

Fire Services Update – December 2021

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| Presented To: | Emergency Services Committee |
| Meeting Date: | December 8, 2021 |
| Type: | Correspondence for Information Only |
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| Recommended by: | General Manager of Community Safety |

Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the recent business activities and relevant statistics 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.

| Major Fire Loss Incidents (Over \$100,000) August 31, 2021 – October 31, 2021 | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| Date | Location | Estimated Loss |
| Tuesday, September 2, 2021 | Antwerp Avenue, Sudbury | \$ 225,000 |
| Friday, October 1, 2021 | Eyre Street, Sudbury | \$ 205,000 |
| Monday, October 4, 2021 | Bloor Street, Sudbury | \$ 200,000 |
| Saturday, October 9, 2021 | Harju Crescent, Sudbury | \$ 126,000 |
| Thursday, October 21, 2021 | Bruce Avenue, Sudbury | \$ 200,000 |
| Thursday, October 28, 2021 | Woodbine, Sudbury | \$ 130,000 |

Data Source: Fire House

| Incident Type | Jan 1 – Oct 31, 2021 | Jan 1 – Oct 31, 2020 | Change |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Fires | 310 | 271 | 14% |
| Fire Alarms | 892 | 859 | 4% |
| Vehicle Collisions | 430 | 383 | 12% |
| Open Air Burning Response | 344 | 393 | -12% |
| Medical Assistance | 1,339 | 526 | 155% |
| Other Incidents (assisting other agencies, no incident found on arrival, etc.) | 979 | 853 | 15% |
| Total | 4,294 | 3,285 | 31% |
| TOTAL Estimated Loss for Fires | \$18,455,097 | \$11,120,790 | 66% |

Data Source: Fire House

Fleet

Fleet Services is currently looking at a cost-effective replacement for two small-scale zodiac style boats. The Whaly boat is mission critical, purpose built, small-scale emergency response vessel currently being reviewed and demonstrated in our water rescue stations. These alternative boats support our recently acquired rapid response vessel that deploys anywhere across the community. Small-scale vessels are required for lesser water bodies, rivers, and creeks where access is limited, and no boat launch is available.

A “push-in” ceremony was held at Main Station to welcome the new aerial ladder into service. This event is a fire service tradition that dates back to the late 1800s when fire departments used hand-drawn pumpers and horse-drawn equipment. Upon returning to the station after a fire call, the horses could not easily back the equipment into the station, so they were disconnected from the fire equipment and firefighters would push the equipment back into the bay themselves. The new Aerial Ladder was supported by Council and designed to service the community for the next 20 years.

In 2019, Council approved three new fire engines and after many pandemic related delays, these apparatus are anticipated in the community before the end of December 2021. A final inspection of the units will occur in November with the manufacturer KME and dealer Metz Fire and Rescue. These new units will enter service while three older units, which are no longer fit for duty, are retired from the fleet.

To support both our Volunteer and Full Time Firefighters who recently began their career through our recruitment processes, new bunker gear, boots, gloves, and helmets have been purchased for the new first responders. As many of these items have mandatory expiry dates of ten years or less, Fire Services can only maintain a minimal stock of spares and must manage the required replacement of all these items for every firefighter in the service. Ensuring the proper Personal Protective Equipment is a critical step in the training and deployment of these new members of the Fire Service, and the Fleet Section continues to work with our approved suppliers and manufactures to ensure safety of our staff.

All annual requirements and inspections have been completed for 2021. These have included our mandatory Pump Testing, Non-Destructive Ladder Testing, Suction and Supply Hose Testing, Equipment and Vehicle Inspections, and Bunker Gear Testing. Each year hundreds of pieces of equipment are tested, repaired, and evaluated for service through the Fire Department. The successful completion of annual testing is a collaborative effort between Fire Services Fleet and Mechanical Section, City of Greater Sudbury Fleet Section, and a number of support services.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention Officers are wrapping up this year's mandatory inspections of vulnerable (care) occupancies, as mandated by the Fire Marshal's office. We continue to have two inspectors with a target inspection portfolio for schools, restaurants, and industrial occupancies near residential neighborhoods. The other three inspectors are ramping up the call volumes regarding complaint and request inspections as per our minimum mandates from the Fire Marshal's Office. Request and complaint inspections have been increasing as the Province continues to release pandemic restrictions.

Public Education

Public Safety Officers are approaching one of the busiest fire safety education seasons. Fire Prevention Week was a success in partnerships with Lowes, promoting fire safety within their local store. Multiple social media ads and commercials were aired throughout the duration of Fire Prevention Week. Carbon Monoxide Week occurred the first week of November and Public Safety Officers were busy informing the public about the hazards associated with Carbon Monoxide (aka Silent Killer). Quickly following the Carbon Monoxide Week, the focus shifted to the holiday season fire safety campaign revolving around kitchen fire safety, alcohol safety while cooking, and proper discarding of smoking materials. Our hope is that we can resume normal activities within the schools at some point in early 2022. The senior home fire safety program is officially under way with an expectation that the volume of requests will continually improve.

Training

Career Firefighter Recruitment

On November 5th, Fire Services completed the 2021 Career Recruitment and Candidate Training Academy which began this past April when Council approved the hiring of eight new firefighters to support fire response in Valley East. A four-month selection period occurred that submitted over 500 applicants to an extensive intake and vetting process which included aptitude, physical, and psychological testing in order to select applicants who would then be enrolled in the Candidate Training Academy. This nine-week training program placed the candidates through National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) level certification in fire skills, technical response, and medical emergency first responder training. Successful in all aspects, a graduation ceremony was held on November 5th for the candidates leading our now probationary Firefighters

into the next phase of their career with Greater Sudbury Fire Services. A major milestone achieved as they started on duty and responding to emergencies November 8th, 2021.

Training Courses

- To support the new aerial apparatus which entered service this October, a Ladder Company training and operations course was delivered over a two-week period. This training coincides with the training received from the manufacturer on its set up and use. All training meets or exceeds the expectations of NFPA 1002 Chapter 6, standards for Fire Service Driver/Operator.
- Fire Ground Survival – International Association of Fire Fighters (FGS- IAFF) course was delivered the week of November 8th to 11th, and 13 members of the full-time fire service attended for the Train the Trainer program. These trained individuals will now deliver this lifesaving training to the whole of the Fire Suppression Section.
- Watercraft Licensing was delivered by Georgian Marine Institute to 24 members of our full-time service and water rescue responders. These licensing components are required for vessel operation in our community by Transport Canada.
- Volunteer 1001 recruit training continues to be developed with anticipated delivery in 2022.

Hazardous Materials Update

To support the direction of Council in 2019 to provide a hazardous materials response at the technician level in 2022, Greater Sudbury Fire Services has developed a continuing education and resourcing program for this specific technical discipline. Delivery of this program and acquisition of specialized equipment has continued in 2021 with all Full Time Firefighters now at the operations level of response supported by the proper technical equipment.

In support of our Volunteer Firefighters, operations level training will be organized and added to their 2022 training program in order to achieve all Fire Services staff being trained to this level for response.

The operations level is defined as - the capability of individuals to respond to technical rescue incidents and to identify hazards, use equipment, and apply limited techniques to support and participate in hazardous material type incidents. This type of response provides the community with an intermediate level of emergency mitigation and is the second stage of building the complete technical response capability of our HazMat program.

Finalizing the hazardous materials response program in 2022 will include technician level training to the Full Time Firefighters who will be assigned to the HazMat Fire Stations. This level of training allows the responders to apply the advanced techniques necessary to coordinate, perform, and supervise technical incidents. There are two assigned stations for this level of training and response, New Sudbury (Station 3) and Val Therese (Station 16).

To support the delivery of all the required training a three-week gas detection and HazMat core operations course occurred over the past several months with further training scheduled for the new year.

Greater Sudbury Fire Services remains committed to delivering the complete Hazardous Materials Technical Response Program, as approved by Council in 2019 by the end of 2022.