



The Blue Mountains Fire Department 2023 Annual Report

The Vision of The Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department is:

To provide the citizens of The Blue Mountains with pro-active, effective and efficient delivery of fire, rescue, public education and fire prevention services through a unified, forward-thinking organization with good morale and with the highest standards of safety, fairness and professionalism for personnel.



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Highlights

In terms of emergency call volume, calls continue to increase each year. In 2023 there was an increase of 7.2% over 2022, and this percentage increase is higher by 1.8% from 2021.

- 315 calls for service in 2021
- 332 calls for service in 2022
- 356 calls for service in 2023
- The total of fire loss for the Town was at total of \$7,404,100 between 13 fire events.

The Fire Department administration team changed through 2023 with the Interim Deputy Chief position was filled on a permanent basis in the end of the 2nd quarter.

An RFP for replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) was completed and the new SCBA's went into service at the end of quarter 4 of 2023. Council also approval the single source report for firefighter bunker gear allowing the fire department to replace gear that was expiring. By using the same manufacturer this affords the department an opportunity to optimize our usage of the gear by mixing the sizes of coats and pants if needed while gear is within its service life.

Staff has received information on the anticipated delivery date of the replacement aerial apparatus for Firehall 2 in Craigleith for the end of quarter 3. This is a delay from our anticipated delivery date due to the industry seeing supply chain issues across many manufacturers. Knowing this, the Fire Department will be taking a proactive approach and releasing an RFP in 2024 for the replacement of the 2006 rescue/pumper out of Firehall 1 in Thornbury. Staff are also considering including the 2010 rescue/pumper out of Firehall 2 in Craigleith as part of this RFP, as there may be scale of purchase savings with the benefit of having same apparatus within the fleet.

Fire Prevention inspections for commercial occupancies are ongoing. Staff are working with commercial building owners to ensure they are ready for their annual fire and life safety inspection(s). Short Term Accommodation inspections for license renewals were done by Inspectors with no restrictions in 2023.

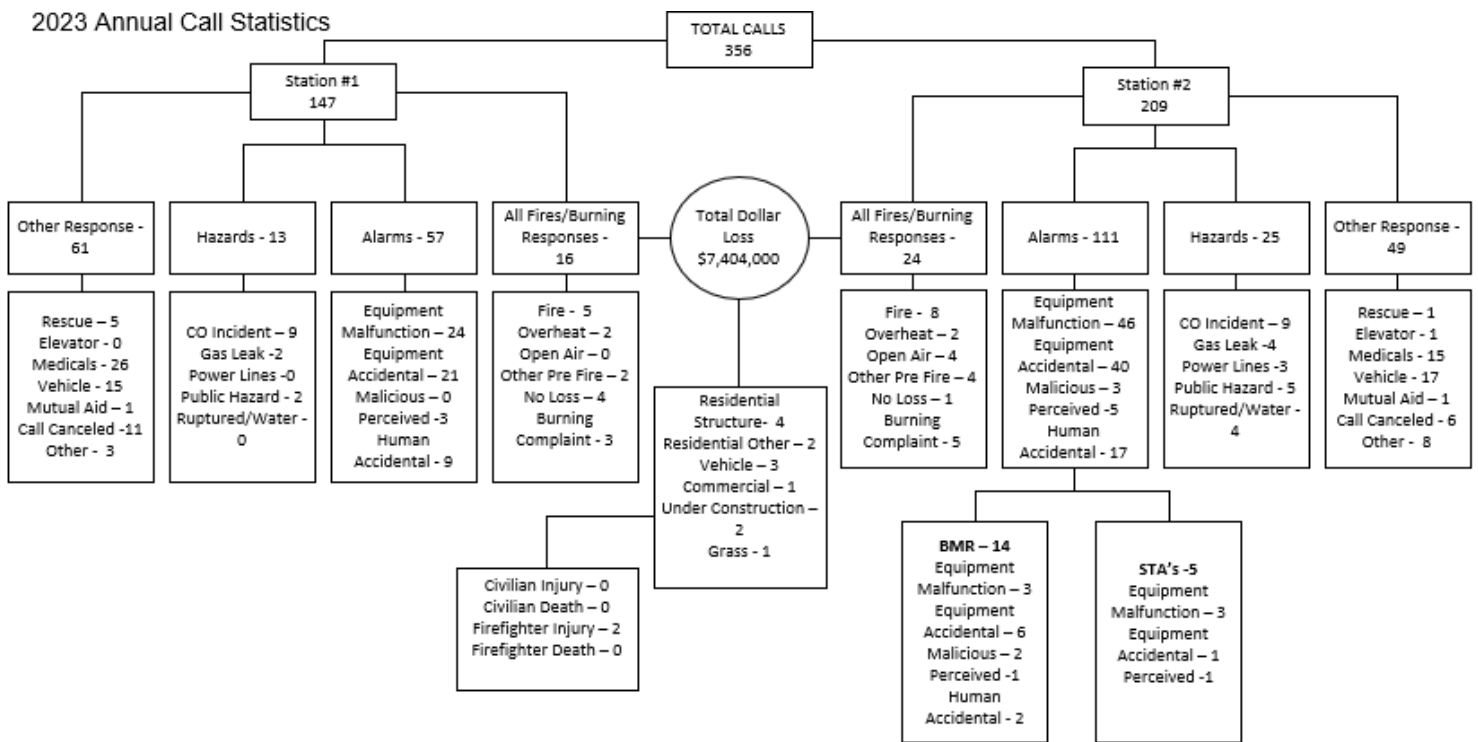
Training, the 2023 recruit class and the probationary firefighters continued with skills evaluations resulting with these firefighters responding to emergency callouts. As Council is aware, the Province announced that by 2026 all firefighters within Ontario are required to be certified. A framework was released to help Municipalities work towards this goal, and our Training Officer has been auditing individual training records and working with our PPC firefighters to ensure we are compliant by the 2026 deadline.

The Emergency Management program undertook normal regulatory requirements for 2023. The town fulfilled the fifteen (15) requirements of Regulation 380/04 (O Reg 380/04) has received

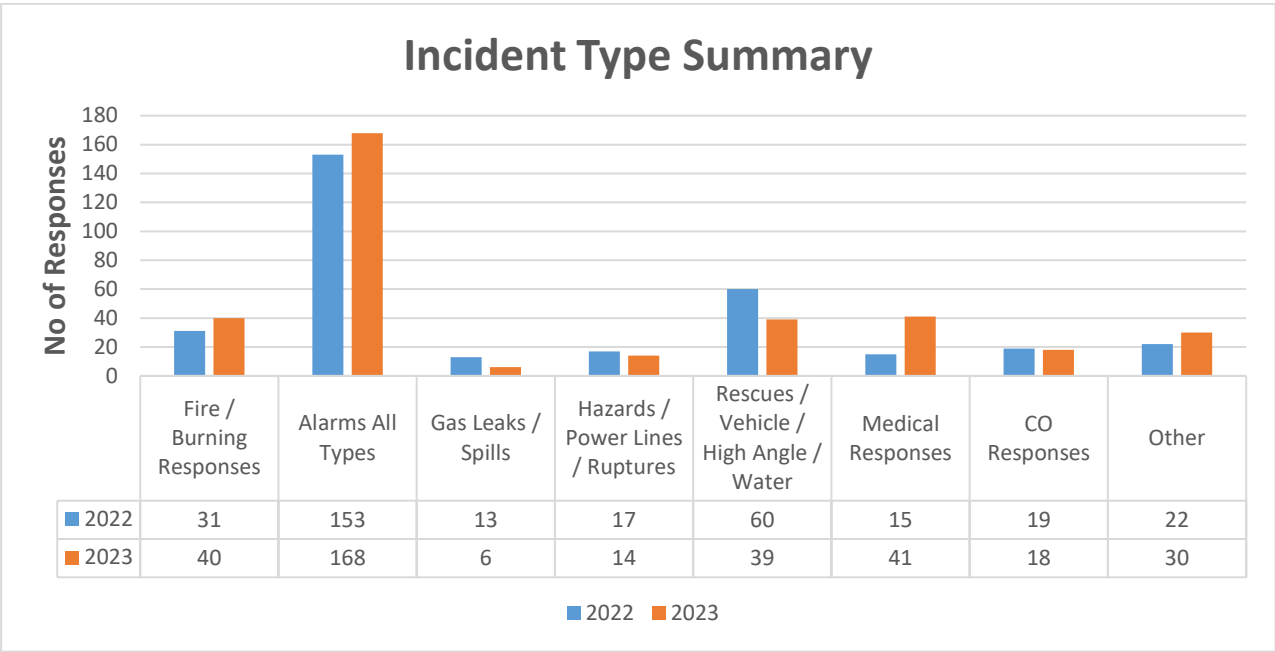
correspondent stating this. The Town Municipal Emergency Control Group participated in a joint emergency exercise that included the County of Grey and other surrounding municipalities.

The balance of this report contains detailed statistics and program details for 2023.

Call Statistics



Response Type Comparison Chart

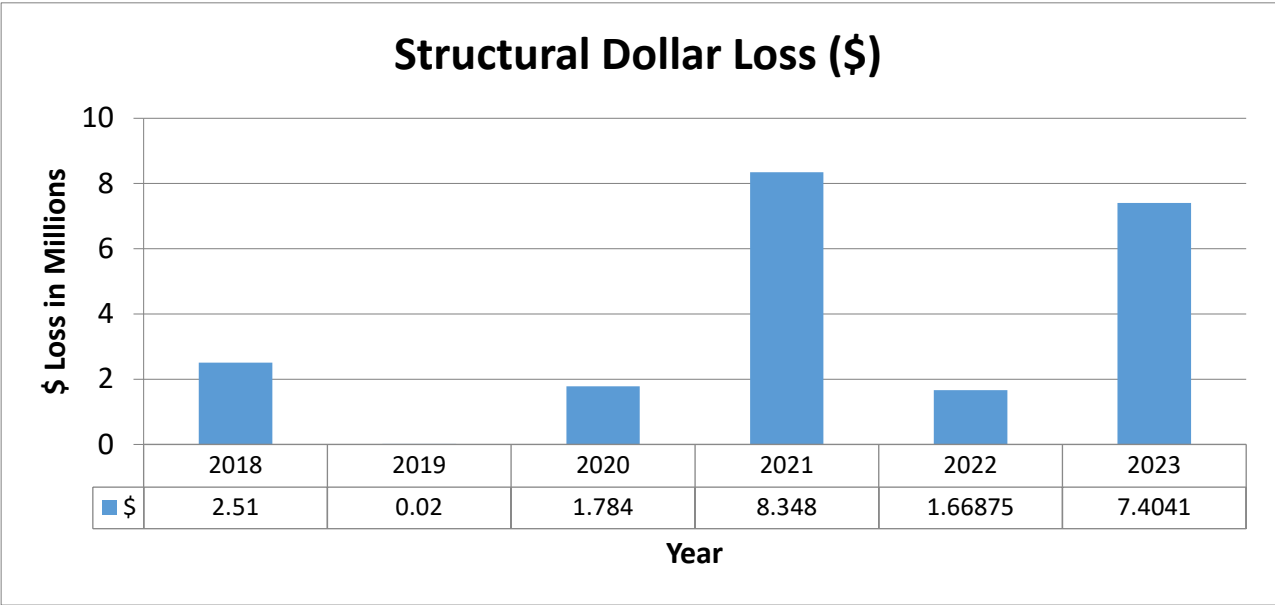


There was an increase of responses to all fires in 2023. There is an increase in the alarms all types, medical responses and other categories of incidents and a decrease in the gas leaks/spills, hazards/power lines/ruptures and rescues/vehicle/high angle/water type/category. The CO responses category had a decrease of 1 call. The four (4) categories that had an increase represented the overall increase in call volume.

There were 62 more Station 2 coverage area calls compared to Station 1.

Dollar Loss Comparison Chart

The following chart demonstrates quarterly dollar loss comparisons in million dollars.



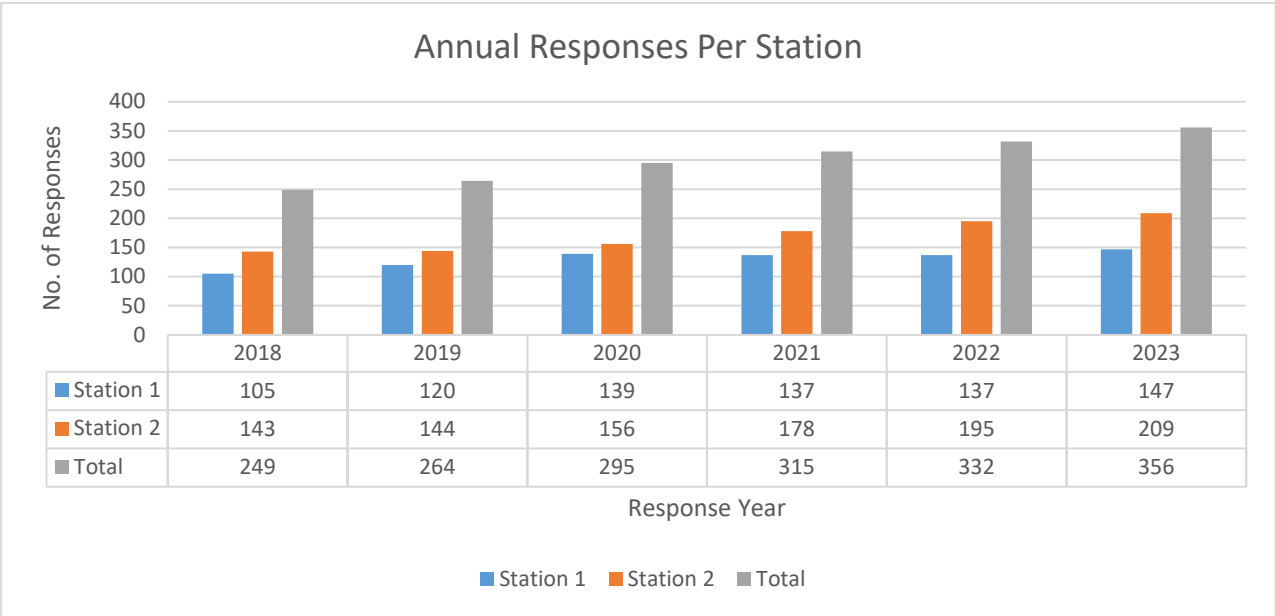
A total of \$7,404,100 in dollar loss was reported in 2023 with 13 fire events.

Structure Type	Loss Type	Location/Possible Cause	Dollar Loss
Vehicle	Hybrid SUV	Arrowhead road/ Arson	\$50,000
Residential house	Structure Fire	Petun Drive/ Electrical heating device	\$1,750,000
Residential house	Structure Fire	Craigleith Road/ extension cord	\$850,000
Vehicle	Jeep	Bruce St N/ fuel leak engine compartment	\$30,000
Residential shed	Structure Fire	Russell Court/ undetermined	\$17,000
Grass fire		Arthur St W/ human caused	\$0
Vehicle with Camping trailer	Pick up truck	4 th Line/ mechanical overhear	\$50,100

Structure Type	Loss Type	Location/Possible Cause	Dollar Loss
Commercial	Roof decking	Bruce St S/ Contractor	\$7,000
Residential rear deck	Deck/ siding/patio furniture	Delphi Lane/ spontaneous combustion	\$15,000
Residential	Complete structure	Scandia Lane/ wood heating appliance	\$500,000
Residential under construction	Complete structure	Crosswinds/ under investigation	\$2,010,000
Residential under construction	Partial structure	Crosswinds/ under investigation	\$2,025,000
Residential	Detached garage/ with vehicle/ tools	Brophy's Lane/ wood heating appliance	\$100,000

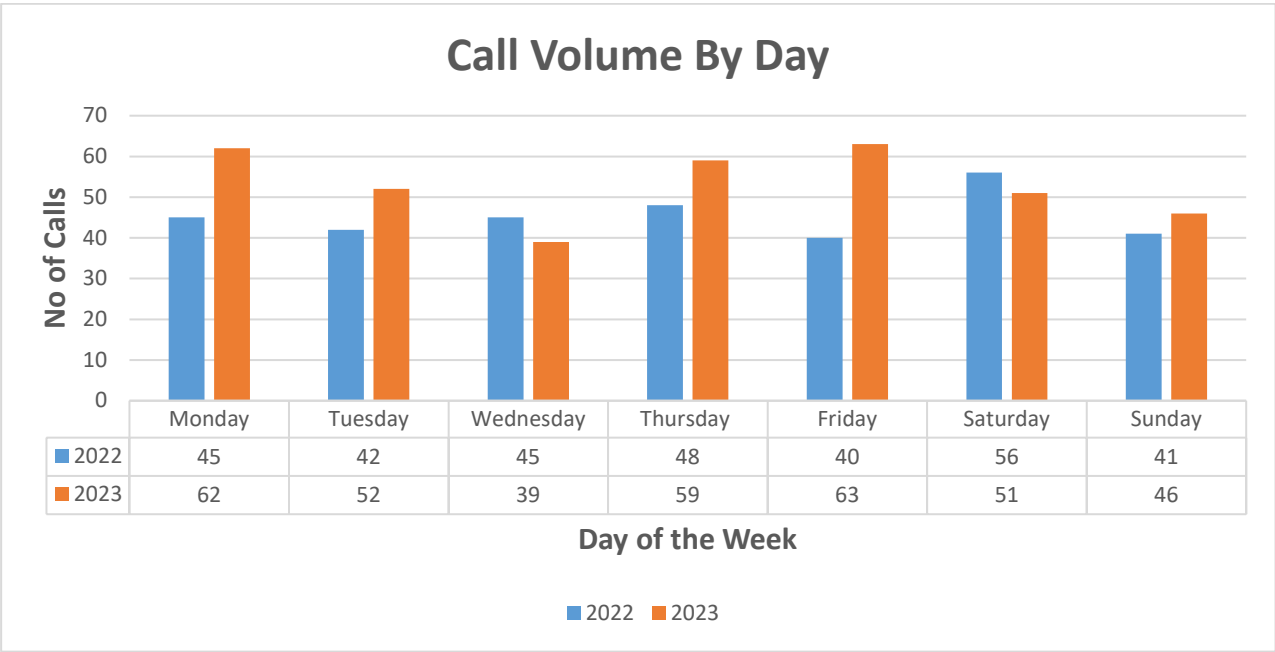
Response Volume Comparison Chart

The following chart demonstrates total annual responses.

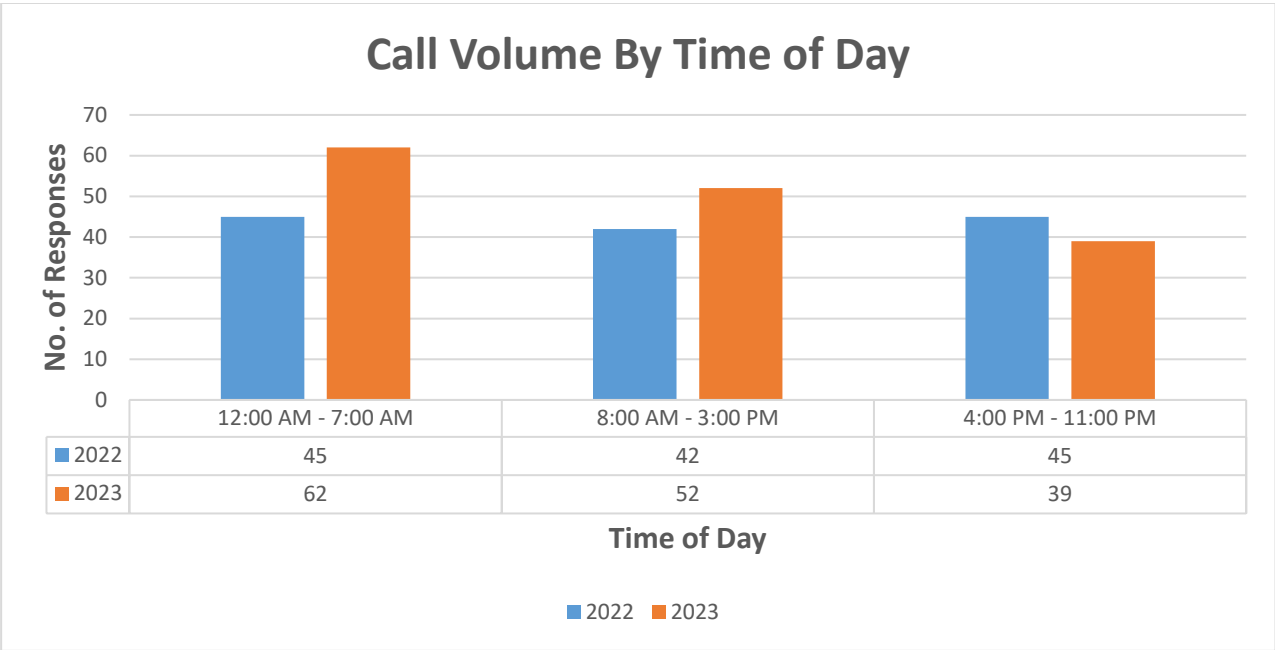


There was an increase of 10 calls in the station 1 coverage area and an increase of 14 calls in the station 2 coverage area.

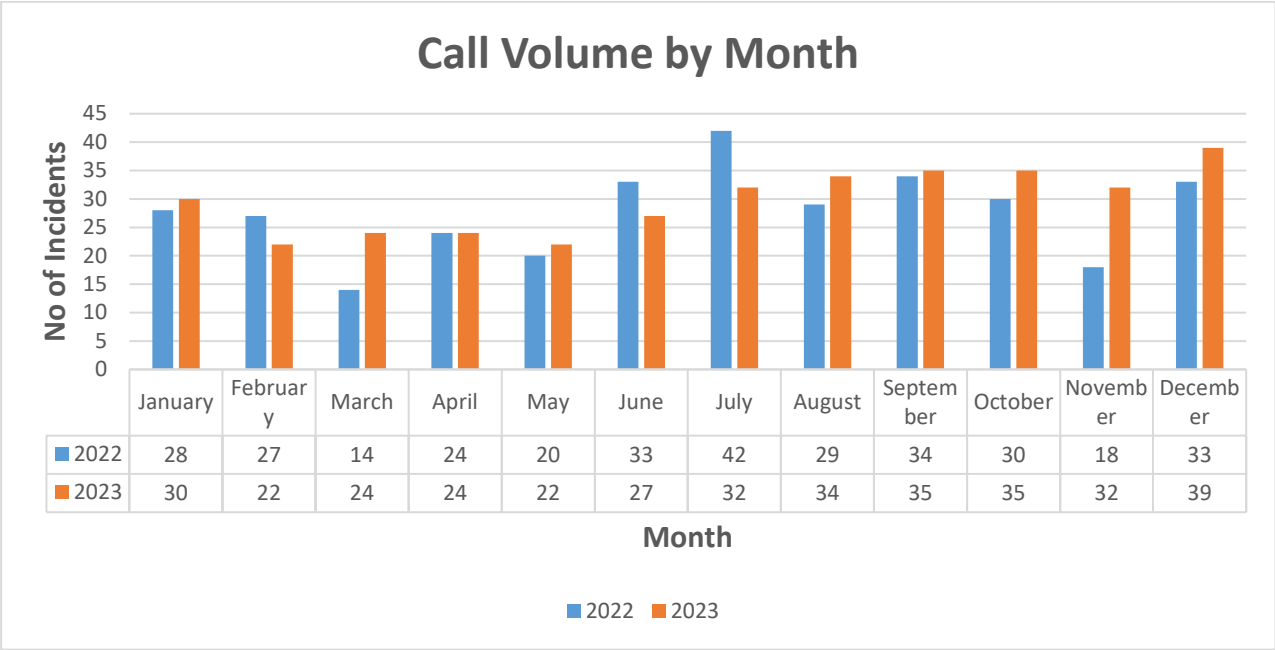
Call Volume by Day



Call Volume by Time



Call Volume by Month



Cost Recovery/Revenue Received

The following chart demonstrates cost recovery invoiced and revenue received in 2023.

Type	Amount (\$)
Commercial Inspections	\$2,480
STA Inspections	\$35,105
False Alarm Letters	\$16,170
Specialized Rescue	\$13,476.36
MTO Recovery	\$7,384.64
Fire Marque	\$7,000
Other Cost Recovery Fire Calls (Fire Marque from assisting Meaford Fire at auto repair facility)	\$9,921.21
Other Miscellaneous (*Fireworks, Request for property search, Gov Deals etc.)	\$7,357.40
Grand Total	\$98,894.61

Fire Prevention

2023 Inspections

Inspection Type	Number Completed
Request	0
Complaint	0
Institutional	2
Re – Inspections total including commercial and STA’s	309
Commercial	117
Commercial Residential	98
Industrial	7
Assembly	9
Residential	47
Tents	0
Display Fireworks	8
Public Amusement Area Fireworks	7
Outdoor Public Amusement Area Approved	0
Electrical Orders Issued	0
Bunk house Inspections	41
Short Term Accommodations	196
Total Inspections	841

Fire Inspection Average Timelines

Short Term Accommodations (STA) Time Considerations

Process	Time (Hours)
Fire Safety Plans review	1
Reviewing Floor plans and appliance paperwork	0.5
Emails and contact with owner or agent	1
Initial inspection	1
Follow up documentation (Cityview/Photo Uploads)	1
Re-inspection (s)	0.5
Total Time per STA (Average)	*5.0

Commercial Occupancy Inspection Time Considerations

Process	Time (Hours)
Commercial Site research including previous inspections and violations if applicable	1
Emails and contact with owner or agent	0.5
Initial inspection	1
Documentation of Findings and Report Writing	1
Service papers if required	0.5
Re-inspection (s)	0.5
Documentation filing and completion	1
Total Time per small Occupancy (Average)	*5.5

* **Average hours** based on small commercial occupancy and larger occupancies process will require more time.

Fire and Life Safety Education

Focus Group	Topic	Number of Persons
Blue Mountains Kids Camp	Extinguisher Training House	25
Fire Hall Pizza 20th	Extinguisher Training House	100
Williams Outdoors	Extinguisher Training	5
Grade 1	Station Tour	66
Farmers Market	Public Education	148
Garden Holistics	Extinguisher Training	20
TBM Summer Staff	Extinguisher Training	10
Turkey Trott	General Prevention	66
Prevention @ Hardware	Smoke Alarms	15
Open House	Extinguishers Smoke /CO	300
Clarksburg Kids	Fire Safety	100
Salmon Ladder	Extinguishers	200
Early On Daycare	Fire Safety	15
	Total Number of Persons	989

Fire Safety Plans

Total Plans Submitted for Review	Buildings Inspected as Part of Review	Plans Approved
192	192	192

* Rejected plans are not tabulated as STA fire safety plans have several back and forth attempts before they are approved. Still labour intensive for inspectors, looking at simplifying the fire safety plan template further.

Smoke Alarm Program

Dwellings Inspected	Deficiencies Identified
47	Yes/Corrected 46 new devices installed

Fire Code Enforcement

Smoke Alarm Tickets Issued – Part 1	Smoke Alarm Infractions Issued – Part 3	Part 3 – Fire Code Violations Registered	Results
0	2	0	One Court case pushed into April 2024

- Please note we did not issue smoke alarm or code related court prosecutions. This section is just for enforcement action at Provincial court.

Inspection Orders

Inspection Type	Number of Orders
Bunkhouse	0
Condominium Corporations	0
Boarding Rooming Lodging	1
Commercial	80
Industrial	5
Assembly	12
Residential	1

Prevention Highlights

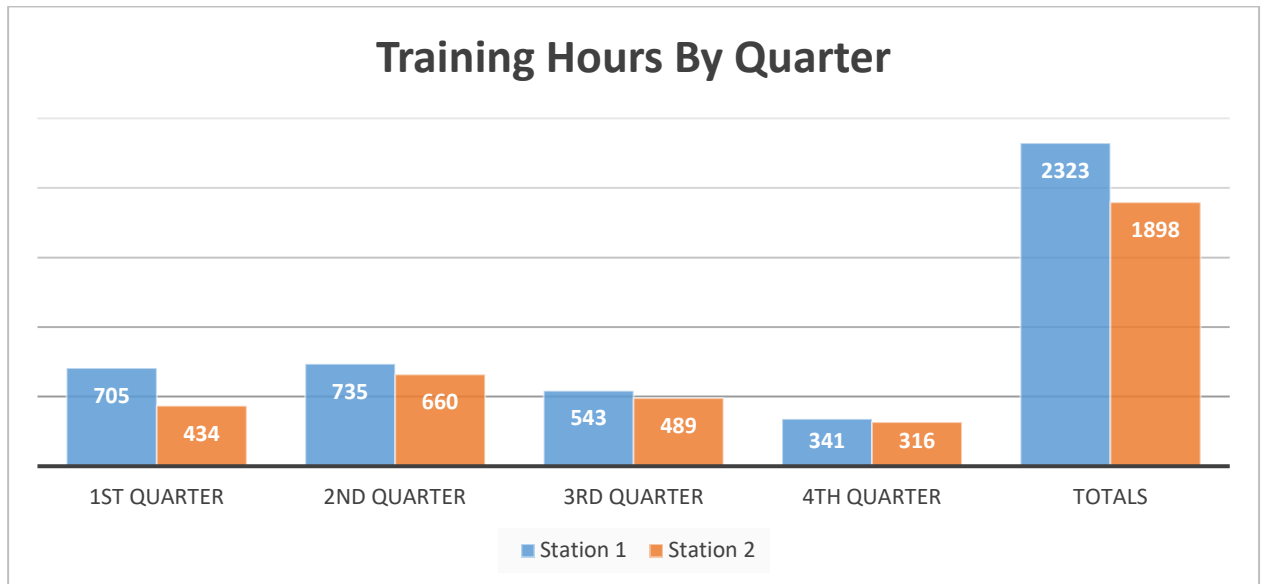
- 4 real estate file searches were completed.
- Prevention is working on contacting commercial building owners to ensure they forward their annual fire and life safety reports to TBM prevention for review.
- Email correspondence with license applications have improved with additional templates and Fire Department how to video on the website.
- New Prevention staff now conducting fire safety plans review and on-site inspections for life safety component of licensing program.
- New business card fireprevention@thebluemountains.ca is a success at the Home Hardware store in Thornbury, where hardware staff encourage consumers to contact us and take business cards for email contact.

Training

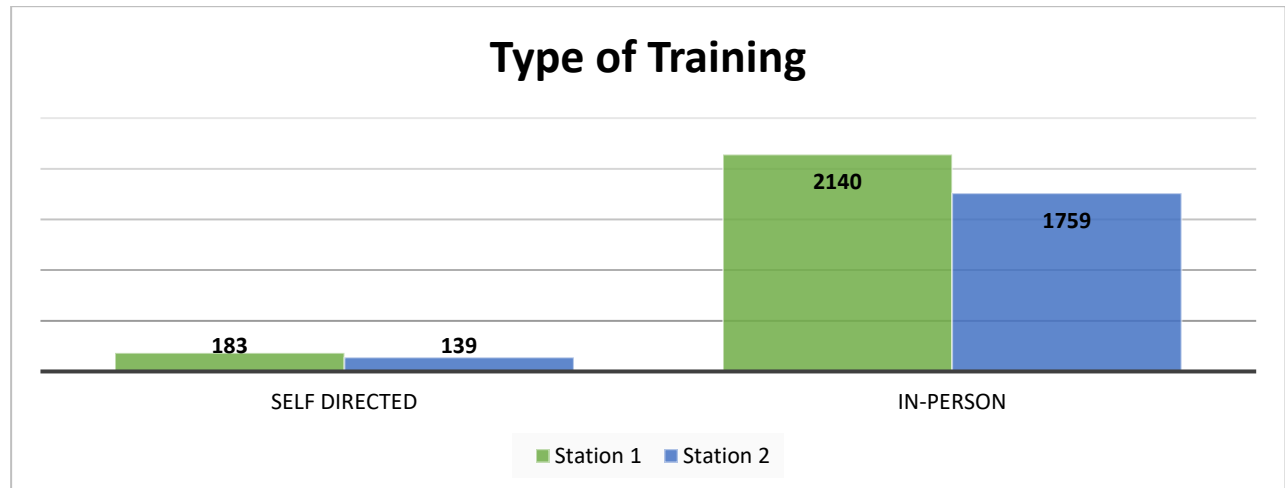
We are currently working through the new NPFA 1001-2019 Firefighter Standard released in 2022. 2023 saw the purchase of new SCBA's for the department and we spent December getting training completed on the new packs to get them in service as quickly as possible.

As anticipated 2023 saw a rise in training courses, as staff work towards obtaining the requirements for mandatory certification. There has been keen interest from our Firefighter's to attend the additional courses. We are tracking our compliancy, and we are well on our way to having all Firefighter's Certified as required by 2026. Certification is a significant commitment required by our PPC Firefighter's, and I am happy to report that they have accepted this challenge with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Fire Station	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	Totals
Station # 1	705	735	543	341	2323
Station #2	434	660	489	316	1898
				Annual Total 2023	4221



General Training - Annual



In Person Physical Training Topics

- First-Aid Refreshers
 - CPR/AED
 - First Aid Skills Scenarios
- Ropes and Knots
- Peel Street Training House
 - General Fireground Skills Practice
 - Search and Rescue
 - Ladders
 - Hoses and Appliances
 - Rural Water Shuttle
- NFPA 1001-2019 Firefighter I
 - Chapter 01 Firefighter Safety
 - Chapter 02 Communications
 - Chapter 08 Ladders
 - Chapter 13 Hose Operations and Hose Streams
- NFPA 1001-2019 Firefighter II
 - Chapter 17 Technical Rescue Support and Vehicle Extrication Operations
- Fire Hose Testing on Apparatus
- Rural Water Operations Practice
- Apparatus/SCBA Monthly Checks

Online Self-Directed Learning Topics

- NFPA 1001-2019 Firefighter I
 - Chapter 01 Introduction to the Fire Service
 - Chapter 02 Communications

- Chapter 05 Personal Protective Equipment
- Chapter 06 Extinguishers
- Chapter 07 Ropes and Knots
- Chapter 08 Ladders
- Chapter 12 Fire Hose
- Chapter 13 Hose and Hose Streams
- Chapter 23 First-Aid Provider

Recruit Firefighter Training

- The 2023 Recruit modified recruit class finished up in June with twelve (12) successful candidates moving on to their probationary position within their respective stations.
- The 2024 PPC Firefighters hire has been finalized and eight (8) candidates will start testing and training in early 2024.

Ontario Fire College / RTC Courses

- The Ontario Fire College and the Regional Training Centers (RTC) are offering more of the needed basic certification courses. Scheduling still poses some hurdles, such as course proximity to the Blue Mountains, number of firefighters allowed per course, and individual ability of our PPC's to take vacation during the offered course dates. The college has increased its ability to offer blended and online versions of some courses which is a benefit to our staff as they can do remote learning up front and then attend weekend in class and practical components to complete the course. These factors can still have some impact on our budget, for example, if a student can take a course offered through the Ontario Fire College and not through a regional training center then the cost is only 65.00 per student, however the availability of an RTC may be more beneficial to our staff which carries increased costs for travel and course fees. Even with these small factors we have been able to successfully manage our training budget while completing our targets.

Grey County Training Association Courses

- We have been using the Grey County Regional Training center for quite a few courses as this offers our PPC Firefighters a close to home advantage.
- The GCRTC is offering more courses again this year than what was available last year, and we already have our PPC Firefighters enrolled in some of these offerings.
- Currently the NFPA Firefighter I is available from the Grey County RTC. The NFPA Firefighter II is not available at the GCRTC due to a lack of live fire facilities. We are hopeful this will change in the future.

Training Highlights

- With the Re-introduction of a formal Tiered Medical Response, we have been working at getting all Firefighter's back up to the level of First Responder for Medical intervention.
- As we ask more of our PPC Firefighter's due to the certification requirements and increase in call volumes and other training, we are working also on ensuring staff are aware to maintain a healthy work / life balance. This is always a consideration when we are offering and scheduling courses for our firefighters.
- In 2023 we had an 87% average for training attendance from our PPC firefighters. This is only for our Monday night training and does not include the increased course time that many of them have taken on as well. Our PPC Firefighters are to be commended for their continued excellence and dedication to their training and education.

Emergency Management

We have completed the Annual Community “Essential” Level Program. This consists of 15 elements to be completed and sent into Emergency Management Ontario. These items are to fulfill compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and its associated Regulation 380/04.

The following are the 15 elements which are required to be completed annually:

1. Community Emergency Management Coordinator designated
2. Community Emergency Management Coordinator training completed
3. Community Emergency Management Program Committee established
4. Emergency Management Program Bylaw current
5. Hazard identification and risk assessment current
6. Emergency Response Plan reviewed and submitted to Emergency Management Ontario
7. Emergency Response Plan Bylaw current
8. Designated Emergency Operations Center
9. Emergency Operations Center communications equipment
10. Critical Infrastructure Inventory current
11. Required annual training for Community Control Group – exempt for 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic
12. Required annual emergency management exercise for Community Control Group – exempt for 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic
13. Designated Emergency Information Officer available
14. Public Education / Awareness Program delivered to residents digitally
15. Review elements and submitted to Emergency Management Ontario

2023 Significant Events

- Community Emergency Management Group required training and courses completed
- Updating of Critical Infrastructure and review with the County
- Evaluation of the Hazardous Identification & Risk Assessment (HIRA) for 2023
- Program Committee updated and reviewed Emergency Response Plan for 2023 as per Emergency Management Ontario
- Annual training of Municipal Emergency Control Group and tabletop emergency exercise completed
- Provided information to the public with 72-hour preparedness message digitally
- Provided information on the provincial roll out of the alert ready notification tests.
- Provided information to the public on the Winter Readiness Campaign 2023