



# The Blue Mountains Fire Department 2021 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

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In terms of emergency call volume, 2021 saw a slight increase in total emergency calls from;

- 264 calls for service in 2019
- 294 calls for service in 2020
- 315 calls for service in 2021
- The total of fire loss for the Town was at total of \$8,348,000 between 6 fire events.

COVID restrictions continued as vaccination slowly started to roll out giving everyone a renewed hope of a return to normal. During this year of the ups and downs the Fire Department continued to protect staff with Personal Protective Equipment, increased distancing requirements and reduced number of platoons attending training nights.

Fire Prevention inspections for commercial occupancies were reduced and Short Term Accommodation inspections for license renewals were done by Inspectors alone in the dwelling with the keyholder awaiting outside as protective measures and to be able to continue the completion of inspections.

Training, the recruit class continued with Personal Protective Equipment and protocols in place. The 2021 class of recruits have completed their training and were tested successfully, and the five (5) candidates are now responding to emergency calls out of Fire Hall #1 in Thornbury. The recruits will be tested again early in 2022, if successful they will move to probationary Firefighter status. In 2021, we advertised and recruited another class of eight (8) volunteer Firefighter candidates: four (4) for the Thornbury Hall and four (4) for the Craigleith Hall. This class is now starting hands on skills with the expectation that by late summer/early fall of 2022 they will move to responding to emergency callouts under supervision of a qualified Firefighter.

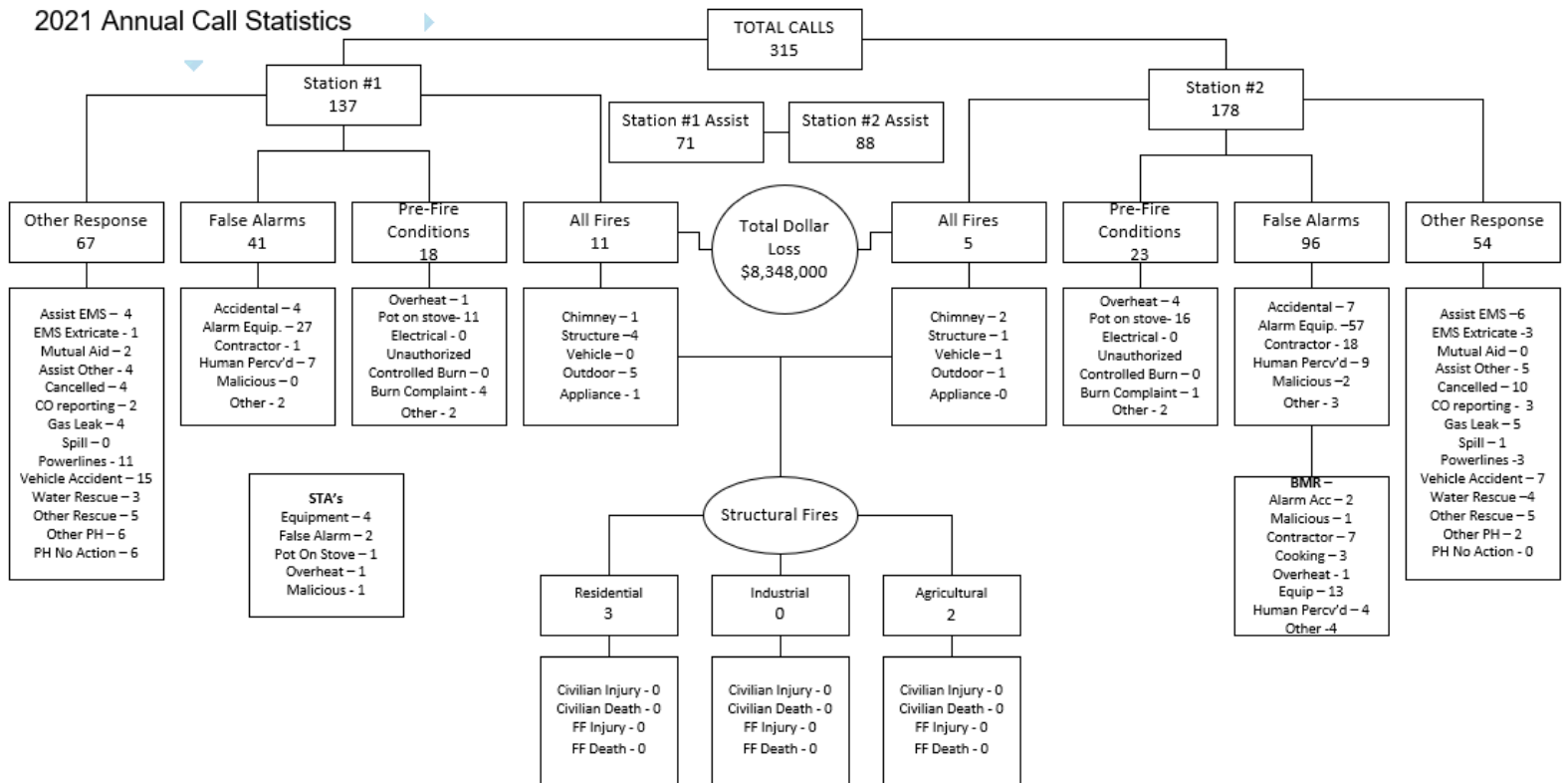
The Emergency Management program undertook normal regulatory requirements for 2021. The town fulfilled the fifteen (15) requirements of Regulation 380/04 (O Reg 380/04) has received correspondent stating this. The Town remains in a “state of emergency” as defined by EMO. The Municipal Emergency Control Group had thirteen (13) meetings in 2021 and continues to meet monthly at the call of the Chair, and we continue to navigate our way through this pandemic.

The development of an updated Fire Master Plan was approved through the Town's 2021 Capital Budget. In June 2021, the Town hired Emergency Management & Training Inc. as consultants to assist with the development of the Fire Master Plan. Staff and Consultants undertook a preliminary research and information gathering phase and implemented a Community Risk Assessment to identify and evaluate risks to public safety. Focus groups, workshops and a public survey were conducted with internal and external stakeholders. The Fire Master Plan will be presented to Council in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022.

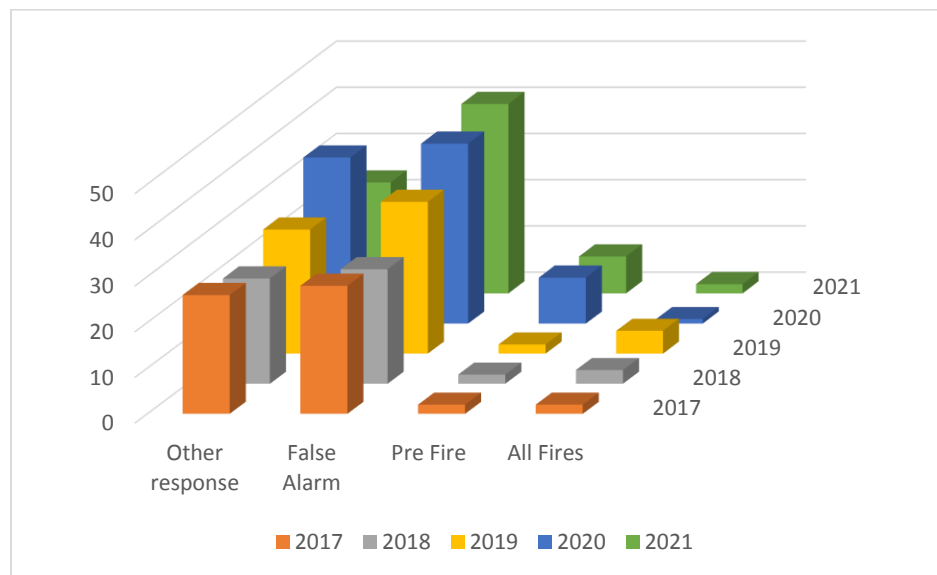
The balance of this report contains detailed statistics and program details for 2021.

# Call Statistics

## 2021 Annual Call Statistics



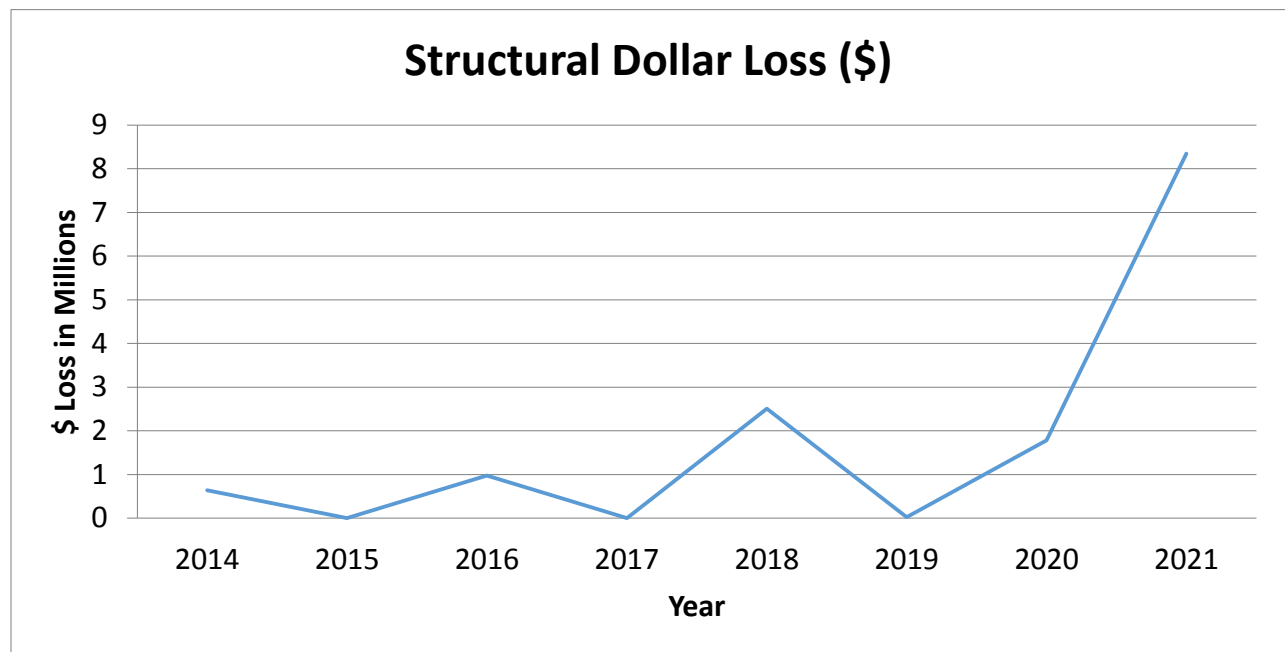
# Response Type Comparison Chart



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 four (4) categories represented the overall increase in call volume. There was a decrease of 2 calls in the station 1 coverage area and an increase of 22 calls in the station 2 coverage area.

# Dollar Loss Comparison Chart

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



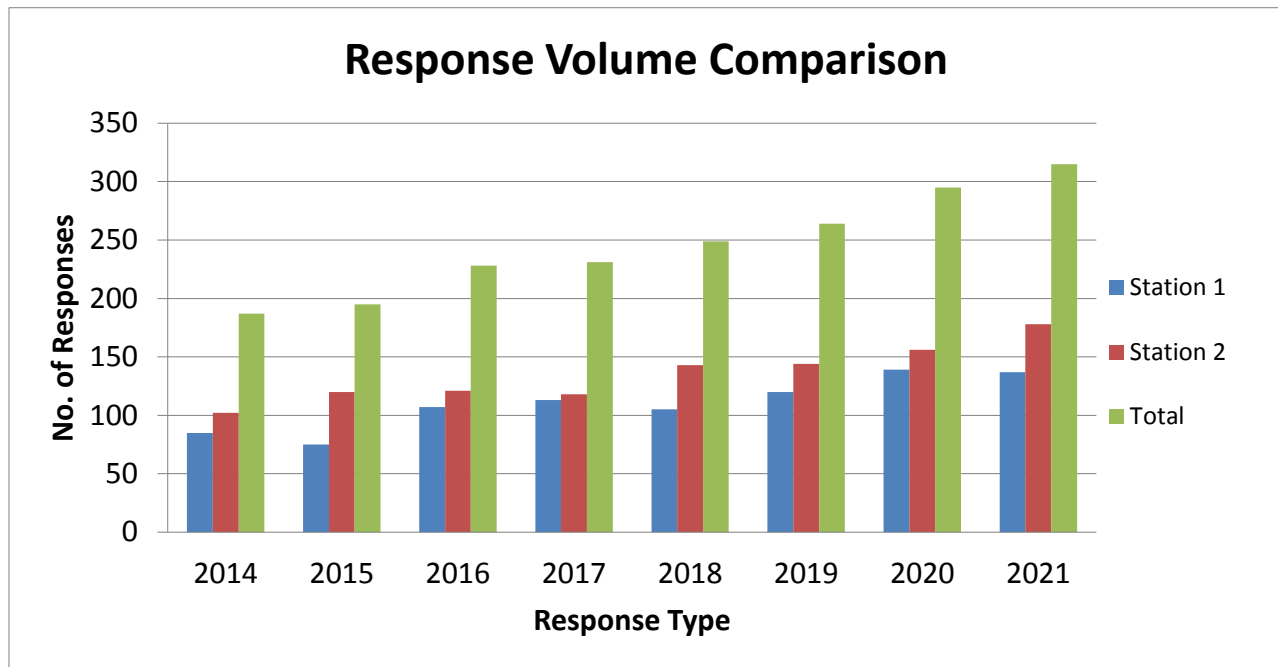
A total of \$8,348,000 in dollar loss was reported in 2021.

Structure Type	Loss Type	Possible Cause	Dollar Loss
Structure Fire	Chimney fire extended into roofing structure	Lack of maintenance of chimney/chimney cleaning	\$150,000
Structure Fire	Total Loss	Structure fire investigated by Ontario Fire Marshal. Cause determined to be incendiary	\$7,900,000
Structure Fire – Barn	Total Loss	Undetermined	\$125,000
Structure Fire-Barn and Grass	Total Loss	Cleaning up orchard, embers caught barn on fire	\$100,000
Structure	Deck	Rental property, guest left charcoal BBQ lit on wooden deck, caught deck on fire	\$3,000

Structure Type	Loss Type	Possible Cause	Dollar Loss
Vehicle Fire – Truck and Trailer	Total loss of truck and trailer	Fuel line leak, caught fire while driving	\$70,000

## Response Volume Comparison Chart

The following chart demonstrates total annual responses.



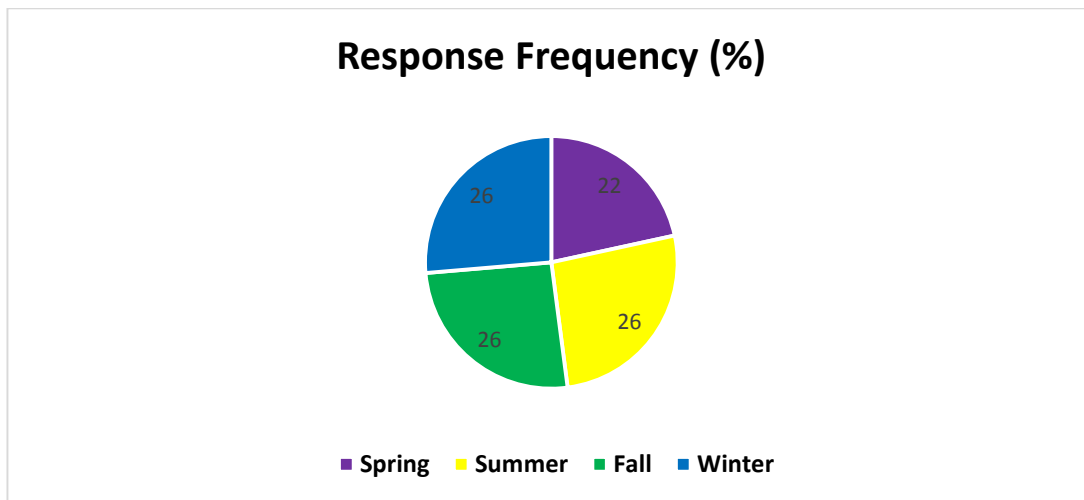
Both stations continue to respond to a proportionally similar number of calls per year.



## 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	22
Summer	26
Fall	26
Winter	26

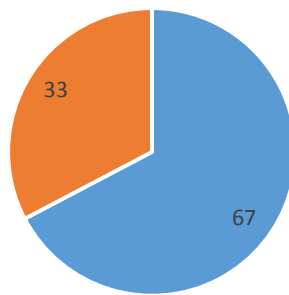


## Call Volume by Day/ Time

The occurrence times remain consistent with previous years:

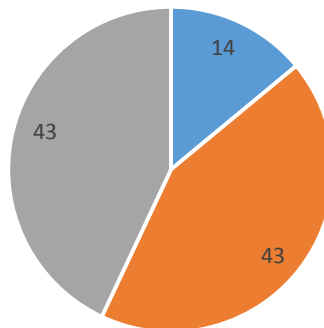
Day/Time	Occurrence Frequency (%)
Monday - Friday	67
Saturday/Sunday/Holidays	33
0000 – 0800 hours	14
0800 – 1600 hours	43
1600 – 2400 hours	43

**Day and Time (%)**



■ Monday - Friday ■ Saturday/Sunday/Holidays

**Hours (%)**



■ 0000 – 0800 hours ■ 0800 – 1600 hours ■ 1600 – 2400 hours

# Response Statistics

## Times of Day by Month: Station #1

Total Calls =137

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-Stat Holiday	% Volume
January	1	10	6	12	5	12%
February	0	4	4	6	2	6%
March	2	6	5	10	3	9%
April	0	4	1	5	0	4%
May	1	4	8	13	0	9%
June	1	2	9	7	5	9%
July	0	6	8	2	12	10%
August	1	7	7	9	6	11%
September	3	4	5	7	5	9%
October	2	4	3	6	3	7%
November	0	3	5	6	2	6%
December	0	7	4	9	2	8%
						100%
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	11					8%
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		61				45%
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			65			47%
						100%
Totals Mon- Fri				88		63%

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-Stat Holiday	% Volume
<b>Totals Sat- Sun-Stat Holiday</b>						<b>37%</b>
						<b>100%</b>

## Times of Responses to Fires: Station #1

Fires = 11

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-Stat Holiday	% Volume
<b>Structure</b>	2	1	2	3	2	<b>45%</b>
<b>Appliance</b>		1			1	<b>10%</b>
<b>Outdoor</b>		3	2	4	1	<b>45%</b>
						<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Calls 0:00-08:00</b>	<b>2</b>					<b>18%</b>
<b>Total Calls 08:00-16:00</b>		<b>5</b>				<b>45%</b>
<b>Total Calls 16:00-24:00</b>			<b>4</b>			<b>36%</b>
						<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Calls Mon-Fri</b>				<b>7</b>		<b>64%</b>
<b>Total Calls Sat-Sun-Stat- Holiday</b>					<b>4</b>	<b>36%</b>
						<b>100%</b>

## Times of Day by Month: Station #2

Total Calls =178

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 - Holiday	% Volume
January	2	6	7	10	5	8%
February	2	7	7	10	6	9%
March	1	5	8	7	7	8%
April	0	4	5	6	3	5%
May	1	6	8	11	4	8%
June	1	7	3	7	4	6%
July	6	5	3	7	7	8%
August	4	5	7	13	3	9%
September	4	12	5	13	8	12%
October	6	5	5	14	2	9%
November	2	6	7	12	3	8%
December	3	7	6	11	5	9%
						100%
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	32					18%
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		75				42%
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			71			40%
						100%
Total Calls Mon-Fri				121		68%
Total Calls Sat-Sun- Stat Holiday					57	32%

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 - Holiday	% Volume
						100%

## Times of Responses to Fires: Station #2

Fires =5

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	1	1	1	1	2	60%
Vehicle	0	1	0	1	0	20%
Outdoor	0	0	1	1	0	20%
						100%
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	1					20%
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		2				40%
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			2			40%
						100%
Total Calls Mon-Fri				3		60%
Total Calls Sat-Sun-Stat Holiday					2	40%
						100%

# Fire Prevention

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## 2021 Inspections (COVID-19 Limitations)

Inspection Type	Number of Requests
Request	3
Complaint	3
Institutional	1
Re - Inspections	66
Commercial	16
Commercial Residential	0
Industrial	0
Assembly	0
Residential	0
Tents	0
Display Fireworks	0
Public Amusement Area Fireworks	1
Outdoor Public Amusement Area Approved	0
Electrical Orders Issued	0
Bunk house Inspections	19
Short Term Accommodations	156
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>265</b>

# Fire Inspection Average Timelines

## Short Term Accommodations (STA) Time Considerations

Process	Time (Hours)
Fire Safety Plans review	1.5
Reviewing Floor plans and appliance paperwork	1
Emails and contact with owner or agent	0.5
Initial inspection	1
Follow up documentation (Cityview/Photo Uploads)	1
Re-inspection (s)	0.5
<b>Total Time per STA (Average)</b>	<b>5.5</b>

## 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
<b>Total Time per small Occupancy (Average)</b>	<b>5.5</b>

\* 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
BVO Staff	Fire Extinguisher Training	5

## Fire Safety Plans

Total Plans Submitted for Review	Plans Under Review	Buildings Inspected as Part of Review	Plans Approved	Plans Rejected
145	120	165	145	21

## Smoke Alarm Program

Dwellings Inspected	Deficiencies Identified
11	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

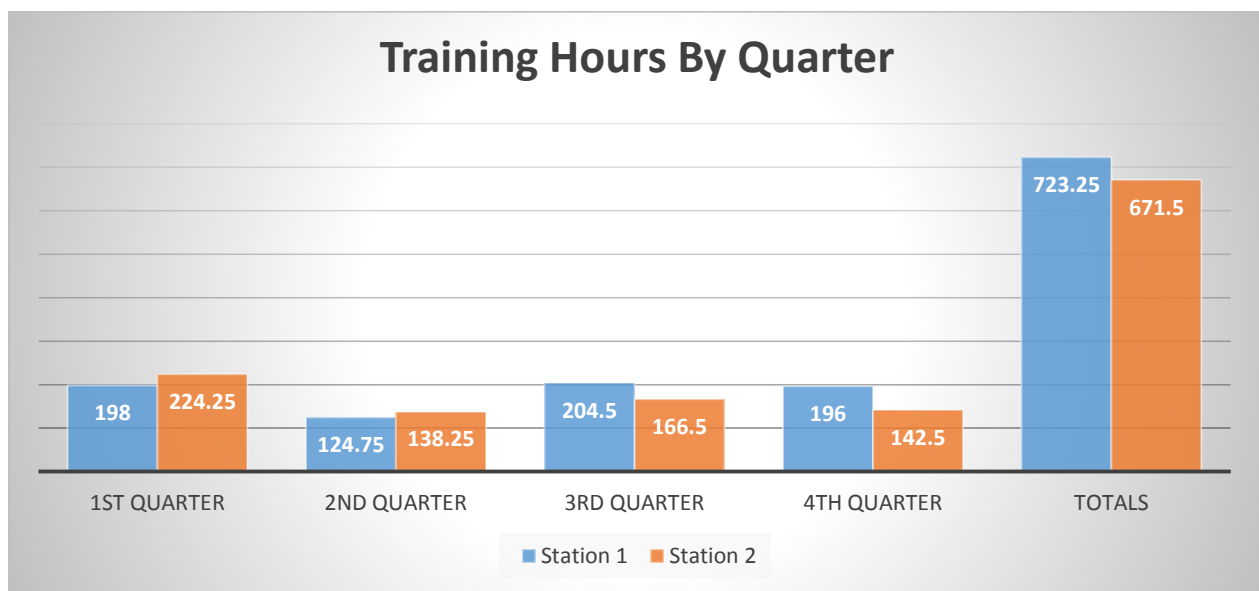
Inspection Type	Number of Orders
Bunkhouse	2
Condominium Corporations	0
Boarding Rooming Lodging	0
Commercial	9
Industrial	0
Assembly	0
Residential	1

## Prevention Highlights

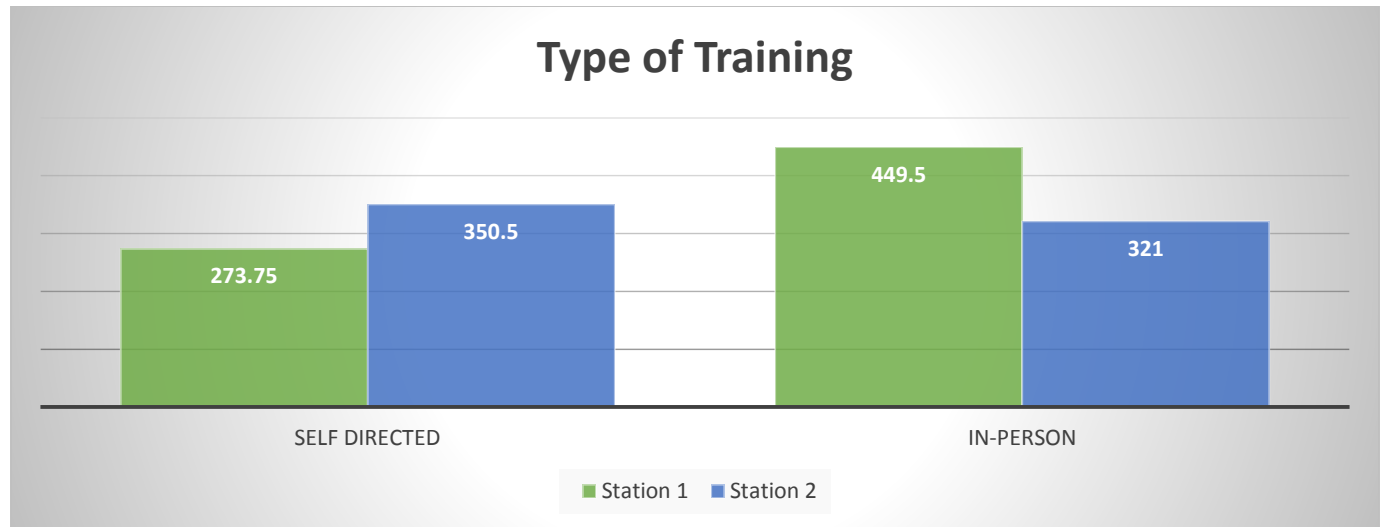
- Annual commercial inspections continue during COVID-19 situation through a modified process to ensure appropriate safety measures are achieved.
- Currently three (3) Fire staff are undertaking Short Term Accommodation inspections.
- While doing the limited number of inspections, physical distancing, face masks and hand sanitizers were used for all interactions with the public.
- Inspectors are actively responding to complaint and request inspections. Inspectors are 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.
- 2021 inspections numbers are still significantly reduced by the COVID-19 pandemic.

# Training

Fire Station	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	Totals
Station # 1	198	124.75	204.50	196	723.25
Station #2	224.25	138.25	166.50	142.50	671.50
				<b>Annual Total 2021</b>	<b>1394.75</b>



## General Training - Annual



### In Person Physical Training Topics

- NFPA 1001 Firefighter I
  - Chapter 06 Personal Protective Equipment
  - Chapter 08 Ropes, Knots and Webbing
  - Chapter 12 Ground Ladders
  - Chapter 14 Water Supply
  - Chapter 16 Fire Streams
- Ice/Water Rescue Refresher
- Apparatus/SCBA Monthly Checks

### Online Self-Directed Learning Topics

- NFPA 1001 Firefighter I
  - FFI Part A Exam covering off Chapters 1-8,22
    - History of the Fire Service
    - Firefighter Health and Safety
    - Communications
    - Building Construction
    - Fire Behavior
    - Personal Protective Equipment
    - Portable Fire Extinguishers
    - Ropes, Knots, and Webbing
    - Basic Emergency Medical Care
  - Chapter 11 Forcible Entry
  - Chapter 12 Ground Ladders
  - Chapter 13 Tactical Ventilation
  - Chapter 14 Water Supply

- FFI Part B Exam covering off Chapters 9-15
  - Search, Rescue, and Firefighter Survival
  - Lighting, Tools, and Extrication
  - Forcible Entry
  - Ground Ladders
  - Tactical Ventilation
  - Water Supply
  - Fire Hoses
- Chapter 16 Fire Streams
- Chapter 17 Fire Control
- Chapter 18 Loss Control
- Chapter 19 Fire Origin and Cause Determination
- Chapter 21 Fire and Life Safety Initiatives
- FFI Part C Exam covering off Chapters 16-21
  - Fire Streams
  - Fire Control
  - Loss Control
  - Fire Origin and Cause Determination
  - Fire and Life Safety Initiatives
- HR Downloads training Modules
  - Workplace Violence
  - Workplace Bullying
  - Corporate Strategic Plan Review
  - Slips, Trips, Falls
  - Safe Lifting Techniques
  - WHMIS 2015
- HR Download Corporate Policy Review
  - IT Acceptable Use Policy
  - Social Media Policy
  - Workplace Violence and Harassment Policy
  - Fit for Duty Policy
  - Incident Reporting and Investigation
  - Ergonomics Policy
  - First Aid Policy
  - Confidentiality Agreement
  - Individual Responsibilities
  - Accessibility Standards for Customer Service
  - Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulations
- Complete comprehensive review of all departmental Standard Operating Guidelines

## **Recruit Firefighter Training**

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- The 2021 Recruit class finished up in early November with five (5) successful candidates moving on to their probationary position within their respective stations.

- The 2022 Recruit class has been finalized and eight (8) candidates started their online training in December

## Ontario Fire College Courses

- We continue to see our firefighters reaching out to attend prevention and public education online courses offered through the Ontario Fire College

## Grey County Training Association Courses

- No Report for 2021

## Training Highlights

- Online training for majority of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
- Back to Basics training has been well received by the volunteer firefighters
- We have almost completed the current NFPA 1001 FFI curriculum with only a few subjects remaining
- Training participation has been steadily increasing since going back to hands on back to basics

# Emergency Management

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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

## 2021 Significant Events

- Town declaration of emergency continues due to COVID-19 Pandemic
- Town continues Municipal Emergency Control Group meetings monthly or at the call of the Chair
- Participation in Community Emergency Control Group meetings monthly
- COVID-19 variants prompt provincial “Emergency Break”
- Community Emergency Management Group required training and courses completed
- Updating of Critical Infrastructure and review with the County
- Program Committee updated and reviewed Emergency Response Plan for 2021 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.