

## **Fire Services Update**

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Presented To:   | Emergency Services Committee        |
| Meeting Date:   | April 21, 2021                      |
| Type:           | Correspondence for Information Only |
| Prepared by:    | Jesse Oshell<br>Community Safety    |
| Recommended by: | General Manager of Community Safety |

## **Report Summary**

This report provides information regarding the recent business activities, relevant statistics and good news stories within the Fire Services Division, Community Safety Department.

## **Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment**

This report refers to operational matters.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **Background**

This report aims to provide the City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Services Committee with an update on good news stories and relevant statistics as well as recent business activities within the Fire Services Division of the Community Safety Department.

Fire Services is responsible for delivering proactive public safety and response programs to prevent emergencies wherever possible and to preserve and enhance life, property, and the environment where response is required.

## Key Performance Indicators

| Major Fire Loss Incidents<br>January 1, 2021 – February 28, 2021 |                                 |                |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Date   | Location                        | Estimated Loss |
| Saturday, January 23, 2021                                       | 2099 69 North, Guilletville     | \$ 490,000     |
| Thursday, February 4, 2021                                       | 2342 Lasalle Boulevard, Sudbury | \$ 200, 000    |
| Sunday, February 7, 2021   | 2077 Valleystream, Sudbury      | \$ 250, 000    |

Data Source: Firehouse

| Incident Type  | Jan 1 – Feb 28, 2021 | Jan 1 – Feb 29, 2020 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Fires  | 34                   | 26                   |
| Fire Alarms  | 130                  | 174                  |
| Vehicle Collisions   | 85                   | 93                   |
| Open Air Burning Response  | 20                   | 12                   |
| Medical Assistance   | 199                  | 164                  |
| Other Incidents (assisting other agencies, no incident found on arrival, etc.) | 130                  | 161                  |
| Total  | 598                  | 630                  |
| TOTAL Estimated Loss for Fires   | \$1,256,100          | \$1,460,250          |

Data Source: Firehouse

## Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment

Volunteer Firefighter recruitment commenced in late March with an application deadline set for April 30, 2021. In an effort to continually improve our recruitment process, Administration met with the Volunteer Recruitment Committee on two separate occasions to review the current process and discuss new ideas and opportunities to improve the Volunteer Firefighter recruitment process. The following are some of the suggestions from the Committee that have been implemented as part of this recruitment:

- Portable signs have been rented and placed at Beaver Lake Station, Val Therese Station and the intersection of Hwy 17 and Garson/Coniston Rd.
- Large, brightly coloured recruitment banners (12ft x 4ft) were purchased to hang at specific stations where recruitment has traditionally been low, as well as stations in high traffic areas (8 English and 8 French banners). These banners will be reusable year to year and can be hung on fire apparatus at events.
- Posters and post cards with recruitment information were created for use by firefighters and station officers to place in community businesses and provide to interested persons.
- A revised physical abilities testing has been implemented to better reflect the work of a Volunteer Firefighter. Four Volunteer Firefighters of differing age and gender have been selected to demonstrate the test. They have been filmed and the video has been placed on the recruitment website for interested persons to view.

- Volunteer Captains will be invited to assist with the physical testing component of the recruitment to assist with evaluation of candidates.
- Volunteer Captains will also be able to witness the interview process for candidates applying to their specific Station.

## **Fire Safety Grant**

Greater Sudbury Fire Services (GSFS) has applied for a Fire Safety Grant through the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management. The grant is to assist in addressing challenges associated with training and virtual inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If awarded the grant, the funding will be allocated to enhance the training needs of the Volunteer Firefighters by:

- Providing training infrastructure enhancements for volunteer fire stations, which would include iPad tablets to support online, digital learning, in both the station or at home environments.
- Purchasing Jones and Bartlett vehicle extrication and company officer curriculum which would be delivered through the iPad tablets or personal devices/technology of volunteer firefighters.
- Supplementing any Information Technology or Internet infrastructure not currently available or installed at volunteer fire stations.

## **Mental Health**

R2MR: Road to Mental Readiness Training Firefighter Modules have been completed for all Volunteer Firefighters and is being delivered to all Career Firefighters. An additional Officer Module is planned for rollout to all Volunteer and Career Fire Officers. This module is designed to follow the firefighter R2MR training.

PSN: The combined Paramedic and Fire Services Peer Support Network (PSN) team is being expanded in 2021. Nominations for Volunteer and Career Firefighters and Paramedics that may be suitable to be Peer Supporters has occurred. These individuals will undergo an assessment by a psychologist to determine suitability for the program. Training for the new and existing team members is scheduled for late April if Covid restrictions allow. Effective team training occurs when the participants can meet together as much of the training is experiential and not easily delivered in a virtual format.

## **Prevention**

Fire Prevention has begun the annual inspections program for Vulnerable Occupancies. The program has been modified in consultation with the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office to allow facility operators to conduct their own self-inspection checklist and provide the checklist and all annual maintenance and testing documentation to the Fire Prevention Section for review and approval. This approach will allow the facility owner and operators to prove the fire and life safety maintenance of the building is being conducted and the facility is in compliance with the Ontario Fire Code requirements.

Fire Prevention assisted Health Sciences North (HSN) in expanding their COVID-19 "safe area" by assisting with relocating patients to the Daffodil Center. This has been achieved by working with the Building Department and HSN to ensure they are able to meet the requirements of the emergency orders imposed by the Province last April (2020).

Two new Fire Prevention Operating Procedures have been implemented:

- Fire Prevention Officer Radio Protocol
- Fire Prevention and Public Education Section

## **Plans review**

Despite the perception of slow down, our plans examiner has been steady reviewing new projects coming to our community and ensuring that minimum code safety requirements and firefighting services are in compliance with the Ontario Building Code. The Plans Examiner continues to actively participate in the Sudbury Planning Application Review Team (SPART) meetings for developers and offer initial comment to assist with ensuring they submit detailed, complete plans to reduce delays in the permit processes.

The following Operating Procedure has been implemented:

- Plan Examination and Site Plan

## **Public Education**

Public Safety Officers (PSO) continued to conduct virtual presentations as well as expanding our presence on social media, namely Twitter. Since we are limited from face to face interactions, PSOs have been organizing the Public Education Section by ensuring all presentations are on a standard template to allow for consistent fire and life safety messaging throughout the City of Greater Sudbury.

An additional project currently being developed is a seniors program that focuses on fire and life safety for seniors who live independently. This program will be delivered in collaboration with Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and should be implemented the beginning of the second quarter of 2021.

PSOs are developing additional television commercials that will be aired in early spring.

The following Operating Procedure has been implemented:

- Fire and Life Safety Education

## **Fleet**

The status of the new apparatus that arrived in late 2020, early 2021 is as follows:

**Tankers:** GSFS took delivery of twin International HV607 tankers in December 2020. These apparatus were manufactured by Dependable Emergency Vehicles and built on International cab and chassis with an aluminum body. Training on the new tankers has been conducted with the deployment of the Tankers in April. These tankers will be assigned to Fire Station #4 Long Lake and Fire Station #24 Wahnapiatae. The purchase of these two tankers along with the purchase of two identical tankers in 2019 allows GSFS to begin the standardization of equipment, tools, and apparatus. The four tankers mentioned above shall be standardized so each compartment is identical and equipped with the same tools and equipment.

**Rescue Boat:** The Rescue Boat was delivered in late 2020. Training by the manufacture Inland Liferrafts is required to take place early spring prior to deployment of the boat. The boat radio has been installed and an alias has been assigned of Boat -1. Registration of the boat with Transport Canada is underway.

**Aerial Truck:** The Aerial Truck was delivered in the fourth quarter of 2020. The radio has been installed and an alias has been assigned. The Aerial is currently being stored at the Lionel Lalonde Centre in Azilda until required "Train the Trainer" training program has been completed. Once completed, all staff who operate the device will be required to attend training on the new Aerial and additional CGS driver training prior to the apparatus being operational. An 'in-service' date of the Aerial shall be in early May.

The technical rescue truck and trailer have been outfitted and delivered to Main Station for deployment. The HAZMAT tow vehicle mobile radio and decal package have been installed. The HAZMAT trailer has been equipped with a generator and new lighting.

The Fleet section is in the transition to take over medical supply ordering for Career and Volunteer medical response stations.

The installation and commissioning of the Nederman system, which captures and removes vehicle exhaust from the tail pipe, is nearing completion. The contractor will provide training to both Fire and EMS personnel on the operation and maintenance of the Nederman system.

The following annual requirements have been addressed:

- 2021 annual ground ladder testing commenced.
- 2021 annual hard suction hose testing commenced.
- 2021 Volunteer and Career clothing orders are being processed.

The following Operating Procedures are currently being developed and shall be implemented in the near future:

- Nederman Vehicle Exhaust Extraction System
- Medical Equipment Ordering and Tracking
- Emergency Generator Weekly Check and Maintenance

## **Training**

The following training programs are in progress:

HAZMAT: The Hazardous Material response program continues to be implemented with the response vehicle and resource trailer outfitted and prepared for deployment. Technical level training for the dedicated HAZMAT responders is scheduled for late spring/early summer 2021 as COVID-19 restrictions permit. Once complete the HAZMAT program will be online and responding from the New Sudbury Fire Station.

Water Rescue: Each year our technical Ice/Swift/Still water responders perform a mandatory 115-hour training program to maintain their response capability. As the transition from the hard water to open water season approaches, the technical responders from Stations 2 and 4 will train in their ice rescue and open water response skills. Once the summer months occur, training with our rescue watercraft will occur on our area lakes and rivers.