

Fire Department



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

2013 Annual Report

Mission Statement:

The City of Chilliwack Fire Department will safeguard our community by providing fire prevention and life safety programs and by delivering fire and rescue services. As fire service professionals, we dedicate ourselves to protecting lives, property and the environment in times of emergency or disaster.



Vision Statement:

The Chilliwack Fire Department will be effective, innovative, and accountable in its pursuit of public safety and emergency preparedness as we respond to the needs of the community and our organization.

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Cover Photos: *Structure Fire – Prairie Central Road, February 2013*
Outdoor Landfill Fire – Schweyey Road, August 2013

INTRODUCTION



It is my pleasure to submit the City of Chilliwack Fire Department's 2013 annual report.

This year saw a few key personnel changes for the department. In July, Fire Chief Richard Ryall retired after 18 years of dedicated service and progressive leadership in our fire department and to the City of Chilliwack. We wish him a very happy retirement with Shelley and their ever expanding family! In September, we were pleased to welcome Mike Bourdon to our department as the new Assistant Chief - Fire Prevention. We look forward to Mike sharing his extensive experience and skills with us.

We are currently redesigning our key department functions and reviewing the role that each of us plays in support of our customers. Our goal is to create the most effective and efficient fire protection and prevention systems possible for the citizens of Chilliwack.

The department delivered fire and life safety education to over 5,500 citizens within our community. Our fire prevention staff continues to be an integral part of the City's Health and Safety Inspection team, working to ensure all buildings are safe for owners, tenants, and neighbours. We will continue to focus on innovative ways to prevent fires and educate the public to better prepare themselves and their families when disaster strikes.

Work has started on the department's new training centre. This new facility will help to support our ongoing training needs. Our extensive training program is responsible for the education and skills maintenance for 150 career and paid-on-call firefighters. In 2013, 17 new paid-on-call firefighters were recruited, trained, and deployed to our six fire halls.

In 2013, emergency operations centre exercises and preparedness training sessions were completed with City staff. Emergency preparedness sessions were provided for the public to help them become more aware of their responsibilities during City-wide disasters. We greatly appreciate the support provided by local volunteer groups such as the Chilliwack Radio Club, Emergency Social Services, and Chilliwack Search and Rescue. Their support is crucial to our planning and response to local emergencies and disasters.

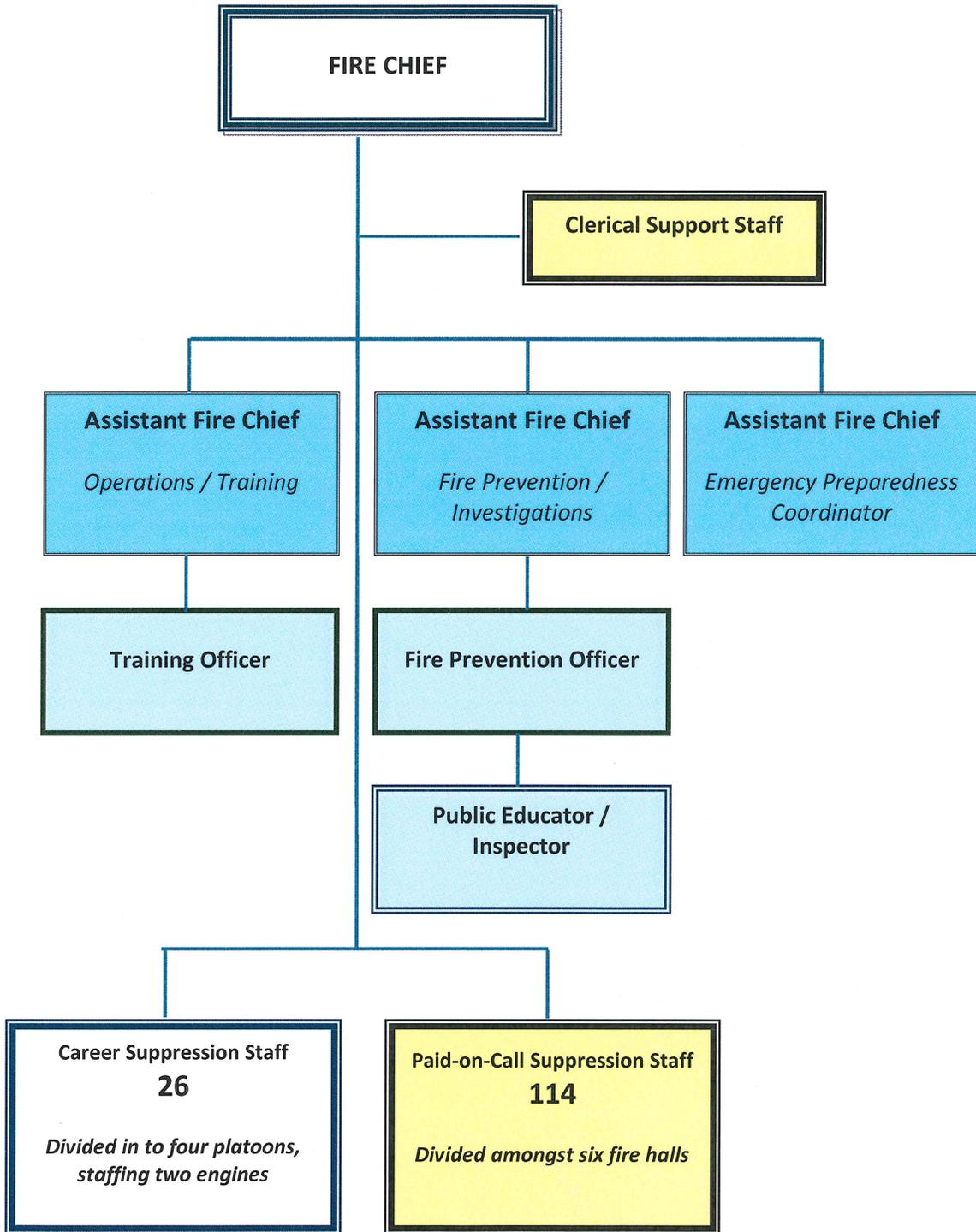
The department was actively involved in many community events and fundraisers. The department's Firefighter Education Fund awarded eight post-secondary financial awards to local high school graduates. The Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society raised over \$15,000 from calendar sales and participated in several other fundraisers for the B.C. Burn Fund and local charities. They also awarded one bursary to a local student to assist with their pursuit of post-secondary education. Our annual Christmas food drive collected over 15,000 food items and \$1,000 in support of the Salvation Army Food Bank.

I want to thank our career and paid-on-call firefighters and our skilled support staff for their hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication to provide excellent customer service; their commitment is essential to our fire department's success and I am very grateful for their support.

"Proudly Serving Our Community"

Ian Josephson, Fire Chief

Organizational Chart



Personnel

Career Personnel:

Fire Chief	1
Administrative Support	1.4
Assistant Chief Operations/Training	1
Assistant Chief Fire Prevention/Investigations	1
Assistant Chief Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	1
Fire Prevention Officer	1
Training Officer	1
Suppression Company Captains	4
Suppression Company Lieutenants	4
Suppression Firefighters	18
Public Educator / Inspector	1
Total	34.4

Retirement of Fire Chief Richard Ryall:



Fire Chief Richard Ryall retired from the City of Chilliwack Fire Department in July 2013, after 18 years with the Chilliwack Fire Department and thirty-eight years of fire service in the Province of British Columbia.

New Appointments:



Fire Chief – Ian Josephson
July 2013



Assistant Fire Chief – Michael Bourdon
Fire Prevention / Investigations
September 2013

Paid-on-Call (POC) Firefighters – December 31, 2013

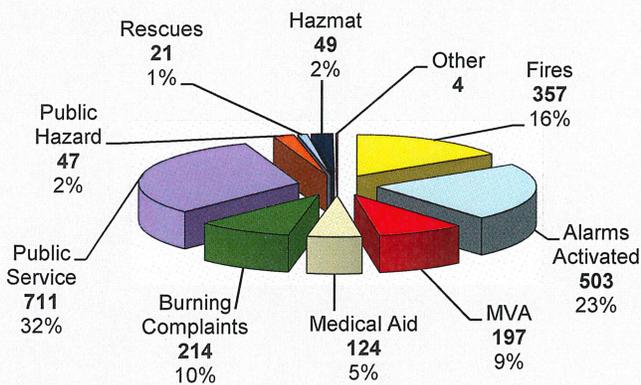
Hall 1	37	Hall 4	28
Hall 2	15	Hall 5	9
Hall 3	13	Hall 6	12
Total POC Members - December 2013			114

NOTE: In 2013, fourteen (14) POC members left the service and seventeen (17) new members were recruited.

Suppression Staff Ratio: Paid-on-call 81% Career 19%

Emergency Responses

2013 Service Calls

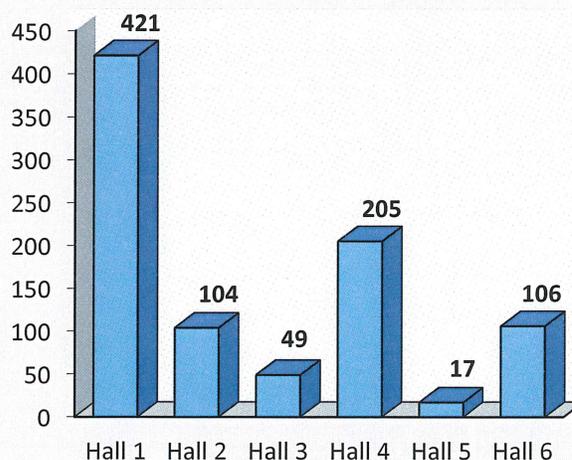


Vehicle Fire



Structure Fire – Kent Road

2013 Responses by Firehall



* Hall 1 operates several specialized vehicles (rescue, air, ladder) and are called to many fires outside of their coverage area.

Emergency Responses

Responses by Type:	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Fires	357	343	270	299	389
Emergency Medical Aid	124	125	123	85	89
Alarms Activated	503	576	558	705	672
Motor Vehicle Incident (No fire)	197	196	211	159	191
Burning Complaints	214	199	211	243	299
Public Service	711	689	633	560	510
Public Hazards	47	51	58	78	62
Rescues	21	20	21	26	19
Hazardous Materials	49	54	58	67	69
Mutual Aid and Service Agreements	2	2	4	4	4
PEP Road Rescue (out of area)	2	5	2	2	3
Total	2,227	2,260	2,149	2,228	2,307
Career Engine Responses:	2,136	2,149	2,088	2,164	2,254
POC Responses by Fire Hall:	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Hall #1, Downtown	421	343	291	321	377
Hall #2, Rosedale	104	110	82	108	78
Hall #3, Yarrow	49	72	44	60	52
Hall #4, Sardis	205	184	132	140	139
Hall #5, Ryder Lake	17	21	21	19	17
Hall #6, Greendale	106	77	86	82	94
Totals	902	807	656	730	757
% POC Response of all calls	40%	36%	31%	33%	33%
Burning Permits Issued:	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
General Burning Permits *	1,323	1,173	1,310	1,283	1,364

* Two burning seasons implemented in 2009 (two months in the spring and two months in the fall.)

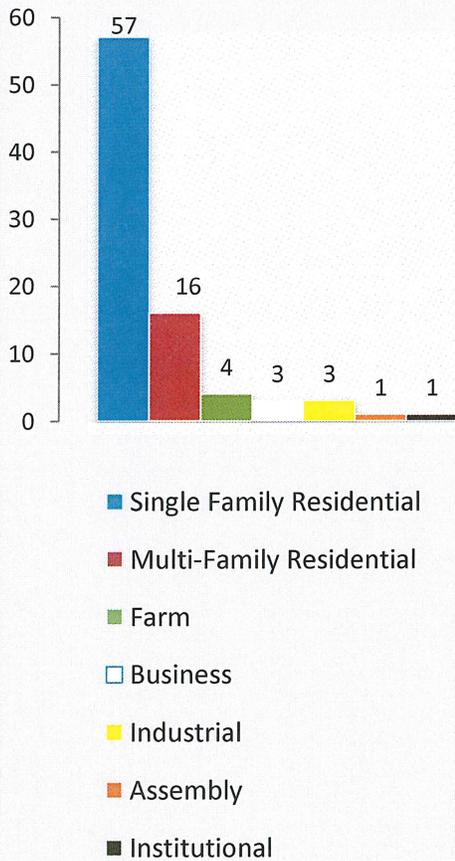


Structure Fire – Prairie Central Road



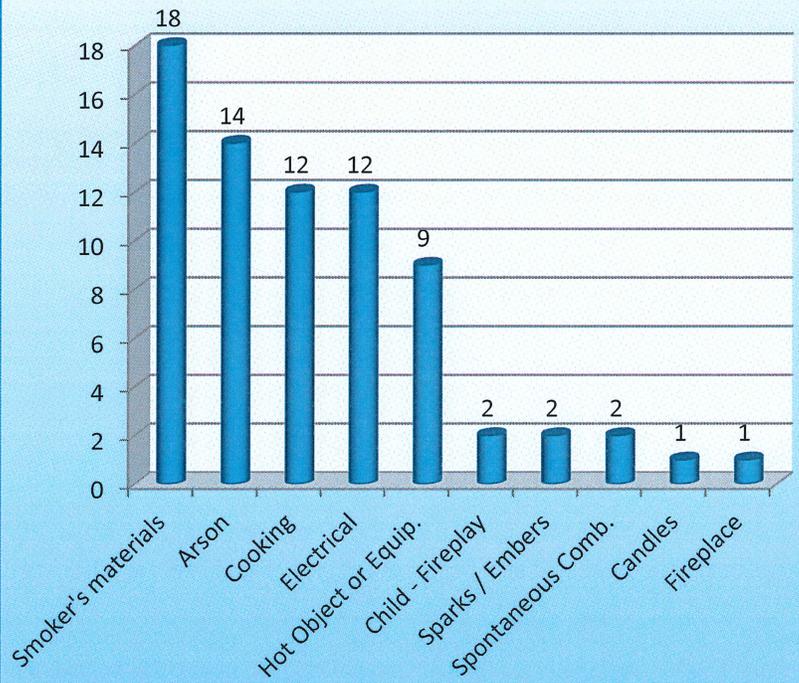
Structure Fire – Sunrise Drive

2013 Structure Fires - Losses by Occupancy Type

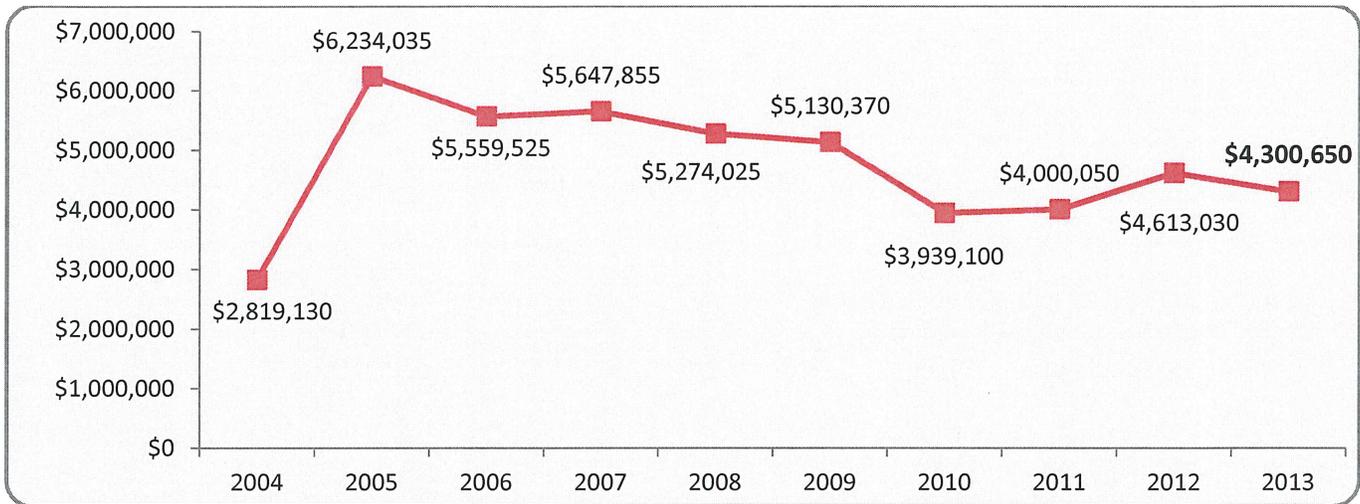


Chilliwack Fire Trends

Fire Causes - Residential Dollar Loss Structure Fires



Fire Losses



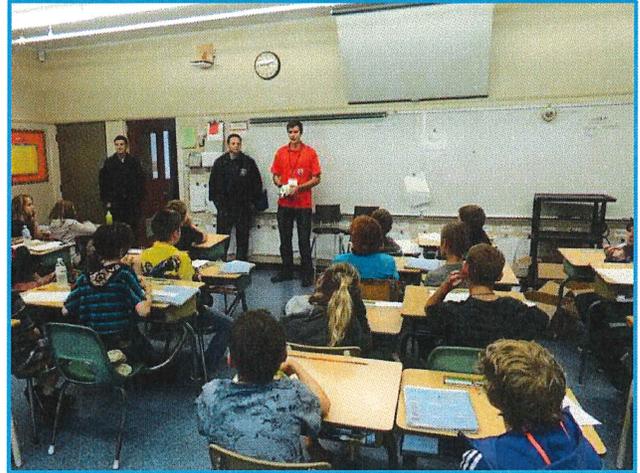
Per Capita Fire Loss:	2013	\$51.90
	2012	\$55.68
	2011	\$48.78
	2010	\$48.25
	2009	\$63.46
	2008	\$65.90

Fire Fatalities:	2013	0
	2012	0
	2011	0
	2010	2
	2009	1
	2008	0

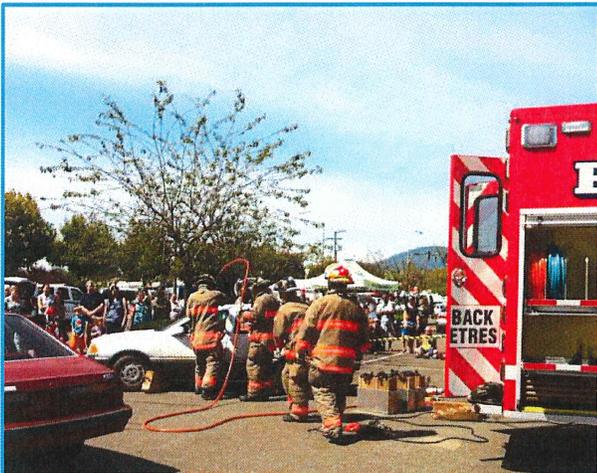
Fire Injuries:	2013	26	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2012	12	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2011	16	<i>(no firefighter casualties)</i>
	2010	20	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2009	15	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2008	17	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>



**Community Safety Net
Presentation**



Burn Awareness Week Presentation



**Auto Extrication Demonstration
Road Safety Day**



Canadian Tire Jump Start Day



Fire Prevention Week Display, Canadian Tire



Fire Prevention

Fire Inspections:	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Business License Applications	178	217	196	216	215
Safety Complaints	25	34	34	0	11
Final Inspections (new buildings)	20	21	24	28	42
Re-Inspections	29	40	63	59	22
Regular Inspections	1,030	1,112	989	1,438	1,046
Special Inspections	33	19	52	52	53
Totals	1,315	1,443	1,358	1,793	1,389

NOTE: There are approximately 2,800 occupancies that require regular fire inspections.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Health and Safety Inspection Program:	23	22	53	104	125

Fire Alarm Upgrade Program:

In 2009, the Chilliwack Fire Department started working with building owners to upgrade antiquated building fire alarm systems. The program focussed mainly on high life safety risk buildings such as apartments and community care facilities. There are 108 buildings on the upgrade program with 73 buildings having completed this work to date.

Home Smoke Alarm Program:

Twelve (12) home smoke alarms were installed.

Juvenile Fire Setter Program:

Fortunately, no children or young adults were put through the fire department's juvenile fire setter program in 2013.

Public Education:

Career and POC firefighters conducted 194 public fire and life safety presentations, fire hall tours, and fire extinguisher demonstrations. Over 5,500 persons were provided with fire and life safety education during 2013, including elementary school students at the Chilliwack Safety Village and during Fire Prevention Week.

Burn Awareness Week – February:

Burn prevention information was distributed to all public and private elementary schools in Chilliwack.

Fire Prevention Week – October:

Fire Prevention Week included the set up of fire prevention and safety information displays at Chilliwack Home Depot and Canadian Tire. The displays were staffed by career and paid-on-call firefighters. An open house was held at the Yarrow fire hall. Fire safety information was broadcast by local radio stations and fire safety articles were published in local newspapers, including the Greenheart News.



**Hall 1 (Downtown)
Paid-on-Call Firefighters**

**Hall 2 (Rosedale)
Paid-on-Call Firefighters**



**Hall 3 (Yarrow)
Paid-on-Call Firefighters**



BUDGET

Actual Operating Costs:	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
(millions)	5.33	5.19	4.80	4.77	4.37
Population estimate	82,850	82,842	82,000	81,647	80,838
Per Capita Cost	\$64.33	\$62.70	\$ 58.54	\$ 58.42	\$54.10

POC Wages:	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Hall #1	\$ 200,545	\$174,936	\$175,904	\$ 155,303	\$202,258
Hall #2	55,358	50,576	48,645	55,524	63,311
Hall #3	39,270	56,095	47,538	47,209	51,562
Hall #4	118,995	107,592	90,535	76,207	85,329
Hall #5	17,816	20,798	24,293	22,621	26,539
Hall #6	39,813	50,523	41,148	41,142	43,652
Total	\$ 471,797	\$460,520	\$ 428,063	\$ 398,006	\$472,651

POC Hours Worked:	20,719 hrs	20,129 hrs	18,950 hrs	18,168 hrs	21,631 hrs
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2013 Capital Expenditures:

Apparatus / Vehicle purchases:

- ◆ Water tender to Fire Hall 4
- ◆ Fire Chief's vehicle

Training Centre:

Work has started on the Department's Training Centre located next to the City's Sewer Treatment Plant on Wolfe Road



Tender 4 – Purchased in 2013



Hall 4 (Sardis)
Paid-on-Call Firefighters

Kelly Corbett Photography



Hall 5 (Ryder Lake)
Paid-on-Call Firefighters

Kelly Corbett Photography



Hall 6 (Greendale)
Paid-on-Call Firefighters

Kelly Corbett Photography

Fire Department Apparatus

	No.	Apparatus	Year	Pump Capacity
Hall 1	246	Engine 1	2010	1050 IGPM
	252	Engine 1-1	2001	1050 IGPM
	267	Engine 1-2	1991*	1050 IGPM
	280	Engine 1-3	2006	1050 IGPM
	255	Engine 1-4	1990*	1250 IGPM
	247	Ladder 1	2008	1750 IGPM
Hall 2	264	Engine 2-1	1994	1050 IGPM
	260	Tender 2	2003	2500 / gal
Hall 3	297	Engine 3-1	1998	1050 IGPM
	270	Engine 3-2	1995	1050 IGPM
Hall 4	238	Engine 4	2012	1050 IGPM
	298	Engine 4-1	2000	1050 IGPM
	289	Engine 4-2	1993*	1250 IGPM
	237	Tender 4	2012	2500 / gal.
Hall 5	290	Engine 5-1	2006	250 IGPM
	250	Engine 5-2	1997	840 IGPM
Hall 6	256	Engine 6-1	1995	1050 IGPM
	253	Tender 6	2001	2500 / gal

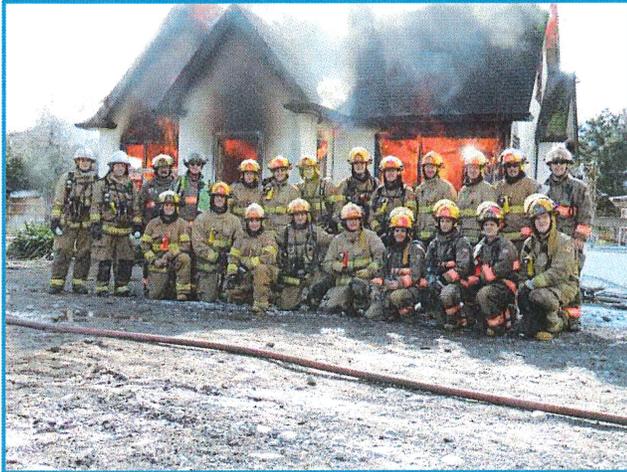
* Firefighting apparatus more than 20 years old.

NOTE: The average age of the 2013 Chilliwack fire apparatus fleet is 12 years.

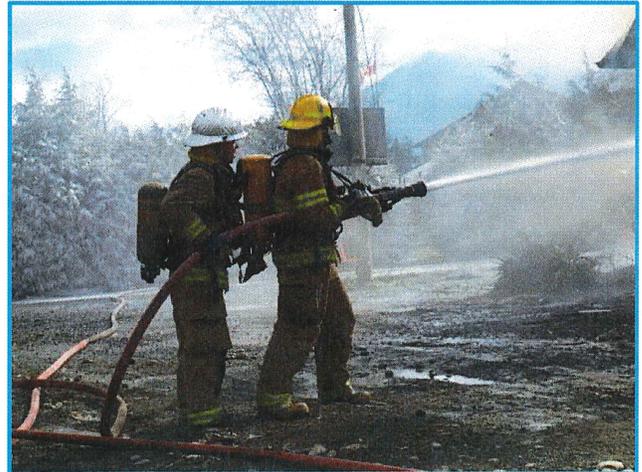
Specialized Apparatus:

251	Rescue 1	2009	Heavy Rescue
272	Air 1	1995*	Air Supply
296	Air 4	1997	Air Supply
239	Rehab 6	2012	Rehabilitation
248	Utility 6	2007	Utility pickup

Antique Fire Vehicle:	281	Ford	1940	Rosedale Ceremonial Vehicle
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New Recruits - Live Fire Training



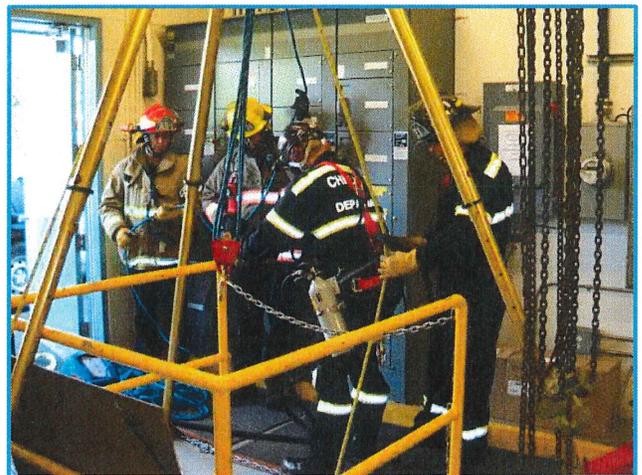
POC Recruit Graduation



**Hall 4 Monday Night Practice,
First Responder Skills**



**Construction of Fire Department
Training Centre**



Confined Space Training

Training

The Chilliwack Fire Department continued to provide quality training in 2013 to assist our career and Paid-On-Call (POC) firefighters and fire officers in maintaining and developing the necessary skills to serve our community.

The following list represents some of the training highlights for 2013, over and above the weekly Monday night POC training sessions:

- Recruit Training Program for 17 new POC firefighters, completed in March 2013;
- Pre-Hospital Care training including CPR, AED, and First Responder classes;
- Pumps and pumping program introduced pump coaches at the POC level;
- Development of a City of Chilliwack Fire Training Centre on Wolfe Road;
- Health and Safety night to focus on regulatory firefighter health tests including Fit Testing, hearing tests, turn-out gear safety, and cleaning of Self-Contained-Breathing-Apparatus (SCBA);
- Training for Hall 6 POC members on the new Rehabilitation truck;
- Spectra Energy presentation;
- Rural water supply training for Halls 2 and 6 POC members in preparation for delivery of a new water tender truck and a three day Tender Operations Course by the Justice Institute for 8 POC firefighters;
- Vehicle Rescue training for career firefighters;
- Confined space training exercise with City of Chilliwack Public Works staff;
- Five day Emergency Vehicle Operations course with other local departments;
- Rapid Intervention Team (Rescue Team) training at the old Rosedale Elementary School;
- Emergency Scene Traffic Control training;
- “Social Media in the Fire Service” presentations;
- Minute Taking Standards course for Administration staff



Chilliwack Fire Department Group Photo
Annual Meeting

Charitable Society Calendar Photos

(www.kellycorbettphotography.com)



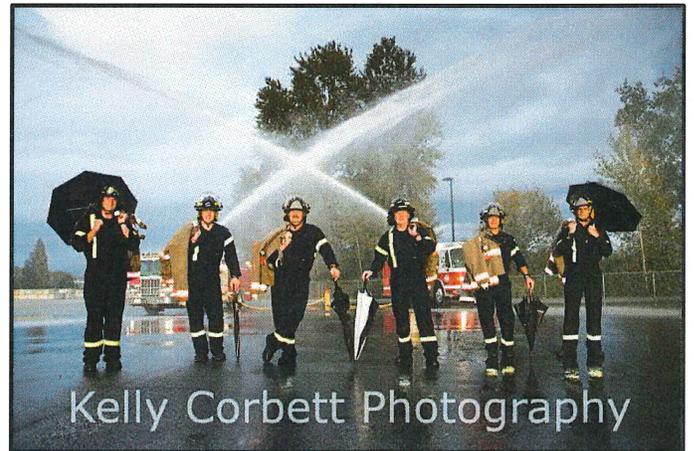
Career Platoon 'A'



Career Platoon 'B'



Career Platoon 'C'



Career Platoon 'D'

Emergency Preparedness

Chilliwack Emergency Program:

2013 began with dealing with slope instability near the Majuba Hill Reservoir in Yarrow. Periodic monitoring showed slope movement in the area and as a safety measure the reservoir was emptied which substantially reduced the risk to properties below.

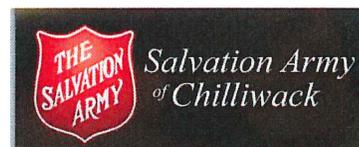
The 2013 Fraser River Freshet resulted in minor overland flooding in the Carey Point area outside the diking system. Residents were advised of the possibility of flooding although little guidance was needed as the water levels did not reach a critical height.

A rock fall was reported in Promontory Estates which resulted in Emergency Program and engineering personnel responding. A geotech report was facilitated by the City however, as the area involved was on private lands the solution was left with the property owners.

A functional exercise was conducted to test the readiness and skills of our Emergency Operation Centre personnel. Based on the outcome of the exercise an evacuation training program was offered to the EOC personnel later in the year.

The City of Chilliwack was recognized as a community partner with Emergency Management BC for its role during the 2012 freshet. The team was chosen as a finalist at the 2013 Premiers Award.

Personal preparedness presentations were delivered to a variety of participants ranging from neighbourhood organizations, community service organizations, service clubs, city employees, and members of the general public.





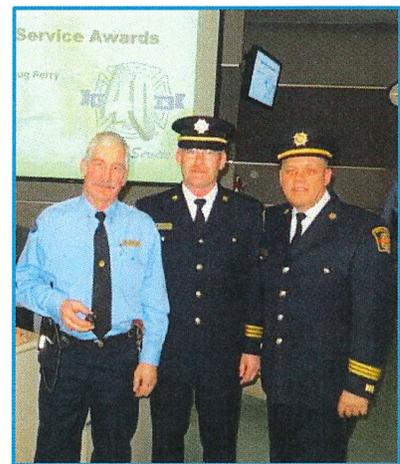
Presentation to "Ride to Live"
Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society



Presentation of Scholarship
Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society



Fire Department participation in "Relay for Life"
Canadian Cancer Society



POC Firefighter Doug Perry
Presentation for 40 Years of Service



Salvation Army Food Drive



Chilliwack Fire and Emergency Response Facts

Did you know that in Chilliwack during 2013:

- ▽ 73 (86%) of the 85 structure fires occurred in residential buildings;
- ▽ 57 (78%) of the 73 residential fires occurred in single family homes;
- ▽ Leading causes of fires during the year were:
 - Smoking materials
 - Intentionally set (arson)
 - Cooking
 - Electrical related
- ▽ \$3.8 million (88%) of the total \$4.3 million dollar loss occurred from structure fire losses;
- ▽ All 25 fire related injuries occurred at residential fires;
- ▽ There were 64 dollar loss vehicle fires;
- ▽ There were 32 dumpster/recycling bin fires;
- ▽ There were 199 illegal burning complaint calls;
- ▽ Residential and commercial fire alarm system activations accounted for 503 (23%) total calls for service.



