

Fire Department



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

First Quarter Report, 2018



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

Administration - Personnel



**Fire Department Group Photo – Career and Paid on-Call Members
March 2018**

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 various community events. The CFFCS gratefully received the donation of a freezer from Grand Pappy's Home Furniture and Appliances, which greatly assists the Society in food storage for the charitable events.

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

- *Community Safety Net (Fire Prevention Materials)*
- *Cops for Cancer Charity Golf Tournament*
- *Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society*
- *Chilliwack Prostate Cancer support group*

**Cheque Presentation
Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society,
February 2018**

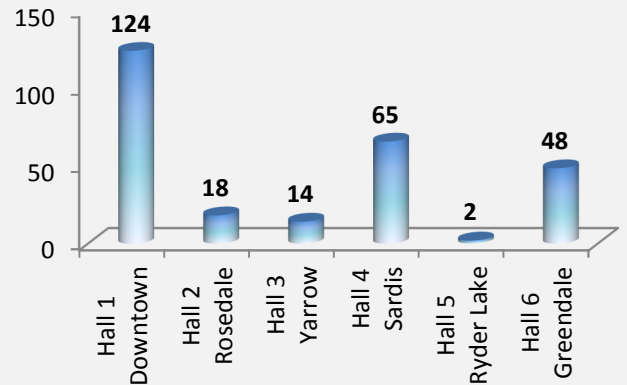


Operations – Incident Responses

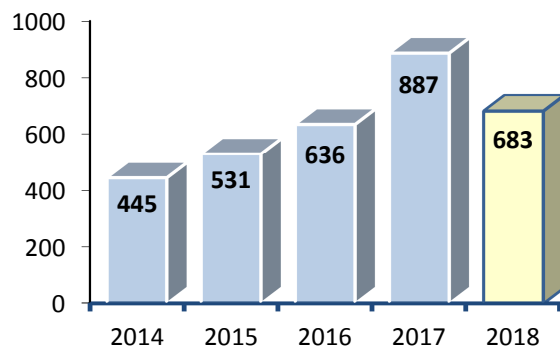
Incident Responses

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 683 calls for service in the first quarter. This is a decrease of 204 calls compared to this time in 2017, due in large part to the ice storm event in February 2017 where the department was called to 150 incidents in 24 hours. Incidents for this quarter included 58 fires, 76 motor vehicle incidents, 47 emergency medical aid calls, and 49 burning complaints. Thus far in 2018, the three leading calls for service were public service, alarms activated, and motor vehicle incident responses. These three incident response types accounted for 493 or 72% of the total calls responded to in the first quarter.

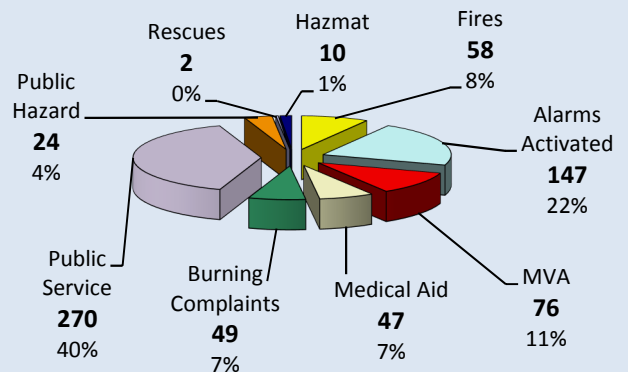
2018 Paid-on-Call Responses by Hall



Incident Responses January - March



2018 Incident Responses - Year to Date



Structure Fire – Boundary Road
January 2018

Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			Totals – 1 st Qtr.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
FIRES	18	17	23	58
Structures	8	6	8	
Vehicle	3	4	2	
Outdoor / Other	7	7	13	
ALARMS ACTIVATED	50	46	51	147
Single family residential	22	10	17	
Multi-family residential	4	12	12	
Non-residential	24	24	22	
MVA (NO FIRE)	28	21	27	76
Auto Extrication	2	2	0	
Provide Medical Care	8	1	6	
Washdown, traffic and scene security	12	15	19	
Cancelled/Fire not required	6	3	2	
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID	22	9	16	47
BURNING COMPLAINTS	7	7	35	49
Illegal	7	7	25	
Legal	0	0	10	
PUBLIC SERVICE	88	89	93	270
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	26	36	23	
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	56	49	64	
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	6	4	6	
Other	0	0	0	
PUBLIC HAZARD	16	4	4	24
Electrical line down	15	3	4	
Grow Operation	0	0	0	
Structure collapse	0	0	0	
Bomb threat/explosion	0	1	0	
Other	1	0	0	
RESCUES	0	0	2	2
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	3	4	3	10
MUTUAL AID	0	0	0	0
Totals	232	197	254	683

Previous Years:

2017
2016
2015
2014
2013

1 st Qtr
887
636
531
445
479

Annual Totals
3,252
2,807
2,687
2,126
2,227

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 40 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community thus far in 2018. In 2018 to date, 812 residents were 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.

2018 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	2	5
Fire Safety Classes	20	333
Fire Extinguisher Training	4	63
Fire Hall Tours	12	357
Chilliwack Safety Village		
Emergency Preparedness Training	2	54
Other Public Education Sessions		
Totals	40	812

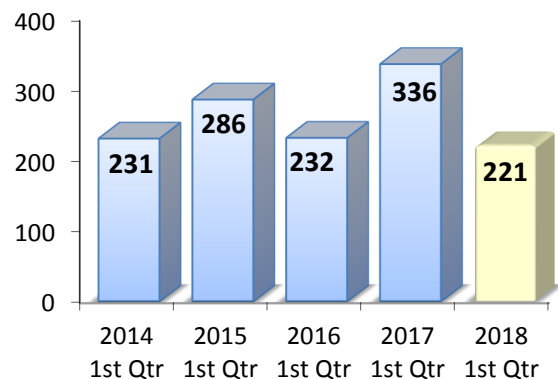
Code Enforcement

The department completed 221 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 39 plan reviews this quarter. Fire Department personnel also conducted numerous on-site inspections to ensure code compliance.

Fire & Life Safety Inspections January - March



Investigations / Losses

First quarter fire losses were \$1,825,221. There was one (1) fire related fatality, and fire related injuries to one civilian (1) and one (1) firefighter during this quarter. A total of 20 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 16 (or 80%) 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 Tour & Extinguisher Training,
March 2018



Training

The Fire Department continually strives to improve the delivery of services and programs to our community, and the year began with the continuation of the busy winter session.

Recruit Training Program

- The department's new recruit firefighters completed a 300 plus hour training program. This program meets or exceeds the Officer of the Fire Commissioner Provincial Training requirements for the Interior Firefighting Level of Service. The program culminated with a live fire training exercise, which enabled our department to deliver realistic training scenarios for our 12 new graduates.
- The success of the Recruit Training Program would not be possible without the assistance of our paid-on-call and career members. Over 40 members participated in the planning and delivery of this annual program.

Technical Training

- ❖ **Pre-Hospital Care:** This program is a large component of our training curriculum and includes regularly scheduled CPR, AED, and First Responder (FR) 3 classes that are taught by in-house instructors. Numerous firefighters were certified in this program.
- ❖ **Driver Training:** One of our greatest risks is driving in emergency mode to an incident. Ten (10) firefighters began their driver training, which is a 16 hour program designed to improve driver safety and effectiveness.
- ❖ **Emergency Scene Management:** Firefighters worked on developing an incident action plan to safely and effectively mitigate an incident. This training requires fire officers and firefighters to understand all potential hazards and risks associated in an incident. There is an increased use of shipping containers as offices and storage units within our community. Crews spent the month of February researching the potential hazards and challenges associated with shipping containers under fire conditions. This training helped them develop best practices and procedures to safely and effectively mitigate incidents.
- ❖ **Teamwork:** Crews spent a day working on the competencies and dynamics of successful team building and development. A training night was held at City Hall for all Fire Department members, where Phil Eastwood of Fiore Group presented a session on leadership and respectful workplace requirements.



Live Fire Training Exercise
March 2018



Recruit Training Program Graduation
March 2018

Emergency Preparedness

In the 1st quarter of 2018, the Chilliwack Emergency Program conducted seasonal emergency preparedness and planning activities, with a focus on Fraser River and Vedder River freshet events. The Emergency Program Coordinator and City engineering staff continue to closely monitor snowpack and weather information as well as stay in close contact with Emergency Management BC. In addition, City staff recently completed an annual update on the Fraser River and Vedder River flood protection plans.

Training of Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff is a critical component of effective emergency management and to date, several City staff members have been registered for courses from the Emergency Management Division of the Justice Institute of BC. These courses are subsidized by Emergency Management BC and provide an excellent opportunity for city staff to improve their skills at a reduced cost.

Personal and neighbourhood emergency preparedness presentations were delivered to the following groups in the 1st quarter of 2018: Mt. Shannon United Church, Halcyon Meadows and Englewood Village. The Neighbourhood Preparedness Program has been very successful since its inception in 2016 and provides gated communities with training on emergency response skills, how to organize assistance and determine needs in the event of a disaster.

The Chilliwack Emergency Program continues to hold bi-monthly meetings with internal and external stakeholders to further emergency planning efforts, strengthen relationships and review learnings from past emergency incidents.

The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club met weekly and continues to provide regular training to their membership. In addition, the club also attended the "Girls Fly 2" event at the Abbotsford Airport, where they utilized their mobile communications trailer to provide communications coordination and support to the event.

The Chilliwack Emergency Support Services (ESS) Team met monthly to train and discuss past emergency incidents. The ESS Director is currently reviewing applications for volunteer positions in efforts to increase the number of trained volunteers. There were no callouts for the team to provide emergency food, clothing and shelter in the 1st quarter.



Fire Chiefs Association of BC, Home & Family Sprinkler Summit February 2018

Raising awareness and delivering education
on the effectiveness of residential sprinklers.

