

Fire Department



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

Second Quarter Report, 2018



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Administration - Personnel

Career Staff:

**Promotion / New Appointment:**

Lisa Axelson
Lieutenant, Fire Prevention Officer
May 14, 2018

**Retirement:**

Rick Meeres
Captain, Fire Training Officer
June 30, 2018

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: Captain Rick Meeres

25 years of service: H & S Captain Jake Toews

**Federal Exemplary Service Awards:**

30 years of service: Brigade Chief Paul Gumprich
Firefighter Gary Meeres

20 years of service: Lieutenant Keith Corbett

Retirements – Paid On-Call Firefighters

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

- David Henderson – Hall #1 – 10 years of service
- Bill Higginbottom – Hall #4 – 38 years of service
- Ted Hughes – Hall #5 – 38 years of service
- Gary Meeres – Hall #5 – 31 years of service
- Ryan Mulligan – Hall #4 – 13 years of service

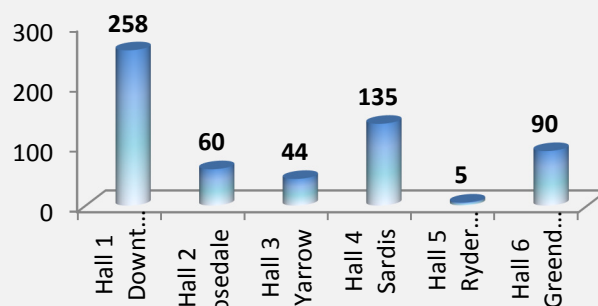


Operations – Incident Responses

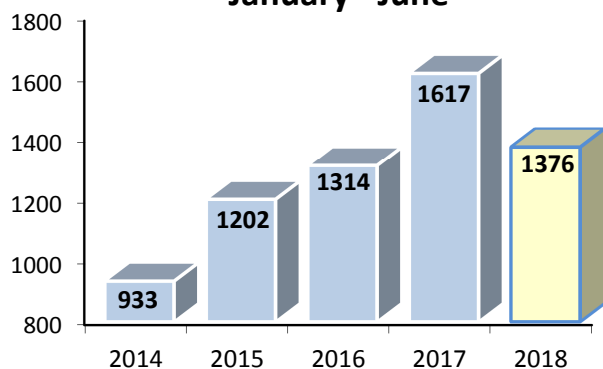
Incident Responses

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 693 calls for service in the second quarter (1,376 year to date). This was a decrease of 241 calls compared to this time in 2017. Incidents for this quarter included 116 fires, 63 motor vehicle incidents, 28 emergency medical aid calls, and 80 burning complaints. Thus far in 2018, the three leading calls for service were public service, alarms activated, and fire incident responses. These three incident response types accounted for 953 or 70% of the total calls responded to in the second quarter.

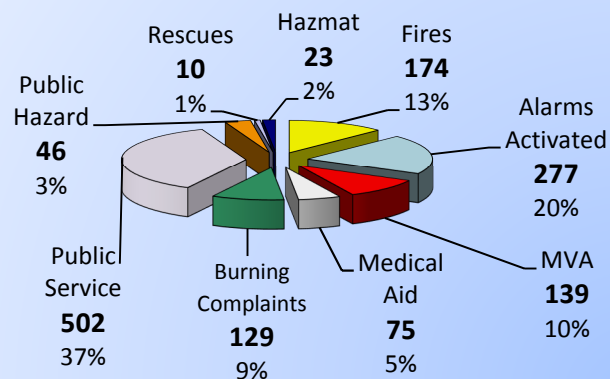
2018 Paid On-Call Responses by Hall



Incident Responses January - June



Incident Responses - Year to Date



Structure Fire
Yale Road, June 2018



Vehicle Fire
St. David Street, April 2018

Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			2 nd Quarter	1 st Quarter	Year to Date
	April	May	June			
FIRES	23	56	37	116	58	174
Structures	9	11	6			48
Vehicle	3	5	8			25
Outdoor / Other	11	40	23			101
ALARMS ACTIVATED	38	43	49	130	147	277
Single family residential	16	15	15			95
Multi-family residential	9	10	17			64
Non-residential	13	18	17			118
MVA (NO FIRE)	24	23	16	63	76	139
Auto Extrication	1	0	1			6
Provide Medical Care	4	7	5			31
Cancelled/Fire not required	19	16	10			102
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID	10	9	9	28	47	75
BURNING COMPLAINTS	32	33	15	80	49	129
Illegal	21	32	15			107
Legal	11	1	0			22
PUBLIC SERVICE	80	79	73	232	270	502
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	40	22	31			178
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	37	53	39			298
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	3	4	3			26
Other	0	0	0			0
PUBLIC HAZARD	7	9	6	22	24	46
Electrical line down	7	9	6			44
Grow Operation	0	0	0			0
Structure collapse	0	0	0			0
Bomb threat/explosion	0	0	0			1
Other	0	0	0			1
RESCUES	3	1	4	8	2	10
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	5	5	3	13	10	23
MUTUAL AID	0	1	0	1	0	1
Totals	222	259	212	693	683	1,376

Previous Years:

2017
2016
2015
2014
2013

2nd Qtr	1 st Qtr	YTD
730	887	1,617
678	636	1,314
671	531	1,202
488	445	933
558	479	1,037

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 157 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community thus far in 2018. This includes 87 sessions held at the Chilliwack Safety Village for local school children. In 2018 to date, 3,608 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.

2018 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	3	8
Fire Safety Classes	33	591
Fire Extinguisher Training	9	179
Fire Hall Tours	20	568
Chilliwack Safety Village	87	1,793
Emergency Preparedness Classes	4	144
Other Public Education Sessions	1	325
Totals	157	3,608

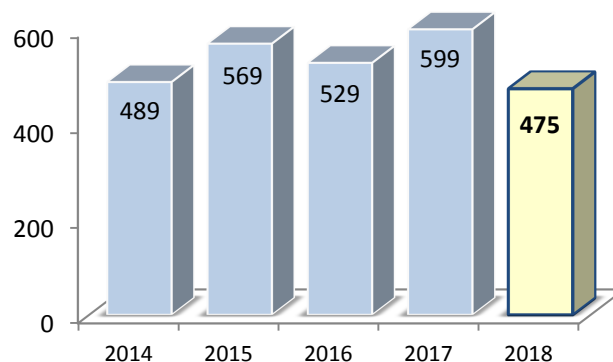
Code Enforcement

The department completed 254 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 49 plan 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 \$1,954,810, bringing the total dollar loss to \$3,780,031 thus far in 2018. Three (3) civilians suffered fire related injuries during this quarter. A total of 23 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 16 (or 70%) 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, April 2018



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 either high hazard, low frequency events, or that are becoming more frequent.

Technical Training

- ❖ **Rural Water Supply** – With the summer months approaching firefighters from all halls participated in Rural Water Supply Training using tenders and engines.
- ❖ **Chainsaw Training** – All Chilliwack firefighters are participating in chainsaw training in preparation for wind and ice storm events.
- ❖ **Apparatus Operator Training** – Seven (7) apparatus operators completed 40 hours of combination driving and pumps training.
- ❖ **Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)** – Firefighters are required to wear SCBA when the environment is immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH), resulting in minimal margins for error. Therefore, firefighters continually train in the operation and limitations of their SCBA equipment.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **Firefighter Rehabilitation** – Firefighting is extremely strenuous and demanding on firefighters bodies. Awareness training was delivered to all firefighters to ensure they are looking after their health pre, during, and post incident.
- ❖ **Vehicle Extrication** – Career and paid on-call firefighters continually train on vehicle extrication techniques to maintain their proficiency.
- ❖ **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. All firefighters are certified in this program through the Ministry of Health. Firefighters added the skill of taking patient blood pressures and pulse/oxygen levels to their First Responder skills.

Educational Training

- ❖ **Team Leader** – Eleven (11) firefighters participated in a 65 hour in-house program to develop team leaders to lead crews at emergency incidents. This training is in accordance with the Office of the Fire Commissioner provincial training requirements.
- ❖ **Conferences** and seminars are vital networking opportunities that promote innovation, growth, and support the attainment and adherence to industry best practices.
 - **British Columbia Training Fire Officers Association (BCTFOA)** was held in Sooke B.C. and was attended by the Assistant Chief of Training, and the Training Officers. 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 and fire officers.



**Retirement
Captain Rick Meeres,
Training Officer
June 2018**



Emergency Preparedness

In the 2nd quarter of 2018, the Chilliwack Emergency Program was active in the Fraser River spring freshet, providing support to the City Engineering and Operations Departments. In total, six evacuation alerts and three evacuation orders were issued to properties outside of the City of Chilliwack dyking system. The Emergency Program Coordinator also liaised with local First Nations throughout the freshet and attended a joint community information meeting with three neighbouring First Nations communities.

In the 2nd quarter, five Emergency Operations Center (EOC) team members successfully completed a two-day "EOC Essentials" course and three team members successfully completed a one-day "EOC Logistics" course. These sponsored courses provide valuable education to our team members and allow the Chilliwack Emergency Program to stay current with industry best practices and emergency management technology.

Personal and neighbourhood emergency preparedness presentations were delivered to the following groups in the 2nd quarter of 2018: Halcyon Meadows, Evergreens at Ensley, Sto:lo Nation, National Association of Federal Retirees and Clover Creek Estates. The Neighbourhood Preparedness Program continues to be popular among gated communities and provides essential skills to improve resiliency and preparedness.

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 delivered a basic amateur radio licensing course in May which saw 27 people successfully complete the requirements for being a licensed amateur radio operator in Canada.

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. In the 2nd Quarter of 2018 the ESS team was activated to provide support to a single occupant of a residential structure fire.

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:

- *Fortin's Garrison Fundraiser*
- *Breakfasts and Ride to Live at Mountainview Harley-Davidson*
- *Canadian Tire Jumpstart Day*
- *Bike to Work Event*
- *Drive Thru Breakfast with Ann Davis Transition Society*
- *Fundraiser at Old Yale Brewery in support of Canadian Mental Health Association*

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

- *Ann Davis Transition Society*
- *Canadian Mental Health Association*

Education Awards

- The Chilliwack Firefighters Education Fund provided seven post-secondary awards to high school graduates.
- The Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society presented three scholarships to graduates from School District 33.



**Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society
Scholarship Presentation
June 2018**