

# Fire Department



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

## Fourth Quarter Report, 2018



**CITY OF  
CHILLIWACK**

## Administration - Personnel

### Career Staff - December 31, 2018:

Fire Chief	1
Assistant Chiefs	3
Fire Officers	8
Firefighters	24
Training Officers	2
Fire Prevention Officer	1
Public Educator / Fire Inspector	1
Administrative Support Staff	2
<b>Total Career Staff</b>	<b>42</b>



### Paid On-Call (POC) Firefighters and Officers

Hall 1 Downtown	38	Hall 4 Sardis	32
Hall 2 Rosedale	17	Hall 5 Ryder Lake	9
Hall 3 Yarrow	15	Hall 6 Greendale	13
<b>Total POC Members, December 2018</b>		<b>124</b>	

Note: In 2018, 17 POC members left the department, and 12 new POC members graduated from the Recruit Training Program.



**Total career and paid on-call members - 166**

## Operations – Incident Responses

### Incident Responses

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 648 calls for service in the fourth quarter of 2018, for a total of 2,836 incidents for the year. This was a decrease of 416 calls for service over 2017. This decrease is related to a reduction in calls for public service, burning complaints, and emergency medical aid. Incidents for the quarter included 244 public service calls, 141 alarms activated, 69 motor vehicle accidents, and 50 fires.

In 2018, 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) Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA's)
- 5) Burning Complaints (legal and illegal)

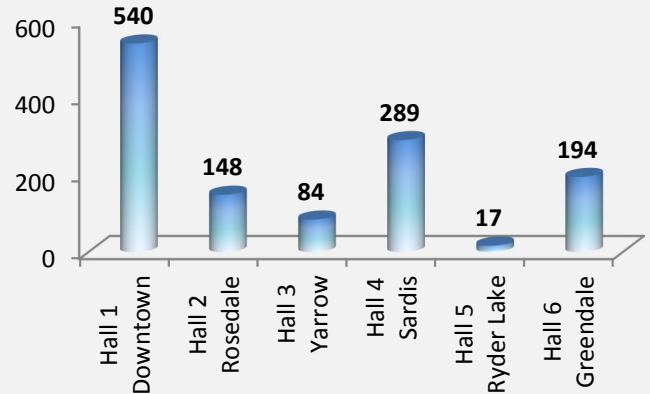
The above incident responses accounted for 2,516 calls, or 89% of the total calls responded to in 2018.



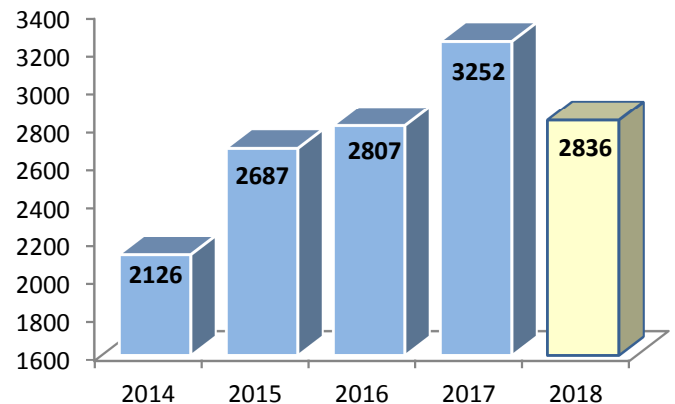
**Structure Fire, Holt Road  
October 2018**



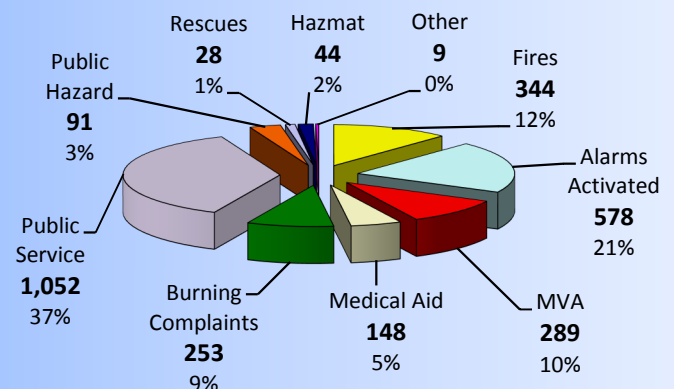
### 2018 Paid On-Call Responses by Hall 1,272 Total Responses by POC's



### Incident Responses by Year



### 2018 Incident Responses



## Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	Annual Total
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.					
<b>FIRES</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>	120	116	58	<b>344</b>
Structures	12	3	3					95
Vehicle	3	3	4					48
Outdoor / Other	8	11	3					201
<b>ALARMS ACTIVATED</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>141</b>	160	130	147	<b>578</b>
Single family residential	18	18	14					194
Multi-family residential	16	12	11					144
Non-residential	20	20	12					240
<b>MVA (NO FIRE)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>69</b>	81	63	76	<b>289</b>
Auto Extrication	1	1	1					13
Provide Medical Care	3	4	3					53
Cancelled/Fire not required	23	17	16					223
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>36</b>	37	28	47	<b>148</b>
<b>BURNING COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>55</b>	69	80	49	<b>253</b>
Illegal	20	14	11					206
Legal	5	5	0					47
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>244</b>	306	232	270	<b>1052</b>
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	30	23	42					392
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	45	44	36					590
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	8	4	9					65
Other	0	0	3					5
<b>PUBLIC HAZARD</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>	12	22	24	<b>91</b>
Electrical line down	10	1	21					87
Grow Operation	0	1	0					1
Structure collapse	0	0	0					0
Bomb threat/explosion	0	0	0					2
Other	0	0	0					1
<b>RESCUES</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	6	8	2	<b>28</b>
<b>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	13	13	10	<b>44</b>
<b>MUTUAL AID</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	8	1	0	<b>9</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>243</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>2,836</b>

## Previous Years:

2017

2016

2015

2014

2013

4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	2nd Qtr	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	Total
<b>777</b>	858	730	887	<b>3,252</b>
<b>716</b>	777	678	636	<b>2,807</b>
<b>721</b>	764	671	531	<b>2,687</b>
<b>534</b>	659	488	445	<b>2,126</b>
<b>501</b>	689	558	479	<b>2,227</b>



## 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 190 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community in 2018. This includes 87 safety sessions held at the Chilliwack Safety Village for local school children. In 2018, 4,969 residents have been educated or trained in fire and life safety and emergency preparedness.

2018 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	4	10
Fire Safety Classes	43	772
Fire Extinguisher Training	14	272
Fire Hall Tours	25	662
Chilliwack Safety Village	87	1,793
Emergency Preparedness Classes	7	225
Other Public Education Sessions (including Fire Prevention Week)	10	1,235
<b>Totals</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>4,969</b>

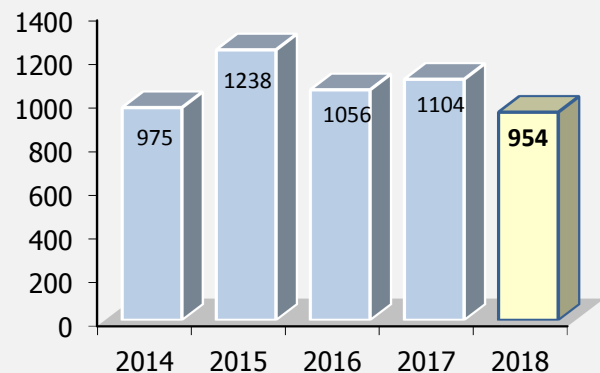
### Code Enforcement

The department completed 954 fire and life safety inspections during 2018, including health and safety inspections with the Bylaw Department, RCMP, and BC Safety Authority.

### Engineering

The department completed 35 plan and sprinkler reviews this quarter for a total of 174 for the year. Fire Department personnel also conducted numerous on-site inspections to ensure fire code and bylaw compliance.

### Fire & Life Safety Inspections Summary by Year



**Fire Prevention Week  
Canadian Tire Display  
October 2018**



**Fire Hall Tour  
December 2018**

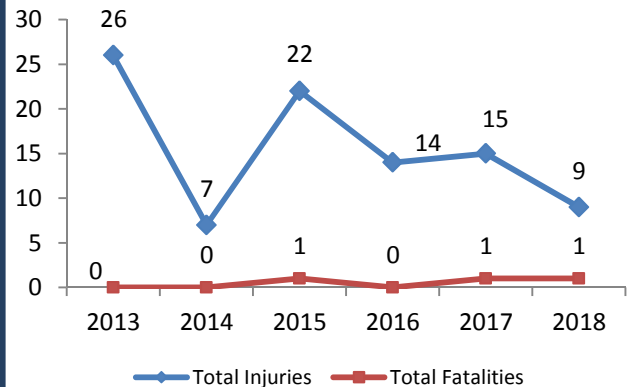


## Fire Prevention – Fire Investigations

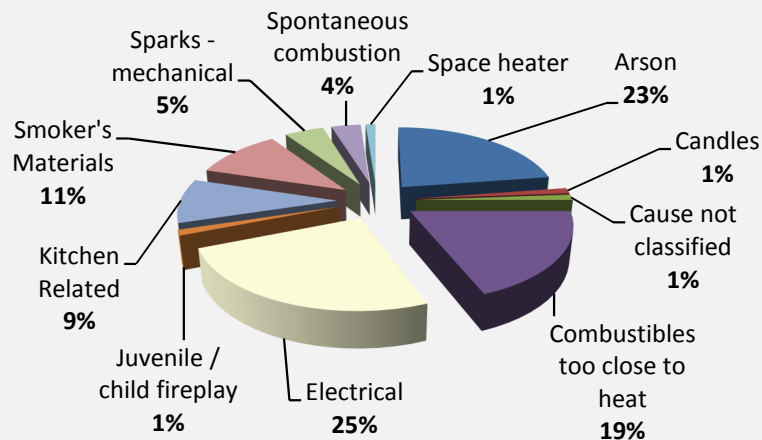
### Fire Investigations / Losses

Fourth quarter fire losses were \$745,950, for total losses in 2018 of \$7,617,481. Structure fires made up 89.5% or \$6,820,302 of this total dollar loss in 2018. Eight (8) civilians and one (1) firefighter suffered fire related injuries during the year, and one (1) fire death occurred in March 2018. Six (6) of the nine (9) fire related injuries occurred in residential buildings. A total of 16 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 12 (75%) occurring in residential occupancies. Total 2018 structure fire losses were 84, with 62 (74%) occurring in residential occupancies. Of the 84 structure fires, 66 (79%) occurred in the Firehall 1 (Downtown) and Firehall 4 (Sardis) response zones. Fire origin and cause investigations were completed to identify fire loss trends and focus education efforts to prevent future losses.

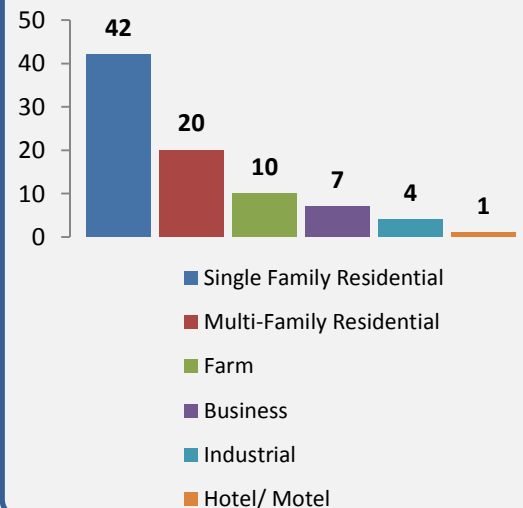
### Summary of Injuries & Deaths by Year



### Causes of 2018 Dollar Loss Structure Fires



### 2018 Structure Fires Losses by Occupancy Type



### Chilliwack Fire Losses by Year



## Training

The last quarter of 2018 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 firefighter entering into our paid on-call ranks. The program focuses on fundamental firefighter training, and this year's training program has 15 new members. The training provided through this recruit camp enables the new firefighters to operate safely and effectively at emergency incidents.

### Technical Training

- **Pre Hospital Care** - is a large component of our training curriculum and includes regularly scheduled CPR, AED, and First Responder (FR) 3 training.
- **Emergency Scene Management** – safely mitigating an incident requires knowledge, skills, and systematic processes and procedures. Five of our senior firefighters attended a five day course designed for industry best practices ensuring firefighter and civilian safety and accountability.
- **Chaining up Tires for Snow** – department wide training was delivered by Fountain Tire on best practices and procedures to chain up fire apparatus.
- **Aerial Operations** – firefighters practiced scenarios using Ladder 1, a 105 foot elevated platform. The scenario required firefighters to rescue a patient from a high point, package them for transport and lower them to the ground.
- **Rapid Intervention Teams** – Firefighters prepare to rescue each other when conditions suddenly deteriorate within a compromised structure.
- **Fire Ground Operations** – Firefighters worked to improve their firefighting skills.

### Education

- **Fire Officer Level I** – Four firefighters continue working on the requirements outlined in NFPA 1021 accreditation for Fire Officer Level 1.
- **Fire Officer Level II** – Three acting lieutenants continue working on the requirements outlined in NFPA 1021 accreditation for Fire Officer Level II.
- **Ammonia Training** – The Emergency Control Plan for Twin Rinks was delivered to all Chilliwack firefighters.

### Paid On-Call Recruit Training Program Training Days (October – December 2018)





## Emergency Management

Community awareness and education on personal and neighbourhood emergency preparedness was delivered to the following groups in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter: Chilliwack Probus Group, Englewood Courtyard/Englewood Village and Chilliwack Better Beginnings Group. In October, staff also took part in "Shakeout BC" which highlights what to do before, during and after an earthquake.

A moderate windstorm affected the City in late December and caused several trees to topple across roads and powerlines. To effectively manage this event, the Operations Department and the Fire Department each established Department Operations Centres (DOC) to coordinate the response to the several calls for service. The operation of the DOC's worked well and negated the need to activate and staff the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). Emergency Management BC (EMBC) recently announced that eligible response expenses for the windstorm will be considered for reimbursement and to that effect staff is currently preparing a claim for submission to EMBC.

The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter saw two staff members completing the EOC Operations section course, and four staff members completed the EOC Information Officer course. These EMBC sponsored courses continue to provide quality and relevant education to our EOC team. To further support EOC team members during an emergency activation and in training, staff have been developing a series of "Quick Reference Guides" for each section within the EOC that outline key processes and checklists to improve team effectiveness and efficiency.

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

The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club met weekly and continues to provide regular training to their membership.

The Chilliwack Emergency Social Services Team met bi-monthly to train and discuss past emergency incidents. There were no callouts for the team to provide emergency food, clothing and shelter in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

## Community Relations

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 at the following events:

- *Fire Prevention Week – barbequed at Hall 3 and Canadian Tire;*
- *Remembrance Day Cenotaph processions (with the department's Honour Guard);*
- *Downtown BIA Tree Lighting event;*
- *Salvation Army Food Drive (with Chilliwack Search and Rescue, and Emergency Social Services) collected approximately 18,000 food items;*
- *Department calendar and clothing sales;*
- *Breakfast with Santa at Hall 1;*
- *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";*
- *Salvation Army Food Bank.*



**Salvation Army Food Drive, December 2018**

