

Fire Department



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

First Quarter Report, 2020



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

Administration - Personnel

Career Staff:



Promotion:
Doug Lock
Lieutenant
January 2020



Promotion:
Wade Meeres
Lieutenant
January 2020



Promotion:
Kevin Geddert
Lieutenant
January 2020



Retirement:
Mark Collins
Captain
February 2020

Captain Mark Collins started his fire service career in Yarrow (Hall 3) in 1979. Shortly after, he joined Hall 1 and served as a paid on-call firefighter until 1995. In the meantime, Mark became a career firefighter for CFB Chilliwack in 1983. Mark was hired as a career firefighter with Chilliwack in 1987, was promoted to Lieutenant in 1992, and Captain in 2007. Mark has been a leader in the Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society that has supported many local charities. We thank Mark for his 33 years of service to our department and community.

Paid on-Call (POC) Firefighters

Sixteen (16) recruits graduated from the department's POC Recruit Training Program, and began at their respective halls in March 2020.

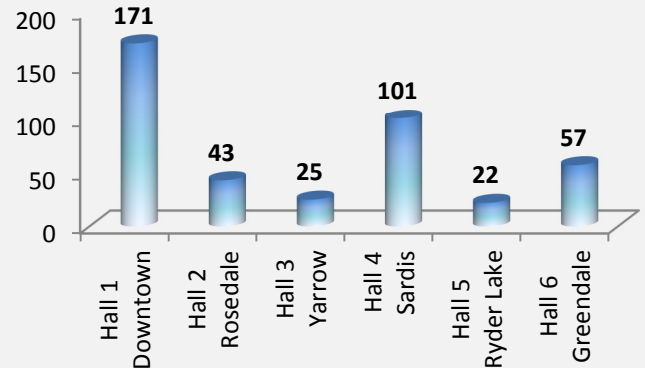


Operations – Incident Responses

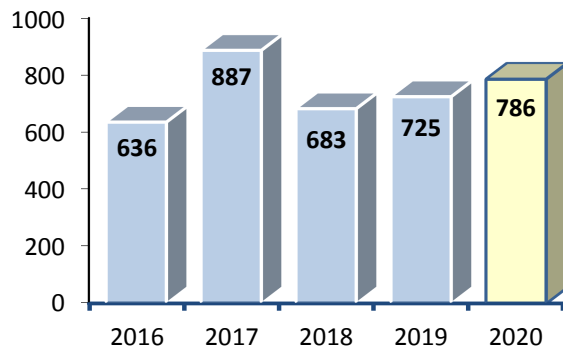
Incident Responses

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 786 calls for service in the first quarter. This is an increase of 61 calls compared to this time in 2019. Incidents for this quarter included 48 fires, 121 motor vehicle incidents, 40 emergency medical aid calls, and 59 burning complaints. Thus far in 2020, the three leading calls for service were public service, alarms activated, and motor vehicle incident responses. These three incident response types accounted for 571 or 72% of the total calls responded to in the first quarter.

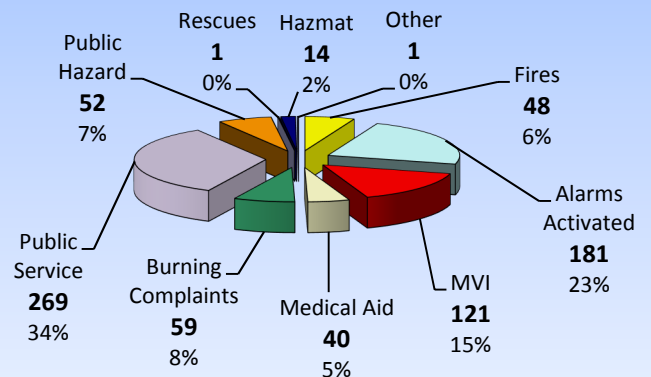
2020 Paid On-Call Responses by Hall



Incident Responses January - March



2020 Incident Responses - Year to Date



Structure Fire – Yale Road
March 2020



Structure Fire – Yale Road
March 2020

Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			Totals – 1 st Qtr.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
FIRES	11	18	19	48
Structures	7	5	12	
Vehicle	1	2	2	
Outdoor / Other	3	11	5	
ALARMS ACTIVATED	80	62	39	181
Single family residential	16	17	7	
Multi-family residential	25	21	21	
Non-residential	39	24	11	
MVI (NO FIRE)	51	35	35	121
Auto extrication	1	1	1	
Provide medical care	21	18	19	
Routine cleanup / No injuries	24	14	12	
Cancelled / Fire not required	5	2	3	
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID	18	13	9	40
BURNING COMPLAINTS	6	10	43	59
Illegal	6	10	36	
Legal	0	0	7	
PUBLIC SERVICE	110	81	78	269
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	15	16	22	
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	68	52	48	
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	8	5	5	
Post fire recheck / Post fire investigation	0	0	2	
Trapped in elevator	3	0	1	
Assist with lift or entry (non-medical/private)	3	4	0	
Assist with water issue	13	2	0	
Other	0	2	0	
PUBLIC HAZARD	16	21	15	52
RESCUES	0	1	0	1
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	3	6	5	14
MUTUAL AID	0	0	1	0
Totals	295	247	244	786

Previous Years:

2019
2018
2017
2016
2015

1st Qtr

725
683
887
636
531

Annual Totals

3,218
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 8 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community thus far in 2020. In 2020 to date, 542 residents were educated or trained in fire and life safety, and emergency preparedness. In the first quarter of 2020, the fire prevention division started working with Chilliwack School District providing fire extinguisher training to all the middle schools. This training supports their public education program. Fire extinguisher training was taught to shop, science, and cooking classes. The department also implemented a Home Fire Sprinkler Program. This program was initiated at this year's (2020) Home Expo where over 370 people attended our booth to learn the value of home fire sprinklers.

2020 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	0	0
Fire Safety Classes	5	84
Fire Extinguisher Training	2	88
Fire Hall Tours	0	0
Emergency Preparedness Training	0	0
Other Public Education Sessions	1	370
Totals	8	542

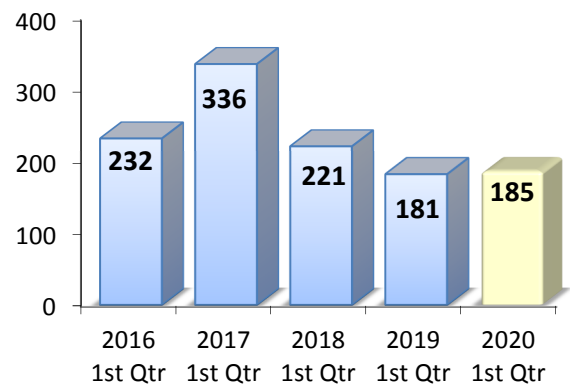
Code Enforcement

The department completed 185 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 three life safety complaints.

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 \$2,793,400. There was one fire related injuries during the quarter. A total of 15 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 12 (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.



Chilliwack Chief's First Responder Night
Matthew Hutchinson Memorial Award
Presented to Retired Firefighter Bill Higginbottom

Training

The Fire Department continually strives to improve the services and programs it provides to the citizens of 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, which enabled our department to deliver realistic training scenarios for our 16 graduates.
- The success of the Recruit Training Program would not be possible without the assistance of over 40 of our paid on-call and career members.

Technical Training

- ❖ **Full Service Operations:** Six POC firefighters completed NFPA 1001 to achieve Full Service Operations Firefighter, as outlined in the "Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook 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. All firefighters are certified in this program through the Ministry of Health.
- ❖ **Resilient Minds:** Eight firefighters participated in the Resilient Minds program that is offered through the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA), and local fire departments. The goal of this program is to enhance mental resiliency. The program engages and informs first responders in three crucial areas relevant to their work: trauma, mental health problems, and building resiliency.
- ❖ **Fire Service Instructor Level I:** Twelve firefighters successfully completed the requirements outlined in NPFA 1041 to become instructors.
- ❖ **Hazardous Materials Operations:** Fifteen firefighters participated in Hazmat Operations in accordance with NFPA 472.
- ❖ **Apparatus Operator Training:** Eight apparatus operators completed 40 hours of a combination of driving and pumps training.
- ❖ **Teamwork:** Crews spent a day working on the functions and dynamics of successful team building and development.
- ❖ **Aerial Apparatus Training:** Firefighters from Halls 1 and 4 participated in Aerial Apparatus Operation training in accordance with NFPA 1002.
- ❖ **COVID-19:** Procedures and training were developed and delivered to all firefighters to protect responders when responding to medical emergencies.



**Recruit Training Program
Live Burn Exercise
March 2020**



Emergency Preparedness

The Chilliwack Emergency Program focused on seasonal preparedness in the first quarter of 2020, which included freshet and wildfire preparations. These preparations include reviewing existing plans and public education materials, taking part in conference calls with Emergency Management BC and Environment Canada, and engaging with stakeholders and First Nations. Additional wildfire suppression equipment was also procured in the first quarter to further compliment the Chilliwack Fire Department's wildfire suppression capabilities.

In March, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated virtually to support the city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This virtual activation of the EOC worked quite well in terms of meeting distancing requirements and it also proved to be valuable in terms of keeping key EOC team members in their respective workplaces to focus on their staff and making necessary changes to workspace layouts, etc.

As the ownership of a pandemic event rests with the Provincial and local health authorities, the main focus of the city is business continuity as well as sharing and supporting information from the health authorities. As the COVID-19 pandemic is likely far from over, the emergency program will continue to focus on its core functions to support the city and its staff into "the new normal."

Both the Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club and the Chilliwack Emergency Support Services Team met virtually to maintain physical distancing requirements and reduce exposure to these key emergency program members.

Community Activities

The fire department continues to be actively involved in many community events and fundraisers. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, activities have been cancelled or postponed at this time. During this quarter, Chilliwack firefighters participated in a number of birthday party parades and the 7 p.m. Salute to Frontline Workers.



February 2020 – Pink Shirt Day
Extinguish Bullying



Coronavirus (COVID 19) Pandemic
Personal Protective Equipment