

Fire Services Update – June 2021

Presented To:	Emergency Services Committee
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Meeting Date:	June 23, 2021
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Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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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 and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

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 March 1, 2021 – April 30, 2021		
Date	Location	Estimated Loss
Monday, March 8, 2021	1073 Red Deer Lake Road, Wahnapiatae	\$ 325,000
Sunday, March 28, 2021	23 Poupore Road, Skead	\$ 300,000
Saturday, April 10, 2021	1036 Chapman Street, Sudbury	\$ 600, 000
Sunday, April 11, 2021	744 Bruce Street, Sudbury	\$ 450,000
Monday, April 19, 2021	545 Lorne Street, Sudbury	\$ 370,000
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	300 Christina Street, Hanmer	\$ 650,000

Data Source: Firehouse

Incident Type	Jan 1 – April 30, 2021	Jan 1 – April 30, 2020
Fires	98	78
Fire Alarms	278	316
Vehicle Collisions	136	146
Open Air Burning Response	101	99
Medical Assistance	467	260
Other Incidents (assisting other agencies, no incident found on arrival, etc.)	307	294
Total	1387	1193
TOTAL Estimated Loss for Fires	\$4,862,857	\$2,879,450

Data Source: Firehouse

Fleet

The Covid-19 Stay-at-Home order has hampered the deployment of several items in the division.

Tankers: Greater Sudbury Fire Services took delivery of twin International cab and chassis with an aluminum body HV607 Tankers in December 2020 from Dependable Emergency Vehicles. Training on the new tankers is complete with deployment in June 2021. These Tankers are assigned to Career Fire Station 4 Long Lake and Volunteer Fire Station 24 Wahnapiatae. They are a further step in the fleet standardization and are to be outfitted in the same setup as the two previous tankers.

Rescue Boat: The rescue boat was delivered in late 2020. Training by the manufacturer Inland Liferrafts is to take place as early as restrictions allow now that the waters have opened. The boat designated Boat-1 is being registered with Transport Canada. Once the registration numbers are assigned and received, the boat will be decaled and placed in Station 4 Long Lake.

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 stored at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Azilda. The truck has been used to train the ladder crew firefighters in Station 1 and relief firefighters in its driving and setup. Darch Fire performed warranty repairs, system upgrading, and equipment mounting and powering in May.

Technical Rescue Truck and Trailer: 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 as has the detection equipment in the tow vehicle cap. The HAZMAT trailer has been equipped with a generator and new lighting.

The training ground's liquid petroleum gas vaporizer has been rebuilt by qualified contractors and passed its yearly testing. The propane kitchen simulator has been tested by Draeger and is approved for another season. This will allow the use of the simulator for the Training Section's evolutions

The installation and commissioning of the Nederman system (captures and vents vehicle exhaust from the tail pipe), is nearing completion. The COVID-19 restrictions have delayed its roll out. Once complete, the contractor will provide training to both Fire and EMS personnel on the operation and maintenance of the Nederman system.

Inventory of the bunker gear stored in our Copper Cliff storage was completed. The expired gear has been removed. Quantities and sizing of the remaining gear is on file and can likely accommodate the new hires for the Volunteer or Career recruitments.

The following annual requirements have been addressed:

- 2021 annual ground ladder testing is completed.
- 2021 annual hard suction hose testing has commenced.
- 2021 Volunteer and Career clothing orders are being processed.
- 2021 apparatus pump testing has commenced.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention Officers continue to complete mandated complaint, request and vulnerable occupancy fire and life safety inspections throughout the municipality.

Fire Prevention is currently developing a proactive low-rise inspection program that will focus on residential buildings with 2-4 units. This type of occupancy was chosen as statistics prove the majority of fire fatalities and injuries occur in low-rise residential buildings. A campaign will be developed to inform the public and specifically building owners of the new low-rise inspection initiative. This new initiative should reduce the number of fires, fatalities and injuries occurring in low-rise residential accommodations. Fire Prevention and Building Services are working collaboratively to develop procedures that provide clear direction to staff on specific responsibilities when violations are identified during an inspection (i.e.: illegal apartment).

Fire Prevention is pleased to announce that as of the end of the second quarter of 2021, the open files identified through an Office of the Fire Marshal Review, known as the P-1200 files, will all have been addressed and working towards compliance. This project has been ongoing for several years and the completion of the P-1200 open files will allow Fire Prevention to initiate the new low-rise proactive inspection program.

Public Education

Public Safety Officers have been working to develop standardized lesson plans for all fire and life safety topics. This will provide the guidance and information required to conduct a public education session with consistent messaging. The implementation of the standardized lesson plans will allow both Volunteer and Career Firefighters to be able to conduct fire safety presentations and public education to members of the community, reaching a greater audience.

The Public Safety Officers' focus over the last couple of months has been on addressing preventable fires through social media and new television commercials on kitchen fire safety, discarding of smoking materials, wildfire prevention and open air burning.

A new seniors based public education initiative is in the final stages of development and will be released by early summer. This new program will focus on assisting and educating seniors who reside within their own home on how to reduce the chances of fire from occurring and how to protect themselves in the event of a fire. Public Safety Officers are in communication with different agencies who would like to partner with Fire Services to promote this new initiative and assist with providing seniors with appropriate fire safety information.

Volunteer Firefighters have been assisting the Public Safety Officers by working collaboratively and providing virtual station tours to schools or classes within their community. This provides the children of the community with some basic fire and life safety information and makes them familiar with community first responders.

Training

Volunteer Firefighter training has resumed with a focus on skills development. Training Officers have been attending the in-station weekly training to provide assistance and support to the Volunteer Captains conducting the training. The in-station training has been well received by the Volunteer Firefighters, those that have attended are excited at the cooperation between Captains and Training Officers.

First Aid and CPR training for the Volunteer Firefighters has been initiated. Approximately one third of all the Volunteer Firefighters will receive first aid and CPR Lifesaver 101 training in 2021. The expectation is that all Volunteers will receive the training on a 3-year rotational basis. This approach will provide staggered expiry dates of certification and will reduce the impact on the Training Section to have a CPR/First Aid training completed in one year.

Tanker and aerial training is progressing well and all apparatus are anticipated to be in service in June.

Hazardous Materials (Haz-Mat) skills will continue to be developed over the remainder of 2021. The focus of the skills training will be gas detection.

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment

In 2019, Fire Services adopted an open recruitment style where applications were accepted throughout the year and kept on file until a recruitment process occurred. Prior to the start of the current recruitment process, there were 64 applications already on file.

The 2021 volunteer firefighter recruitment process began on March 23, 2021 with the application stage closing April 30. Overall, Fire Services received 213 applications. In the interest of illustrating success/opportunity with recruitment efforts that saw banners at fire halls, signage in high traffic areas and the use of social media, it is noted that 70% (149) of the applications were received during the 2021 application stage.

The following confirms applications received in each Station:

District #2 - 33	District #3 - 31	District# 4 - 55	District #5 - 45	Outside of Volunteer Areas	Ineligible Applicants
Copper Cliff - 5 Waters - 13	Azilda - 12 Chelmsford - 13	Val Caron - 15 Val Therese - 19	Garson - 21 Falconbridge - 9	49	17
Lively - 9 Whitefish - 5 Beaver Lake - 1	Dowling - 5 Levack - 1	Hanmer - 18 Capreol - 3	Skead - 3 Coniston - 6 Wahnapiatae - 6		

In total, 147 applicants (approximately 69% of applicants) made it through to the physical testing portion of the recruitment. The remaining 17 were ineligible (i.e., no G Licence, no Grade 12, had a Criminal Record, moved from the community, or withdrew).

The following is the current volunteer firefighter recruitment schedule:

- Physical Testing (Lionel E. Lalonde) May 31 & June 1
- Online Interviews June 7 & June 8
- Employment Offer Letter to be Signed June 24
- First Weekend of Training (20 hours) June 25, 26, 27
- Second Weekend of Training (20 hours) July 3, 4

For the physical testing and interview, we have engaged CLAC for their support and participation. Where we have received a list of Captains and Senior Volunteer Firefighters, we are also considering engaging recent recruits that would be otherwise familiar with the recruitment process and can offer support and encouragement to applicants.

Upon successful completion of the required 40 hours of training, the new recruits will be assigned to their respective stations and required to attend the station for regular training and responses.

Career Firefighter Recruitment

A career firefighter recruitment is in process for hiring eight Career Firefighters to fulfill the Arbitration Award. The application process began on May 3, 2021 and closed on June 4, 2021.

Applicants who met the minimum requirements, were provided a link to pay the required administration fee in order to proceed in the process.

Candidates are required to successfully pass each of the following steps in order to proceed through to the next step.

- Proctored Online Aptitude Test
- Physical Testing
- Interviews
- Psychological Testing
- Offers of Employment / Reference Checks / Medical Checks / Criminal Reference Check
- Training Academy (9 weeks)

The eight successful candidates will graduate and report to a station as probationary firefighters in November.