

Fire Department



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

First Quarter Report, 2019



CITY OF
CHILLIWACK

Administration - Personnel



Retired Fire Chief Bill Chambers: The department mourns the passing away of retired Fire Chief Bill Chambers. Bill began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter in 1958. He became Assistant Chief of the department in 1965, Deputy Chief in 1980, and was promoted to Fire Chief in 1993. Chief Chambers proudly served the City of Chilliwack for 37 years until his retirement in 1995.

Retired Fire Chief Bill Chambers passed away on January 17, 2019.

Career Staff:

New firefighter appointments, March 2019:



Phil Vallely



Adam Janzen



Craig Berghauser



Dave Dixon



Paid on-Call (POC) Firefighters

Twelve (12) recruits graduated from the department's POC Recruit Training Program, and began at their respective halls in March 2019.

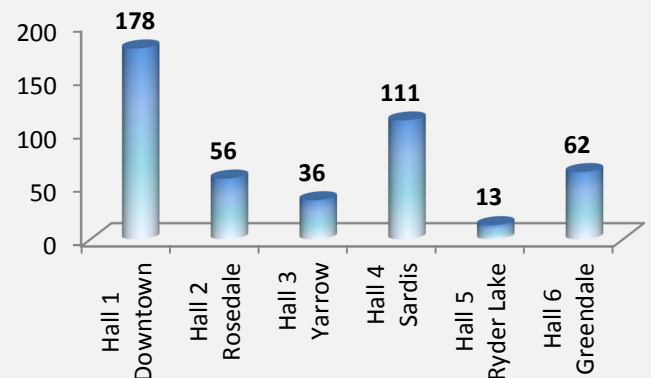
Operations – Incident Responses

Fire dispatch services successfully transitioned from the Fraser Valley Regional District to E-Comm 9-1-1 on February 20, 2019. Staff training is ongoing.

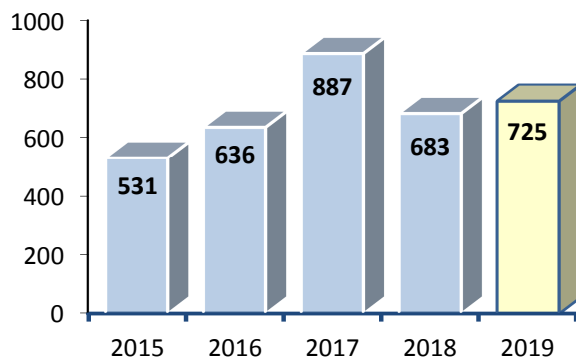
Incident Responses

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 725 calls for service in the first quarter. This is an increase of 42 calls compared to this time in 2018. Incidents for this quarter included 86 fires, 75 motor vehicle incidents, 55 emergency medical aid calls, and 66 burning complaints. Thus far in 2019, the three leading calls for service were public service, alarms activated, and fire incident responses. These three incident response types accounted for 482 or 66% of the total calls responded to in the first quarter.

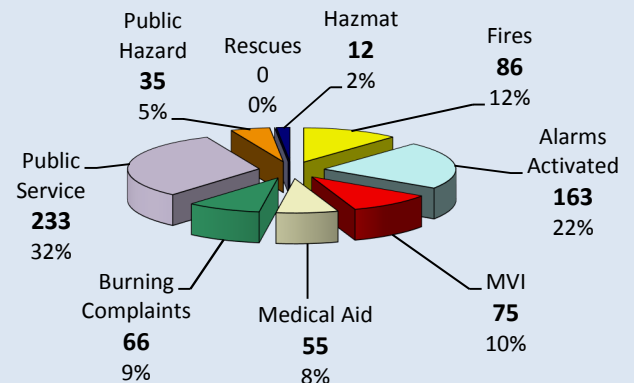
2019 Paid on-Call Responses by Hall



Incident Responses January - March



2019 Incident Responses - Year to Date



Structure Fire – Industrial Way
February 2019

Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			Totals – 1 st Qtr.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
FIRES REPORTABLE (with dollar loss)	12	19	18	49
Structures	6	11	9	
Vehicle	3	5	4	
Outdoor / Other	3	3	5	
FIRES NON-REPORTABLE (no dollar loss)	8	9	20	37
Structures		2	3	
Vehicle	1		1	
Outdoor / Other	7	7	16	
ALARMS ACTIVATED	46	67	50	163
Single family residential	13	12	17	
Multi-family residential	15	15	13	
Non-residential	18	40	20	
MVI (NO FIRE)	19	20	36	75
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID	5	24	26	55
BURNING COMPLAINTS	12	8	46	66
Illegal	12	7	35	
Legal		1	11	
PUBLIC SERVICE	82	89	62	233
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	23	34	17	
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	45	42	40	
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	9	3	2	
Post Fire Recheck / Post Fire Investigation	5	8	2	
Trapped in Elevator		1		
Other		1	1	
PUBLIC HAZARD	2	26	7	35
Electrical line down	2	25	7	
Structure collapse		1		
Bomb threat/explosion				
Other				
RESCUES	0	0	0	0
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	2	4	6	12
MUTUAL AID	0	0	0	0
Totals	188	266	271	725

Previous Years:

2018

2017

2016

2015

1st Qtr

683

887

636

531

Annual Totals

2,836

3,252

2,807

2,687



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 25 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community thus far in 2019. In 2019 to date, 1,829 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.

2019 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews		
Fire Safety Classes	4	86
Fire Extinguisher Training	4	95
Fire Hall Tours	14	348
Emergency Preparedness Training		
Other Public Education Sessions	3	1,300
Totals	25	1,829

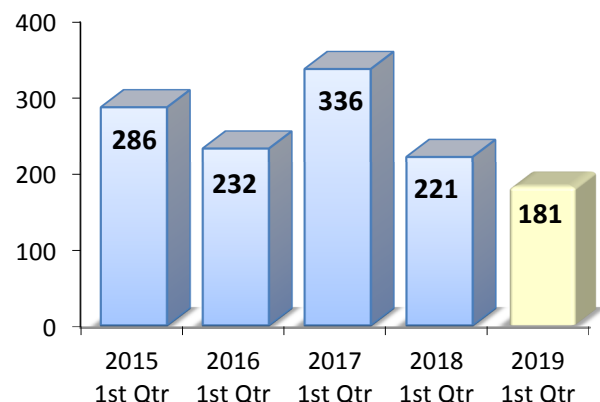
Code Enforcement

The department completed 181 fire and life safety inspections in this quarter including health and safety inspections with the Bylaw Department, RCMP, and BC Safety Authority. Fire prevention staff followed up on seven life safety complaints, and assisted with six car seat checks during the quarter.

Engineering

The department completed 38 plan and sprinkler 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 \$8,833,250. A majority of the dollar losses in this quarter are related to three industrial building fires. There were no fire related injuries during this quarter. A total of 26 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 23 (or 88%) 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.



"All About Kids" Expo
Fire Prevention Display, February 2019

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 training season.

Recruit Training Program

- The 300 plus hour training program that meets the Office of the Fire Commissioner provincial training requirements for the Interior Firefighting level of service culminated with a live fire training exercise using Langley Township's training centre. This enabled our department to deliver realistic training scenarios for our 15 newest graduates.
- The success of the Recruit Training Program would not be possible without the assistance of 40 of our paid on-call and career members.

Career Recruit Program

- Four new career recruit firefighters started their six month long training program on March 18, 2019. The first month of training has been dedicated to certification training in Vehicle Rescue, Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, and First Responder training.

Technical Training

- ❖ **Pre-Hospital Care:** This training curriculum 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.
- ❖ **Confined Space Rescue:** Firefighters continue to support City Operations staff through the joint confined space rescue program. Firefighters honed their skills by practicing scenarios in confined space rescue.
- ❖ **Emergency Scene Management:** Developing an incident action plan to safely and effectively mitigate an incident requires fire officers and firefighters to understand all potential hazards and risks associated in an incident. This training helps develop best practices and procedures to safely and effectively mitigate incidents.



Recruit Training Program
Live Burn Exercise
March 2019



Emergency Preparedness

The 1st Quarter of 2019 saw the coldest weather on record in February, which had a low to moderate impact on local snowpack levels. As of April 1st, approximately 80% of the snow for the season has accumulated and snowpack levels across the province are at approximately 79% of normal. While extreme weather events can produce negative impacts on freshet flooding, provincial government representatives are not anticipating a Fraser River freshet event in 2019.

From a wildfire perspective, there has been some unseasonably early wildfire behaviour in the Southwest region of the province, including the City of Chilliwack. The region is expected to experience temperatures 1-2 degrees Celsius higher than normal throughout the rest of the spring in addition to lower than normal amounts of precipitation. The Emergency Program Coordinator continues to be in close contact with the BC Wildfire Service and is focusing planning, readiness and education efforts on the upcoming wildfire season.

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. Recent discussions have included emergency communications system interoperability, evacuation planning and transportation of people during a disaster.

The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club met weekly and continues to provide regular training to their membership. In the 1st quarter, the club hosted an amateur radio operator licensing course which was attended by over 30 people.

The Chilliwack Emergency Social Services Team met bi-monthly to train and discuss past emergency incidents. ESS team members received two calls for service in the 4th quarter and provided 72 hours of essential food, clothing and lodging to two families that were displaced as a result of residential structure fires.

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

- *Community Safety Net (Fire Prevention Materials)*
- *BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund (donation to Keira McKenzie for "Young Burn Survivor's Camp")*



Cheque presentation to Keira McKenzie for donation to "Young Burn Survivor's Camp", BC Professional Fire Fighter's Burn Fund