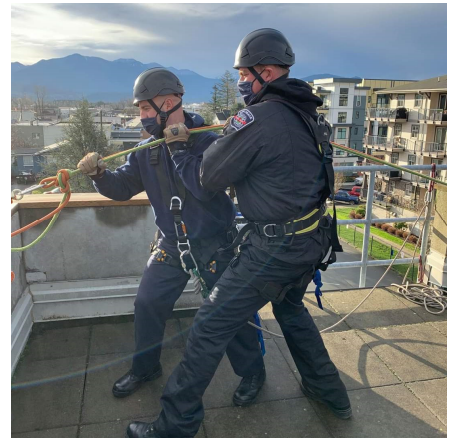
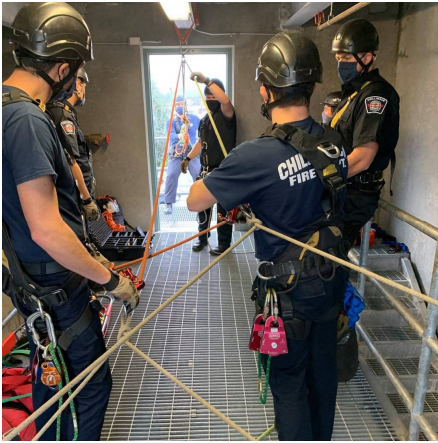


# Fire Department



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

## Fourth Quarter Report, 2020



CITY OF  
**CHILLIWACK**

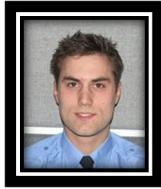
## Administration - Personnel

### Career Staff:

#### New firefighter appointments, December 2020:



Dylan Janzen



Justin Delooff



Len Bowman



Kyle Nason



Jamie Trenouth

### Career Staff - December 31, 2020:

Fire Chief	1
Assistant Chiefs	3
Fire Officers	8
Firefighters	30
Training Officers	2
Fire Prevention Officer	1
Public Educator / Fire Inspector	1
Administrative Support Staff	2

**Total Career Staff 48**



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

Hall 1 Downtown	39	Hall 4 Sardis	35
Hall 2 Rosedale	19	Hall 5 Ryder Lake	10
Hall 3 Yarrow	15	Hall 6 Greendale	13

**Total POC Members, December 2020 131**

Note: In 2020, 17 POC members left the department, and 16 new POC members graduated from the Recruit Training Program.

**Total career and paid on-call members – 179**

## Administration – Personnel (cont.)

### Exemplary Service Medals / Long Service Awards

The department received Federal Exemplary Service medals and British Columbia Long Service medals for 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:

25 years of service: Captain Eric Davies  
Fire Chief Ian Josephson



#### Federal Exemplary Service Awards:

40 years of service: Firefighter Barry Anderson  
Captain Mark Collins

30 years of service: Captain Gary Goll  
Firefighter Richard Grosvenor  
Captain Jack Thornton

20 years of service: Firefighter Phil Hirschman  
Captain Ryan Marchuk



### Retirement Appreciation Awards

Appreciation plaques will be presented from the City of Chilliwack to the following paid on-call and career members who retired, and provided ten or more years of service to our department and community. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department was unable to meet during 2020 to officially acknowledge and recognize them for their service.

- Barry Anderson – Hall 4 - 40 years of service
- Gary Goll – Hall 1 – 31 years of service
- Richard Grosvenor – Hall 1 – 31 years of service
- Paul Gumphrich – Hall 6 – 23 years of service
- Ryan Marchuk – Hall 4 – 21 years of service
- Andy Crowe – Hall 4 – 17 years of service
- Mark Collins – Career – 40 years of service
- Craig Philbrook – Career – 39 years of service



## Operations – Incident Responses

### Incident Responses

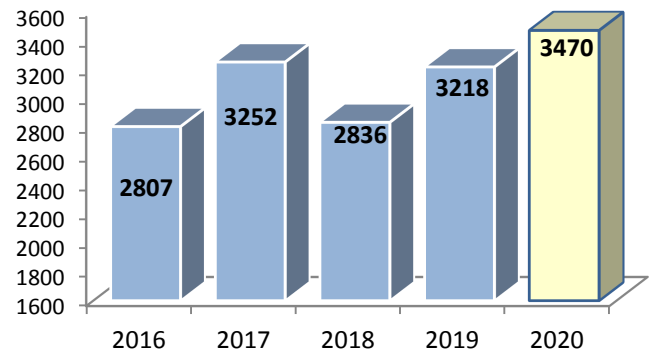
The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 980 calls for service in the fourth quarter of 2020, for a total of 3,470 incidents for the year. This was an increase of 252 calls for service over 2019. This increase is related to an increase in public hazard incidents (especially during windstorm events), public service incidents, and activated alarms. Leading incidents for the quarter included 283 public service calls, 264 alarms activated, 119 motor vehicle incidents, and 79 fires.

In 2020, the five leading calls for service were:

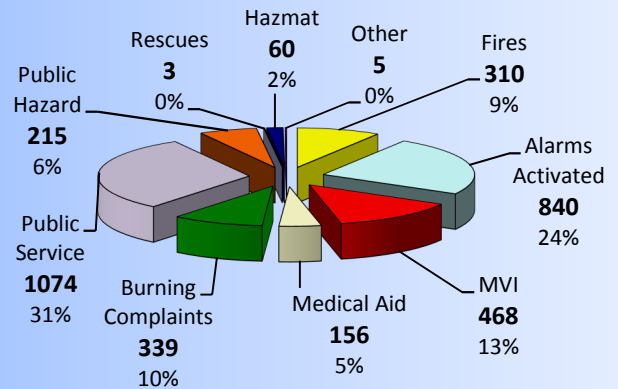
- 1) Public Service (assist RCMP, BCEHS, home smoke alarm, and CO alarm calls)
- 2) Alarms Activated (industrial, commercial, multi-family, and single family residential)
- 3) Motor Vehicle Incidents (MVI's)
- 4) Burning Complaints (legal and illegal)
- 5) Fires (structures, vehicles, outdoor, dumpsters, trees, and bark mulch)

The above incident responses accounted for 3,031 calls, or 87% of the total calls responded to in 2020.

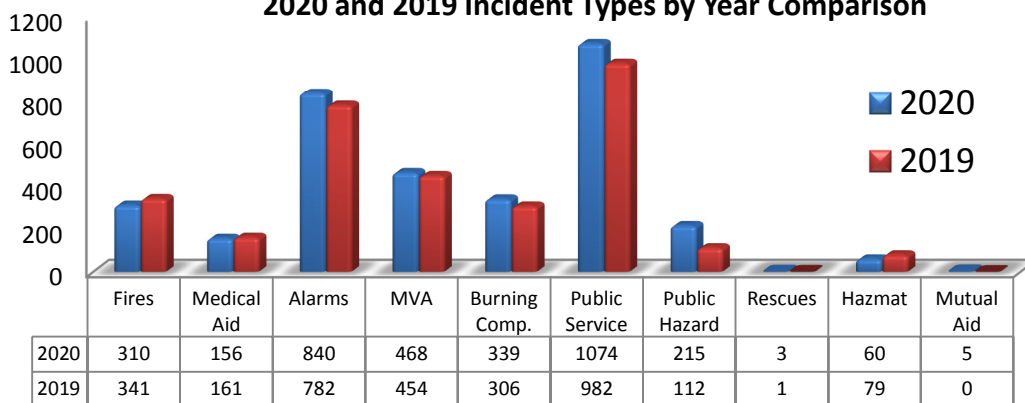
### Incident Responses by Year



### 2020 Incident Responses



### 2020 and 2019 Incident Types by Year Comparison



## 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>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>310</b>
Structures	12	12	14					111
Vehicle	5	6	6					54
Outdoor / Other	10	9	5					145
<b>ALARMS ACTIVATED</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>840</b>
Single family residential	38	34	25					296
Multi-family residential	37	26	33					281
Non-residential	30	25	16					263
<b>MVI (NO FIRE)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>468</b>
Auto Extrication	1	0	1					13
Provide Medical Care	15	19	19					215
Routine Cleanup / No injuries	15	13	16					175
Cancelled/Fire not required	6	9	5					65
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>BURNING COMPLAINTS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>339</b>
Illegal	20	14	9					308
Legal	4	3	0					31
<b>PUBLIC SERVICE</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1074</b>
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	27	19	11					250
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	56	55	60					654
Home smoke alarm / Carbon monoxide alarm	8	8	8					68
Post Fire Recheck/ Post Fire Investigation	1	0	0					15
Trapped in Elevator	7	8	4					41
Assist with lift or entry (non-medical/private)	2	2	2					15
Assist with water issue	0	2	1					24
Other	1	1	0					7
<b>PUBLIC HAZARD</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>RESCUES</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>MUTUAL AID</b> (Out of Area Assist)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>3,470</b>

## Previous Years:

2019  
2018  
2017  
2016  
2015

4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr	2nd Qtr	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr	Total
<b>826</b>	833	834	725	<b>3,218</b>
<b>648</b>	812	693	683	<b>2,836</b>
<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>

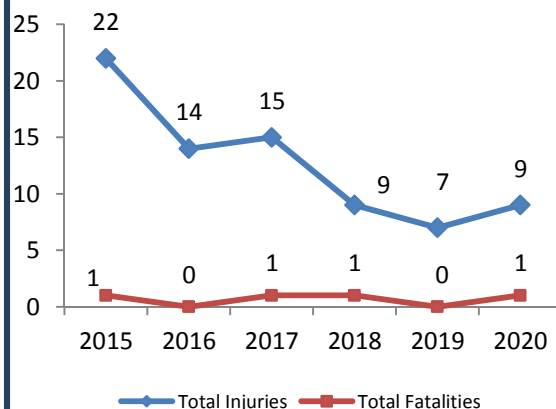
## Fire Prevention – Fire Investigations and Calls for Service

### Fire Investigations / Losses

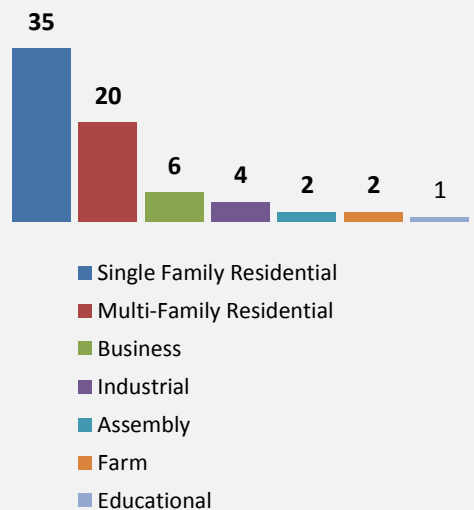
Fourth quarter fire losses were \$764,850, for total losses in 2020 of \$7,584,155. Structure fires made up 93% or \$7,041,270 of this total dollar loss in 2020. Nine (9) civilians suffered fire related injuries during the year, and one (1) civilian fire fatality occurred in the year. Five (5) of the fire related injuries occurred in residential buildings. A total of 20 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 16 (80%) occurring in residential occupancies. Total 2020 structure fire losses were 70, with 55 (79%) occurring in residential occupancies. Of the 111 structure fires that occurred in 2020, 103 (93%) 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 our education efforts to prevent future property losses, injuries, and fatalities.

Comparable value of buildings protected in Chilliwack is approximately \$3 billion, with a current population nearing 100,000 residents. A safe, effective, and efficient public fire protection service, and community risk reduction (CRR) program ensures our frequency and severity of fire losses, including injuries and fatalities are kept to a minimum.

### Summary of Injuries & Deaths by Year

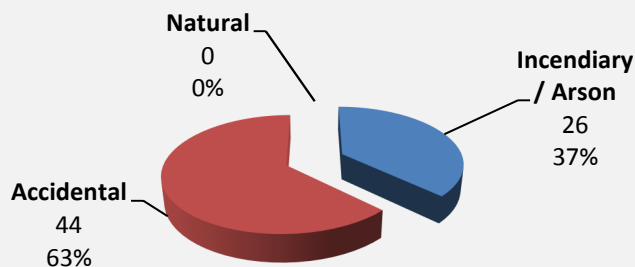


### 2020 Structure Fires Losses by Occupancy Type



55 (79%) of the 70 dollar loss structure fires occurred in residential buildings

### Causes of 2020 Dollar Loss Structure Fires

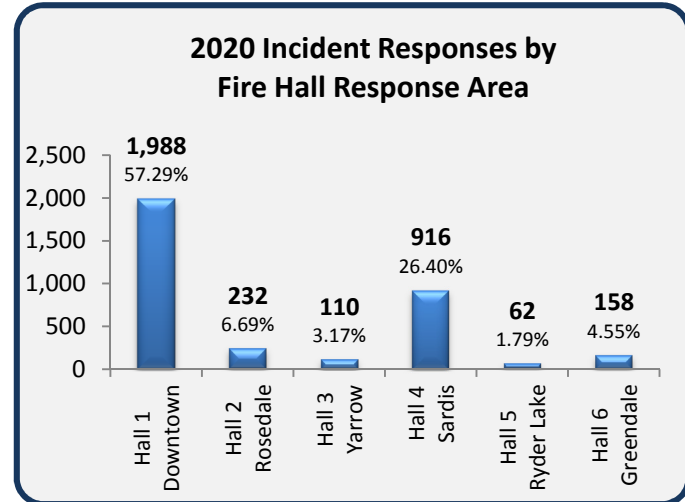
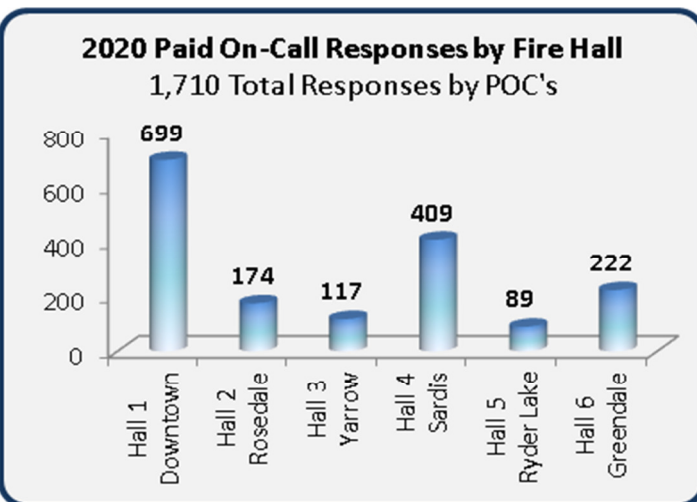
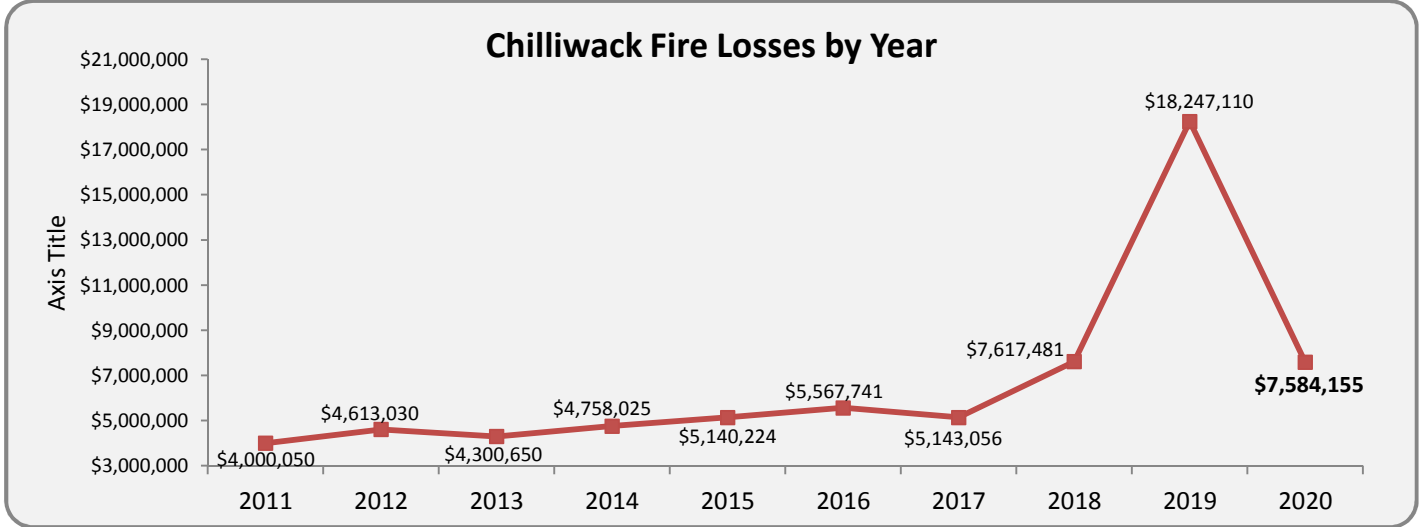


The leading cause of dollar loss structure fires in 2020 was accidental. Of the accidental structure loss fires, the majority of these fires were caused by:

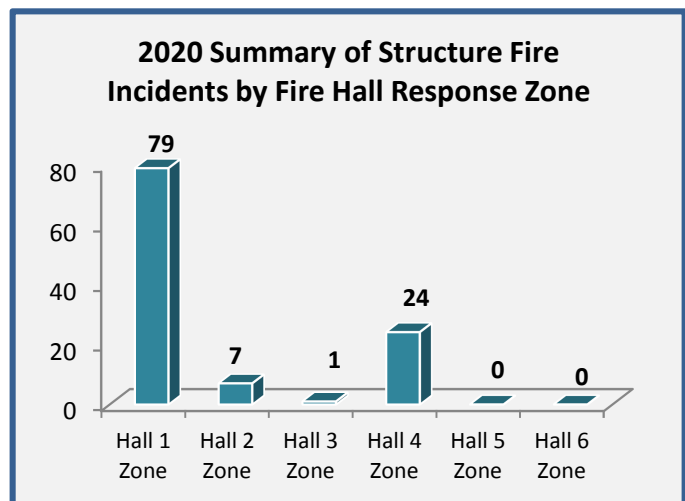
- smoking materials
- cooking related
- electrical



## Fire Prevention – Fire Investigations and Calls for Service (continued)



**Burning Complaint Incident Response**  
November 2020



## Fire Prevention – Public Education & Code Enforcement

The Chilliwack Fire Department is proactively working to protect lives, property, and environment through education, engineering, bylaw code enforcement, and fire investigations.

The Fire Department typically has a very proactive fire prevention program. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent Provincial Health Officer regulations, a majority of fire prevention services such as fire and life safety inspections of public buildings, public education to schools, seniors, community groups, and local employers were cancelled or severely restricted. Fire investigators utilized additional personal protective equipment (PPE) to complete the required fire investigations.

2020 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	1	2
Fire Safety Classes	16	164
Fire Extinguisher Training	8	263
Fire Hall Tours	0	0
Emergency Preparedness Classes	0	0
Other Public Education Sessions (including Fire Prevention Week)	45	807
<b>Totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>1,236</b>

### Fire & Life Safety Education

A total of 70 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community in 2020. In 2020, 1,236 residents have been educated or trained in fire and life safety and emergency preparedness.

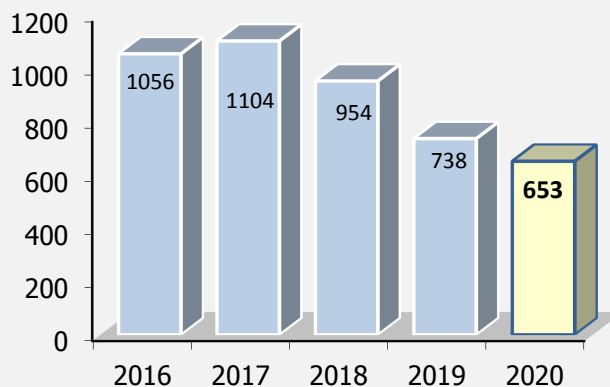
### Code and Bylaw Enforcement

The department completed 653 fire and life safety inspections during 2020, including health and safety inspections with the Bylaw Department, RCMP, and BC Safety Authority.

### Engineering

The department completed 39 plan and sprinkler reviews this quarter for a total of 147 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**



“12 days of fire safety”  
Fire Prevention video social media  
Christmas campaign



## Training

During 2020, there were many challenges and opportunities experienced by the Chilliwack Fire Department Training Division as we navigated through the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to suspend all classroom, in-person training, and all non-essential operations.

The last quarter of 2020 was a very busy period for the Training Division. In addition to our regular training, we also began our on-boarding program for our five new career firefighters.

### Technical Training

- ❖ **Pre-Hospital Care** - Is a large component of our training curriculum and includes regularly scheduled CPR, AED, and First Responder (FR) Level 3 courses.
- ❖ **Aerial Operations** – Firefighters practiced scenarios using Ladder 4, a 107 foot ladder truck.
- ❖ **Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Training** – Firefighters at Halls 1 and 4 were trained in use, care, and maintenance of the new SCBA's purchased by the City of Chilliwack.
- ❖ **Vehicle Rescue** – The remaining eight Hall 3 members, and Hall 4 members were trained to Vehicle Rescue Operations in accordance with NFPA 1006. In addition, the Chilliwack Fire Department Training Officer was accredited to deliver the program as an instructor representative for the Justice Institute of B.C.
- ❖ **Exterior / Interior Operations** – Nine POC firefighters, in a combination of online learning and practical training sessions, completed the requirements to complete NFPA 1001 Firefighter as per the B.C. Firefighter Competency & Training Playbook.
- ❖ **Full Service Operations** – Sixteen POC firefighters, in a combination of online learning and practical training sessions completed additional requirements to complete NFPA 1001 Firefighter Levels I and II, as per the B.C. Firefighter Competency & Training Playbook.
- ❖ **Apparatus Operations** – Ongoing training and education this quarter saw eight firefighters working towards Apparatus Operations certification in accordance with IAPD and NFPA 1002 standards.

### Educational Training

- **Fire Officer Level 1** - Three firefighters continued working on the courses required by NFPA 1021 to attain accreditation for Fire Officer Level 1.
- **Team Leader** – Eleven POC firefighters participated in an 83 hour course to achieve the designation of Team Leader in accordance with the B.C. Firefighter Competency & Training Playbook.

To maintain training while following the Public Health regulations, videos were produced and distributed to members providing guidance on responses to medical aid calls. Videos were also produced for other training topics, as well as some fitness productions to keep the department's morale up. Online learning became the new way of delivering education and training. Zoom meetings are now conducted regularly to pass on information to officers at each of the paid on-call halls. This has proved to be a very beneficial tool to share information, conduct Post Incident Reviews, and deliver some theoretical training. Until the Provincial Health Authorities ease restrictions, we will continue to deliver safe and effective training utilizing new technology and smaller groups for practical training.



**Career Firefighter Recruit Training Program**  
Vehicle Extrication Training and  
Firefighter Survival Training



## Emergency Management

The Chilliwack Emergency Program was activated twice in 2020 to support the response to the Fraser River freshet and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The seasonal Fraser River freshet resulted in the issuance of evacuation alerts to six properties located outside of the dyke in the Carey Point area. A highlight of this event was the continuation of a freshet advanced planning team comprised of City staff, RCMP, and representatives from the Skwah First Nation and Shxwhá:y Village. The efforts of this team ensure a high level of preparedness, information sharing, and response coordination with respect to flooding events and emergency management in general.

The emergency program was also activated to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some highlights of efforts undertaken by City staff for this event have been:

- Ensure for the continuation of services as much as practically possible;
- Modify workspaces, processes, and practices to deliver services in accordance with health authority orders and recommendations;
- Share information from the health authority to staff and the community;
- Partner with numerous stakeholders on the creation of a temporary testing facility for the city's vulnerable population.

These significant efforts have also provided some excellent input into business continuity planning that have application to several different types of incidents that could impact the city and its services.

The Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club delivered a basic amateur radio licensing course in November of 2020, which allows members of the public a chance to obtain their amateur radio operator license upon successful completion of the course as well as an exam. These courses are of significant benefit to our emergency management program and utilize in-house instructors and evaluators. Members of the radio club have also been working with the Emergency Program Coordinator on upgrading both fixed and mobile radio stations to improve the club's capacity and capabilities as the primary resource for emergency communications.

The Chilliwack Emergency Support Services (ESS) team was activated twice in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter to support displaced residents from residential structure fires. The provincial modernization of the ESS program is still under development by Emergency Management BC, with a few municipalities operating the new, digitized system on a trial basis. This system is designed to streamline the aid process for people impacted by disaster and create more efficiencies for ESS volunteers.



## Community Engagement:

- Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Provincial Health Officer issued regulations, all community related and fundraising events were cancelled for most of 2020.
- During the year, the Chilliwack Firefighters Education Fund awarded four (4) post-secondary financial awards to high school graduates, and the Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society awarded six (6) scholarships to Chilliwack high school graduates.