ensure firefighter and civilian safety and accountability when mitigating incidents.
- **Chaining up Tires for Snow** – Fountain Tire delivered a department wide program on best practices and procedures to chaining up apparatus.

Education

- **Fire Service Instructor** – As many of our senior firefighters assist with training and teaching our newer firefighters, we delivered a course on the techniques of instruction to 24 members.
- **Kinder Morgan Pipeline** – Kinder Morgan delivered a department wide presentation on the expectations and response in the event of an emergency involving their pipeline running through Chilliwack.



**Paid On-Call Recruit Training Program
November 2017**



**Fire & Paramedic
Scenario Training
October 2017**



Emergency Management

The fourth quarter saw a continued focus on the 2017 wildfire season. The Chilliwack Emergency Program took part in debriefings facilitated by Emergency Management BC, where successes and lessons learned were shared by stakeholders from around the province. These debriefings provided a good opportunity to make some small revisions to the city's wildfire response plans, including the creation of guidelines for the operation of Regional Emergency Reception Centres.

Community awareness and education on emergency preparedness continues to be a focus of the Chilliwack Emergency Program, with presentations being delivered to the following groups in the fourth quarter: Chilliwack Secondary School, Chilliwack Seniors Resource Society, Prospera Credit Union staff, and the Evergreens at Ensley gated community.

Planning for the establishment of a secondary Emergency Operations Centre began late in the fourth quarter. Utilizing pre-existing City-owned infrastructure, the secondary Emergency Operations Centre will add to the City's resiliency and capacity in the event of a large scale disaster.

The Chilliwack Emergency Program continues to hold bi-monthly meetings with internal and external stakeholders to improve emergency planning efforts, relationship building, and review of past emergency incidents. The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club met weekly and continues to provide regular training to their membership. In addition, the club also hosts affordable two day amateur radio licensing courses throughout the year, whereby interested members of the public can become a certified basic amateur radio operator.

The Chilliwack Emergency Social Services team met monthly to train and discuss past emergency incidents. There were no callouts for the team to provide emergency food, clothing, or shelter in the fourth quarter.

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:

- *Rosedale Harvest Festival – organized a pancake breakfast raising money for Wildfire Relief and the Salvation Army;*
- *Halloween Dance (organized by the CFFCS);*
- *Remembrance Day Cenotaph processions (with the department's Honour Guard);*
- *Men's and Ladies' Nights at Mountainview Harley-Davidson;*
- *Yarrow Open House BBQ;*
- *Salvation Army Food Drive (with Chilliwack Search and Rescue and Emergency Social Services) collected approximately 18,000 food items, along with cash donations;*
- *Hobby Hill Preschool, Breakfast with Santa;*
- *BIA Tree Lighting event at Salish Park;*
- *Department calendar and clothing sales;*
- *Assisted with "Bright Nights" in Stanley Park (sponsored by the BC Professional Firefighters' Burn Fund).*

The Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society donated in support of the following during this quarter:

- *City of Chilliwack's sponsored "Adopt a Family";*
- *Chilliwack Community Services Gift Sharing Fund;*
- *Chilliwack Children's Foundation;*
- *Movember Foundation;*
- *Chilliwack Community Cupboard;*
- *Salvation Army Food Bank*

The Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society donated over \$34,000 in 2017 to local charities and programs in our community, as well as supporting the BC Burn Fund Centre.

Salvation Army Food Drive, December 2017



Chilliwack Chiefs Hockey Emergency Services Night

