

Fire Department



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

First Quarter Report, 2017



**CITY OF
CHILLIWACK**

Administration - Personnel



Retired Fire Chief Tom Beer: The department mourns the passing away of retired Fire Chief Tom Beer. Tom began his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter in 1956, and was hired as the City of Chilliwack's first full time Fire Chief in 1971. Chief Beer proudly served the City of Chilliwack for 37 years until his retirement in 1993.

Retired Fire Chief Tom Beer passed away on January 30, 2017.

Career Staff:

New appointment:



Erica Weight
Firefighter
March 2017

Strategic Update & Service Recognition Annual Meeting, March 2017



Community Activities

The Fire Department remains actively involved in many community events and fundraisers, and continued their participation with The Chilliwack Bowls of Hope Society during this quarter. The Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society continued to receive sales dollars from their annual calendar sales in this quarter. The Charitable Society also received donations in memory of past Fire Chief Tom Beer. The Chilliwack Fire Department Honour Guard participated in the funeral service for retired Fire Chief Tom Beer.

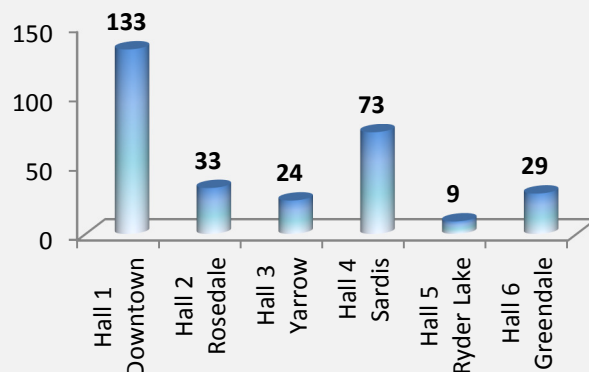
Operations – Incident Responses

Incident Responses

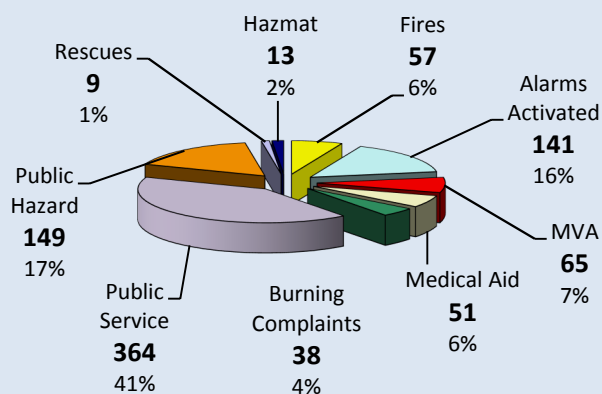
The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 887 calls for service in the first quarter. This is an increase of 251 calls compared to this time in 2016, due in large part to the ice storm event of February 9, where the department was called to 150 incidents in 24 hours. Incidents for the quarter included 57 fires, 65 motor vehicle incidents, 51 emergency medical aid calls, and 38 burning complaints. Thus far in 2017, the three leading calls for service were public service, public hazard, and alarms activated incidents. These three incident response types accounted for 654 or 74% of the total calls responded to in the first quarter.

2017 Paid-on Call Responses by Hall

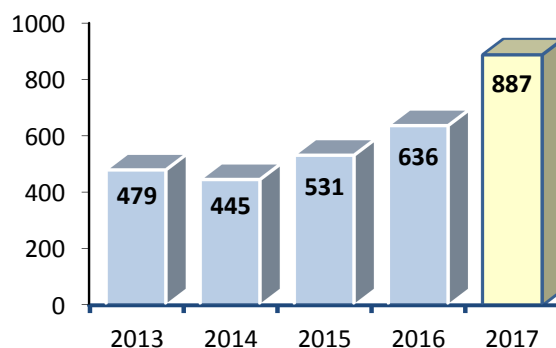
* Note: Due to the volume of calls on Feb. 9 (ice storm), actual POC hall attendance has not been recorded.



2017 Incident Responses - Year to Date



Incident Responses January - March



Structure Fire - Goldspring Place, February 2017



Structure Fire - McCaffrey Blvd, March 2017



Operations - Incident Responses

	Monthly Summary			Totals – 1 st Qtr.
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
FIRES	14	22	21	57
Structures	6	9	12	
Vehicle	2	5	3	
Outdoor / Other	6	8	6	
ALARMS ACTIVATED	67	27	47	141
Single family residential	9	7	12	
Multi-family residential	24	10	14	
Non-residential	34	10	21	
MVA (NO FIRE)	21	22	22	65
Auto Extrication	5	3	2	
Provide Medical Care	1	4	5	
Cancelled/Fire not required	15	15	15	
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID	14	20	17	51
BURNING COMPLAINTS	9	11	18	38
Illegal	9	10	14	
Legal	0	1	4	
PUBLIC SERVICE	133	137	94	364
Investigate safety complaints and hazards	24	53	19	
Assist other agencies (BCAS, RCMP etc.)	91	78	64	
Home smoke alarm/Carbon monoxide alarm	18	6	11	
Other	0	0	0	
PUBLIC HAZARD	8	138	3	149
Electrical line down	8	137	3	
Grow Operation	0	0	0	
Structure collapse	0	1	0	
Bomb threat/explosion	0	0	0	
Other	0	0	0	
RESCUES	6	1	2	9
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	2	4	7	13
MUTUAL AID	0	0	0	0
SERVICE AGREEMENTS	0	0	0	0
Totals	274	382	231	887

Previous Years:

2016
2015
2014
2013
2012

1 st Qtr
636
531
445
479
552

Annual Totals
2,807
2,687
2,126
2,227
2,260

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 36 fire and life safety sessions were delivered to the community thus far in 2017. In 2017 to date, 934 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.

2017 Public Education Activities	# of Events	Persons Educated
Juvenile Fire Setter Interviews	3	6
Fire Safety Classes	9	104
Fire Extinguisher Training	5	82
Fire Hall Tours	11	281
Chilliwack Safety Village	0	0
Emergency Preparedness Training	7	161
Other Public Education Sessions	1	300
Totals	36	934

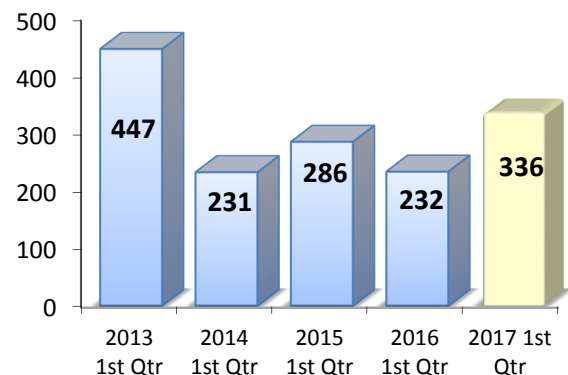
Code Enforcement

The department completed 336 fire and life safety inspections in this quarter including health and safety inspections with the Bylaw Department, RCMP, and BC Safety Authority.

Engineering

The department completed 60 plan 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 \$895,501. Two civilians and two firefighters suffered fire related injuries during this quarter. A total of 24 dollar loss structure fires occurred this quarter with 21 (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.

Fire Investigation, February 2017



Training

The Fire Department continually strives to improve the services and programs it provides to our firefighters and the citizens of our community. The year began with the continuation of the busy winter session.

Recruit Training Program

- Delivered 300 plus hour training program to meet the Officer of the Fire Commissioner provincial training requirements for Interior Firefighting Level of Service. The program culminated with a live fire training exercise using Langley Township's Training Center. This enabled our department to deliver realistic training scenarios for our 12 new Paid-on-Call (POC) firefighters.
- The success of the Recruit Training Program would not be possible without the assistance of our POC and career members.

Technical Training

- ❖ **Pre-Hospital Care** is a large component of our training curriculum and includes regularly scheduled CPR, AED, and FR 3 classes that are taught by in-house instructors, as all firefighters are certified in this program through the Ministry of Health.
- ❖ **Driver Training** - one of our greatest risks is driving in the emergency mode to an incident. Ten firefighters began their driver training, a 16 hour program designed to improve driver efficiency, accuracy, and safety.
- ❖ **Technical Rope Rescue** - Three firefighters completed Confined Space Rescue Training and Low to Steep Slope Rescue Training in accordance with NFPA 1006.
- ❖ **Vehicle Extrication** - Nine firefighters completed vehicle extrication training in accordance with NFPA 1006.

Education:

Officer and Leadership Development

- ✓ Three Acting Lieutenants were enrolled in the Fire Officer 1 program with the Justice Institute of B.C., a program that meets NFPA 1021 Standards for a Company Officer.
- ✓ Eleven firefighters participated in a 65 hour in-house program to develop team leaders that will lead crews at emergency incidents.
- ✓ Career staff received Accident Investigation Training from the City's Health and Safety Manager.

POC Recruit Training Program, 2016-2017 Class



Emergency Preparedness

By request, personal and neighbourhood emergency preparedness presentations were delivered at 7 events for a total of 160 participants. The presentations and follow-up training is designed to help community members to better prepare for an emergency, and build their own ability to respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster.

The Chilliwack Emergency Planning committee now meets every two months. The last two meetings saw discussion regarding: upcoming training events, work on the Terms of Reference, as well as a tabletop review of a gas pipeline explosion.

The Emergency Communications group met weekly and incorporated radio communications training into each meeting. The group has completed their mobile command trailer and continues to deploy it at community events. The trailer was designed to respond to large emergencies or disasters, and support field operations with back up communications technology.

The Emergency Social Services (ESS) team met monthly to train and to discuss past emergency incidents where they provided shelter, food, and clothing to residents forced to evacuate their homes due to fires. In this quarter the ESS team was called out 4 times, and assisted a total of 14 residents.

The Emergency Program Coordinator began planning for a series of Emergency Operations Centre table top and functional exercises. The first of 2017 EOC exercises was held in February and focused on long-term recovery planning. Work began on developing the next exercise scheduled for May 22. The purpose of these exercises is to train and test the readiness of City of Chilliwack staff members to coordinate the response and recovery to large scale emergencies or disasters in support of emergency responders in the field. The exercise scenarios mimic actual effects of disasters, and allow the City of Chilliwack Emergency Program members a chance to experience those effects before an actual incident.

The Emergency Operation Centre activated in response to increased call volume during the February Ice Storm event. All emergency service personnel as well as Operations staff were tasked to a myriad of public service calls for the duration of the storm. In March, emergency program staff responded to a landslide resulting in a temporary evacuation of three homes, with one set of residents having to stay away from the area overnight, until a technical assessment of the slide area could be completed.

Ice Storm Event, February 2017

