



The Blue Mountains Fire Department 2020 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.



Contents

- Highlights3
- Call Statistics5
- Response Type Comparison Chart6
- Dollar Loss Comparison Chart7
- Response Volume Comparison Chart9
 - Call Volume by Season10
 - Call Volume by Day/ Time11
- Response Statistics.....12
 - Times of Day by Month: Station #112
 - Times of Responses to Fires: Station #113
 - Times of Day by Month: Station #214
 - Times of Responses to Fires: Station #215
- Fire Prevention.....16
 - Inspections16
 - Fire and Life Safety Education17
 - Fire Safety Plans17
 - Smoke Alarm Program17
 - Fire Code Enforcement17
 - Inspection Orders.....18
 - Prevention Highlights.....18
- Training19
 - General Training - Annual20
 - In Person Physical Training Topics20
 - Online Self-Directed Learning Topics.....20
 - Recruit Firefighter Training20
 - Ontario Fire College Courses21
 - Grey County Training Association Courses21
 - Training Highlights21
- Emergency Management.....22
 - 2020 Significant Events22

Highlights

In terms of emergency call volume, 2020 saw a slight increase in total emergency calls from;

- 264 calls for service in 2019
- 294 calls for service in 2020
- The total of fire loss for the Town was at total of \$1,784,400 between 8 fire events. Of these fire events 1 was in the Municipality of Meaford with a loss of \$1,000,000.

2020 brought us many new challenges as COVID-19 that was lurking in 2019 as an emerging issue now became a worldwide pandemic in late February into March. Words like unprecedented, PPE, and physical distancing is now “The New Normal”. COVID sped up the urgencies that taught us that working from home remotely could be effective in reversing the transmission of the virus within the workplace.

Many businesses used the term of “Pivot” to continue to operate under the recommendations of Public Health Protocols. The Fire Department, as an essential service, also had to pivot to continue to respond and deliver customer service while ensuring the safety of our crews. The Fire Department began developing and following new policies. By using additional PPE, along with reducing personnel responding within apparatus to emergency call outs. The Fire Department was able to continue to provide the citizens of The Blue Mountains suppression and rescue services, without an internal COVID case within Fire Services.

False alarm calls continue to account for almost half of all calls, a situation which has always been an issue here due to the unusually high number of both commercial and residential occupancies with fire alarm systems. We continue to enforce responsible use of these systems through our false alarm billing program which generated a total of \$8,050 in 2020.

Fire Prevention commercial inspections and short-term accommodation license renewal inspections were stopped during COVID-19. Complaint inspections continued with Fire Department staff attending with PPE and COVID protocols in place for the safety of the inspectors and the business or homeowners.

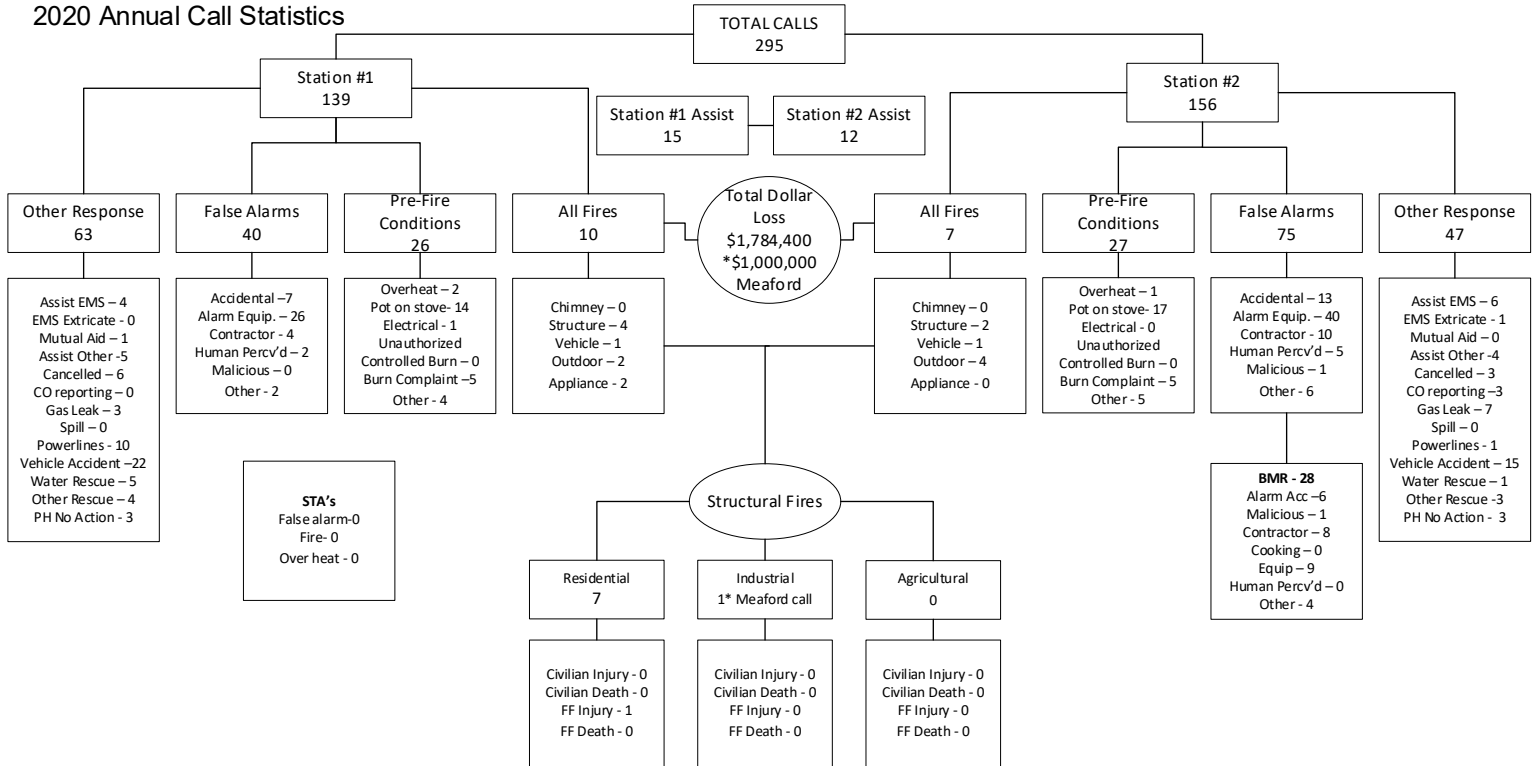
Training for the volunteer and the recruitment class of 2020 significantly changed under COVID. Early in 2020, training was suspended for a month for the volunteer firefighters and the class of 2020 recruits, while we assessed the impacts of COVID during the Provincial order of “Lockdown”. During the lockdown the Fire Department also pivoted from in person hands on training to online distance training modules that the Volunteer firefighters could complete from home. Although, the online training is not typical of Volunteer firefighters training this was an opportunity to complete many theory and competencies required for job performance objectives for NFPA 1001 (Standard for Firefighter professional qualifications). The recruit class of 2020 continues to be suspended. During the fall of 2020, we advertised for more recruit Volunteer firefighters and was able to add 4 more recruits to our roster. We now have a possible class of 8 recruits to hopefully start later this year provided COVID numbers continue to decrease and vaccine roll out continues.

The Emergency Management program requirements for 2020 changed due do the COVID-19 pandemic. An emergency was declared provincially on March 17, 2020 and for the Town on March 24, 2020. Emergency Control Group meetings have been held bi-weekly or as needed for the remainder of 2020. Due to the pandemic the training and emergency exercise requirements were exempt. The Town was once again certified to the Essential Level Program requirements and all elements of compliance were successfully completed.

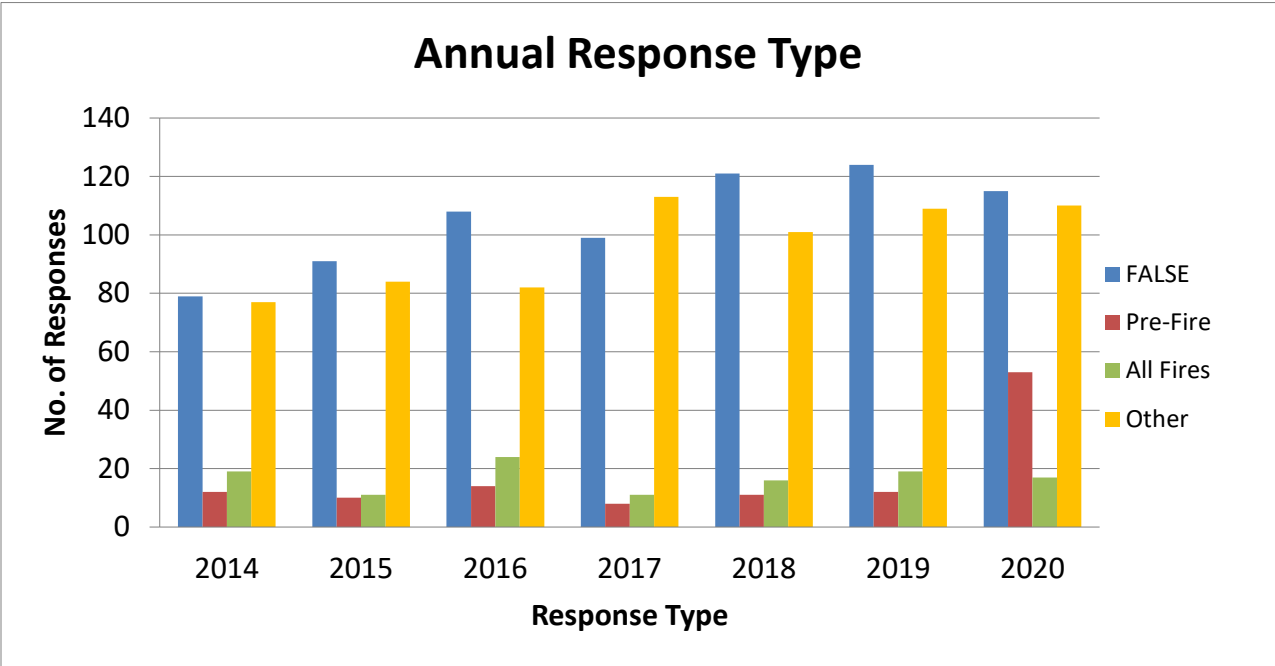
The balance of this report contains detailed statistics and program details for 2020.

Call Statistics

2020 Annual Call Statistics



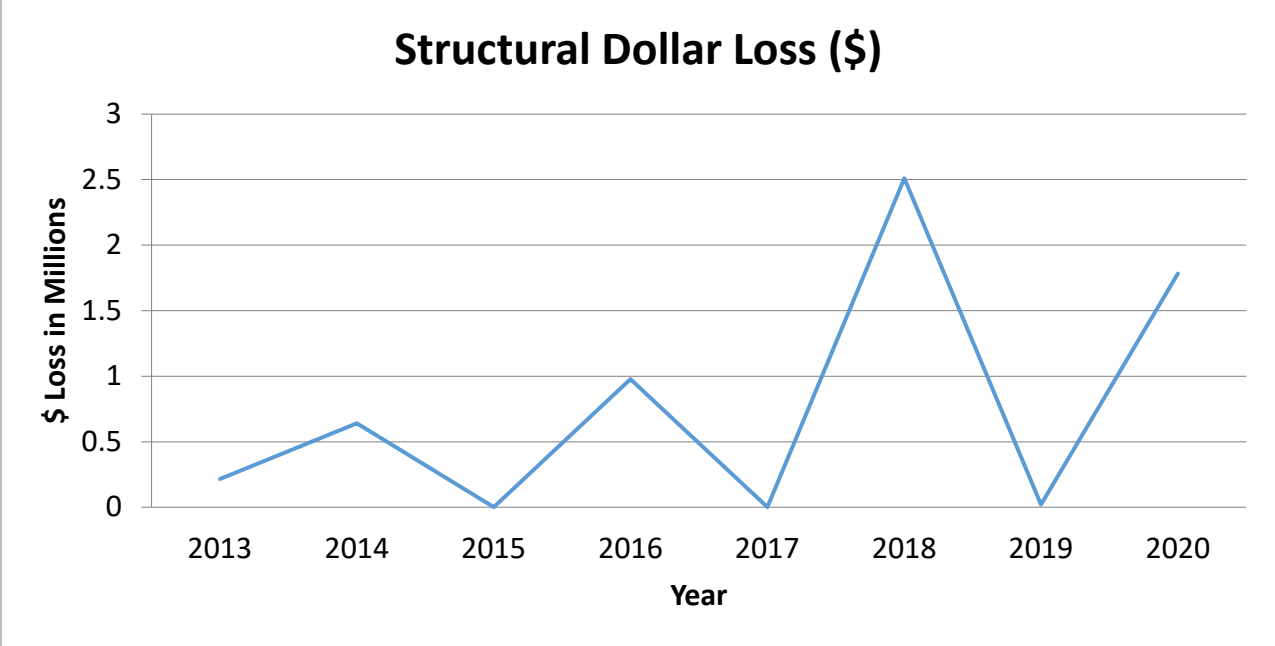
Response Type Comparison Chart



Responses to the False alarms, all fires and other types/categories of incidents, continue to remain proportionally similar. There is an increase in the pre-fire type/category which can be attributed to more residents or visitors staying at home due to COVID-19. All 4 categories represented the overall increase in call volume which was an increase of 19 calls in the station 1 coverage area and 12 calls in the station 2 coverage area.

Dollar Loss Comparison Chart

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



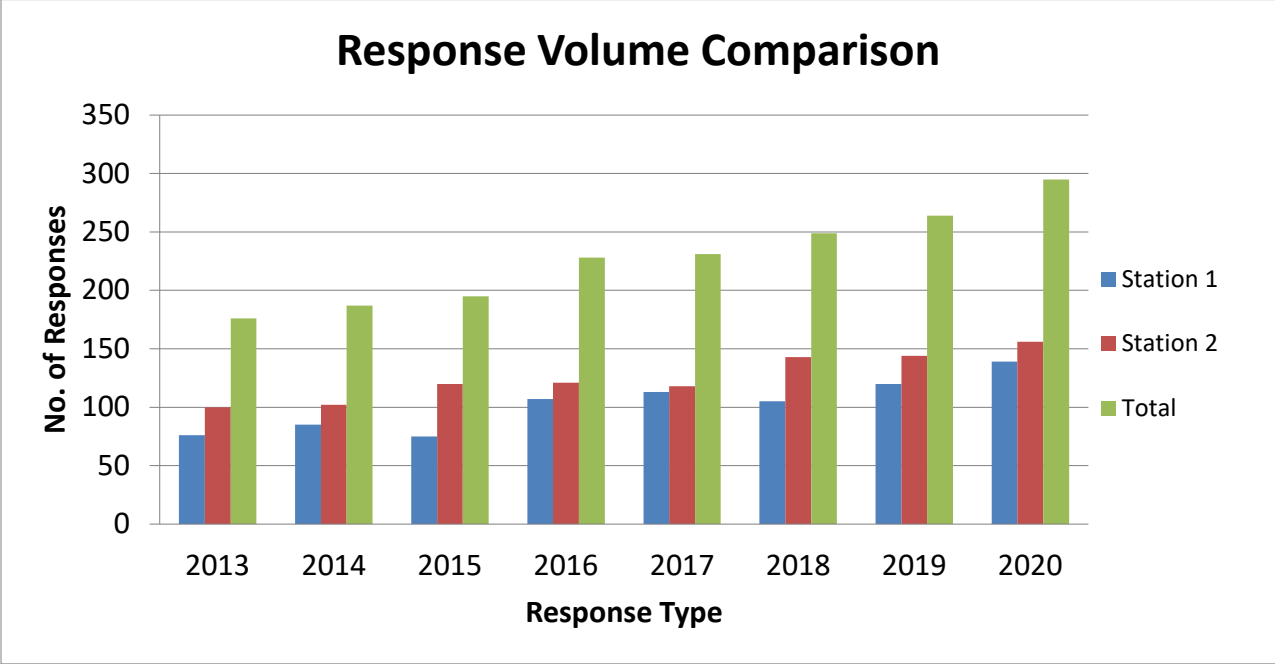
A total of \$1,784,400 in dollar loss was reported in 2020. 1 was in the Municipality of Meaford (automatic aid agreement area) with a loss of \$1,000,000.

Structure Type	Loss Type	Possible Cause	Dollar Loss
Structure Fire	Sauna	Fire started in sauna. Combustible Materials too close to heating element	\$10,000
Appliance Fire	Clothes Dryer	Fire inside of clothes dryer. Electrical Issue with older clothes dryer.	\$5,000
Appliance Fire	Oven	Smoke overheat conditions from rear of kitchen oven. Electrical issue within electrical junction box.	\$2,000
Industrial Structure Fire	Total Loss	Industrial/commercial structure fire on Meaford side of	\$1,000,000

		Townline within automatic aid agreement.	
Structure Fire	Total Loss	Structure fire investigated by Ontario Fire Marshall. Cause determined to be electrical short due to nail into wall containing wiring.	\$750,000
Structure Fire	Total Loss	Fire from recreational travel trailer parked beside structure. Damage to structure only limited to vinyl siding.	\$9,900
Structure Fire	Contents	Small contents fire in corner of commercial business. Cause suspected to be from chemical reaction spontaneous heating of rags with solvents.	\$4,000
Structure Fire	Wood/Oil Stove	Fire inside wood/oil combination forced air furnace. Smoke damage only to basement/cellar area.	\$3,500

Response Volume Comparison Chart

The following chart demonstrates total annual responses.

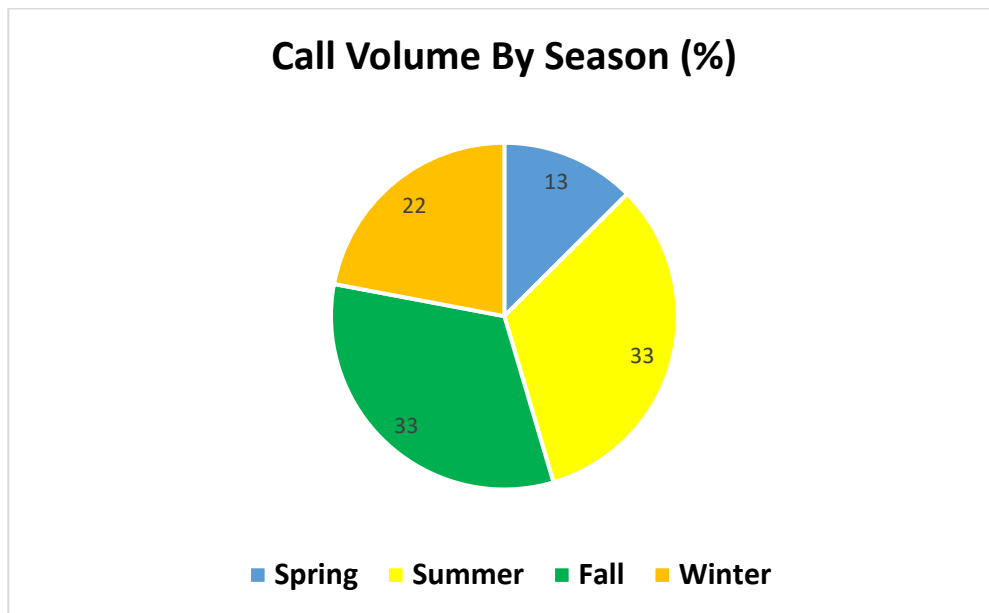


Both stations continue to respond to a proportionally similar number of calls per year.

Call Volume by Season

The frequency of responses remains relatively consistent throughout the year and also seasonally proportional when compared to previous years:

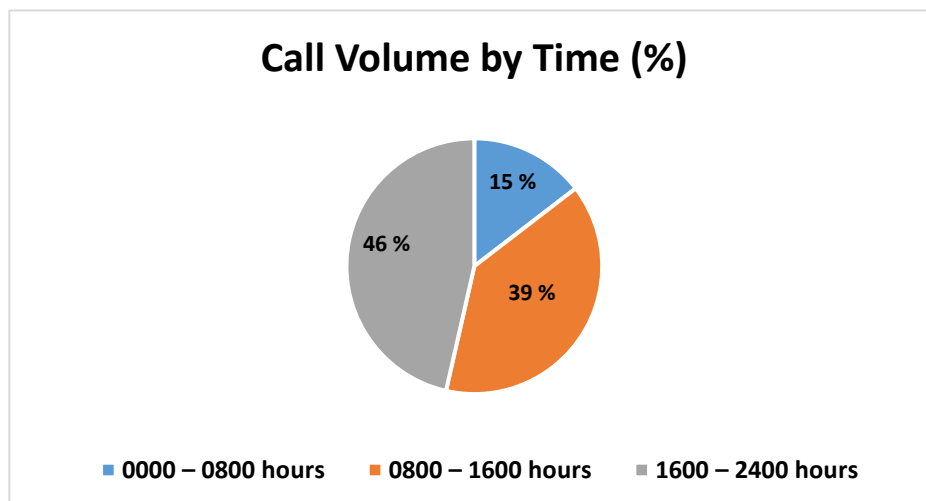
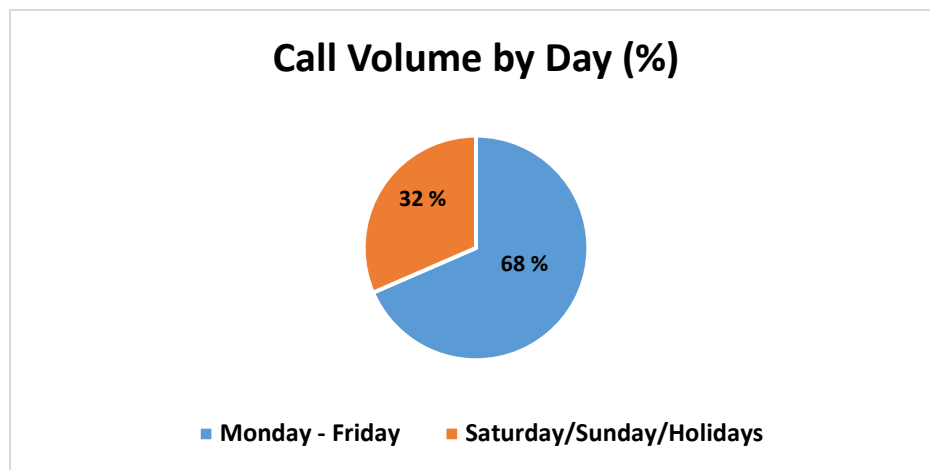
Season	Response Frequency (%)
Spring	13
Summer	33
Fall	32
Winter	22



Call Volume by Day/ Time

The occurrence times remain consistent with previous years:

Day/Time	Occurrence Frequency (%)
Monday - Friday	68
Saturday/Sunday/Holidays	32
0000 – 0800 hours	15
0800 – 1600 hours	39
1600 – 2400 hours	46



Response Statistics

Times of Day by Month: Station #1

Total Calls =139

Month	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat- Sun-Hol	% Volume
January	2	8	2	8	4	9%
February	0	4	4	6	2	6%
March	1	1	4	4	2	4%
April	0	1	3	3	1	3%
May	0	1	4	2	3	4%
June	3	6	9	16	2	13%
July	2	8	6	9	7	12%
August	3	7	5	6	9	11%
September	0	7	5	9	3	9%
October	3	7	10	12	8	14%
November	5	5	6	8	8	12%
December	0	3	4	5	2	5%
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	19					14 %
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		58				42 %
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			62			44 %
Total Calls Mon-Fri				88		63%
Total Calls Sat-Sun-Hol					51	37%

Times of Responses to Fires: Station #1

Fires = 10

Type	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat-Sun-Hol	% Volume
Structure	0	3	1	2	2	40%
Appliance	0	1	1	1	1	20%
Outdoor	1	0	3	2	2	40%
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	1					10%
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		4				40%
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			5			50%
Total Calls Mon-Fri				5		50%
Total Calls Sat-Sun-Hol					5	50%

Times of Day by Month: Station #2

Total Calls =156

Month	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat- Sun - Hol	% Volume
January	3	4	5	7	5	8%
February	3	4	4	8	3	7%
March	2	2	4	4	4	5%
April	4	3	3	7	3	6%
May	0	4	1	5	0	3%
June	3	7	8	8	10	12%
July	3	6	8	12	5	11%
August	3	3	6	9	3	8%
September	1	6	6	9	4	8%
October	1	8	12	15	6	13%
November	0	4	10	6	8	9%
December	2	6	7	11	4	10%
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	25					16%
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		57				37%
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			74			47%
Total Calls Mon-Fri				101		65%
Total Calls Sat-Sun-Hol					55	35%

Times of Responses to Fires: Station #2

Fires =7

Type	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat-Sun-Hol	% Volume
Structure	0	2	1	1	2	43%
Vehicle	0	0	1	1	0	14%
Outdoor	0	1	2	0	3	43%
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	0					0%
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		3				43%
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			4			57%
Total Calls Mon-Fri				2		29%
Total Calls Sat-Sun-Hol					5	71%

Fire Prevention

Inspections

Inspection Type	Number of Requests
Request	0
Complaint	0
Institutional	0
Re - Inspections	110
Commercial	13
Commercial Residential	3
Industrial	14
Assembly	14
Residential	4
Tents	0
Display Fireworks	5
Public Amusement Area Fireworks	5
Outdoor Public Amusement Area Approved	0
Electrical Orders Issued	2
Bunk house Inspections	31
Short Term Accommodations	96
Total Inspections	297

Fire and Life Safety Education

Focus Group	Topic	# of persons
Young Adults	Fire Safety in the Home	2
Tim Hortons Staff	Fire Extinguisher Training	10
TOBM Students & Staff	Fire Extinguisher Training	12
		Total: 24

Fire Safety Plans

Plans Under Review	Buildings Inspected as Part of Review	Plans Approved	Plans Rejected
65	97	91	6

Smoke Alarm Program

Dwellings Inspected	Deficiencies Identified
8	Yes/Corrected

Fire Code Enforcement

Smoke alarm tickets issued – Part 1	Smoke alarm Infractions Issued – Part 3	Part 3 – Fire Code Violations Registered	Results
0	0	0	0

- 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

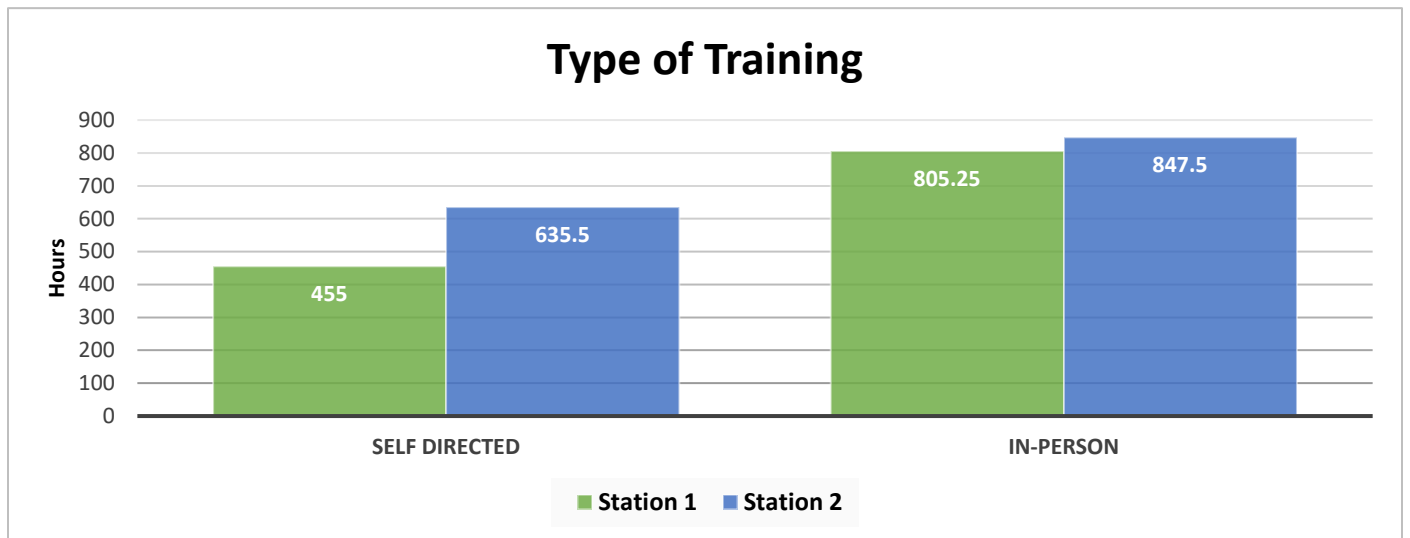
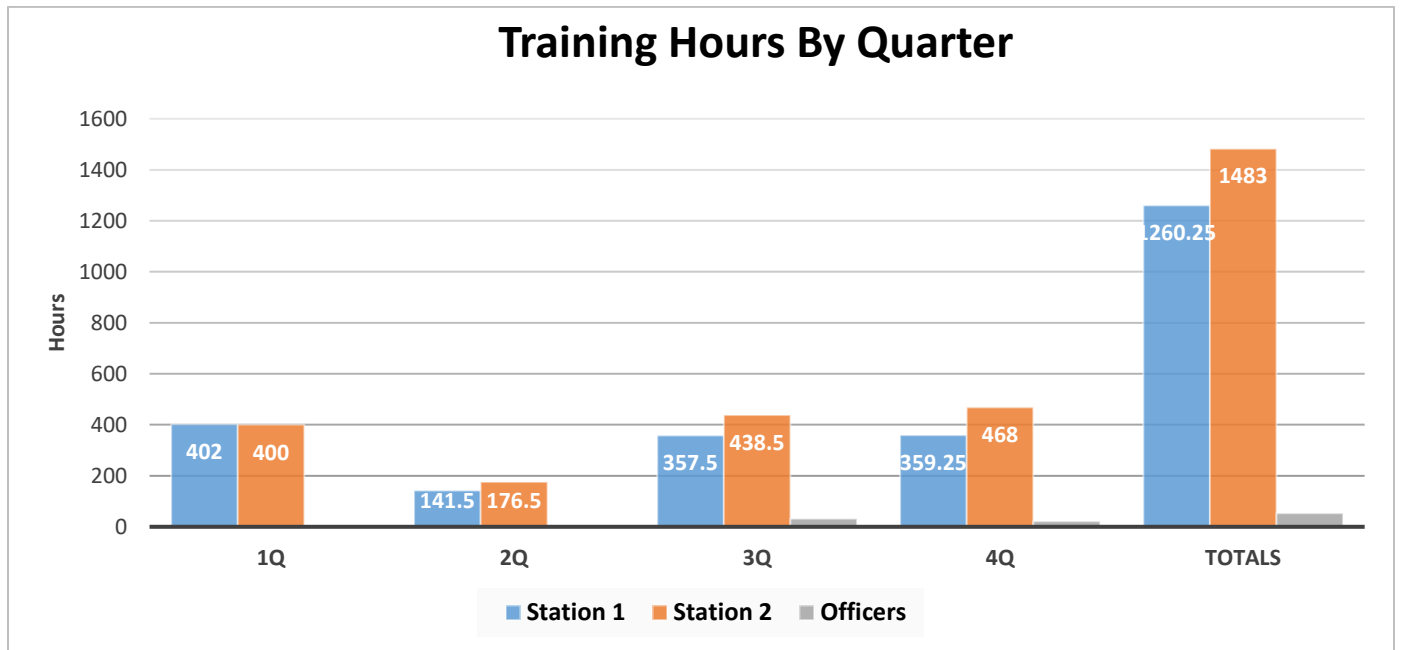
Bunkhouse	0
Condominium Corporations	2
Boarding Rooming Lodging	0
Commercial	7
Industrial	8
Assembly	8
Residential	4

Prevention Highlights

- Ongoing annual inspections and re inspections of commercial properties usually completed by Keeling & Johnston, slowed due to COVID-19.
- Acting DC Rydall as well as Johnston, Keeling and Raynsford doing STA inspections, license renewals and reviewing FSP's for STA's, Acting DC Rydall is backing away from this responsibility with the new hire of Raynsford.
- While doing the limited number of inspections. Social distancing, face masks and hand sanitizers were used for all interactions with the public.
- Although physical inspections have minimal, inspectors were still in contact with property owners and property management companies to assist with any fire safety concerns, and to ensure fire and life safety responsibilities are being completed.
- 2020 inspections numbers were significantly reduced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Training

Fire Station	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter	Totals
Station # 1	402	141.5	357.50	359.25	1260.25
Station #2	400	176.50	438.50	468	1483
Officers			31.50	22	53.50
Annual Total 2020:					2796.75



General Training - Annual

In Person Physical Training Topics

- NFPA 1001 Firefighter I
 - Chapter 06 Personal Protective Equipment
 - Chapter 08 Ropes, Knots and Webbing
 - Chapter 09 Search, Rescue, and Firefighter Survival
 - Chapter 10 Lighting, Tools, and Extrication
 - Chapter 15 Fire Hoses
- NFPA 1001 Firefighter II
 - Chapter 10 Lighting, Tools, and Extrication
- Candidate Physical Abilities Testing (CPAT)
- Blue Mountain Village Underground Orientation
- Apparatus/SCBA Monthly Checks
- Ice/Water Rescue Operations/Technician

Online Self-Directed Learning Topics

- Firefighter Learning Management System (FLMS)
- NFPA 1001 Firefighter I
 - Chapter 01 History of the Fire Service
 - Chapter 02 Firefighter Health and Safety
 - Chapter 03 Communications
 - Chapter 04 Building Construction
 - Chapter 05 Fire Behavior
 - Chapter 06 Personal Protective Equipment
 - Chapter 07 Portable Fire Extinguishers
 - Chapter 08 Ropes, Knots and Webbing
 - Chapter 09 Search, Rescue, and Firefighter Survival
 - Chapter 10 Lighting, Tools, and Extrication
 - Chapter 15 Fire Hoses
- NFPA 1001 Firefighter II
 - Chapter 10 Lighting, Tools, and Extrication
- Candidate Physical Abilities Testing (CPAT)
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- Apparatus/SCBA Monthly Checks

Recruit Firefighter Training

- Recruit class to start in early 2021 working within public health guidelines at the time

Ontario Fire College Courses

Firefighters	Ontario Fire College Course	Number of Days
2	NFPA 1006 Ice Rescue Technician	10

- No in-person courses available due to Pandemic

Grey County Training Association Courses

- No Training being conducted at this time

Training Highlights

- Back to Basics training has been well received by the volunteer firefighters
- Ice/Water Rescue Operations and Technician training completed in December
- Training participation has been steadily increasing since going back to hands on back to basics

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

2020 Significant Events

- Provincial declaration of emergency on March 17, 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Town declaration of emergency on March 24, 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Update of Emergency Management By-law with new CEMC position.
- Program Committee updated and reviewed Emergency Response Plan for 2020 as per EMO.
- Provided information to the public with 72-hour preparedness message digitally.
- Provided information on the provincial roll out of the alert ready notification tests.