

Fire Services Update – August 2022

Presented To:	Emergency Services Committee
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Meeting Date:	August 10, 2022
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Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Safety
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Report Summary

This report provides an update 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.

Key Performance Indicators

Major Fire Loss Incidents (Over \$100,000) May 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022		
Date	Location	Estimated Loss
Sunday, May 22, 2022	Latimer Crescent, Sudbury	\$ 200,000
Monday, May 30, 2022	Highway 17 East, Sudbury	\$ 251,000
Sunday, June 19, 2022	Melvin Avenue, Sudbury	\$ 110,000

Data Source: Fire House

Incident Type	Jan 1 – June 30, 2022	Jan 1 – June 30, 2021	Change
Fires	199	193	3%
Fire Alarms	551	451	22%
Vehicle Collisions	276	215	28%
Open Air Burning Response	146	214	-31%
Medical Assistance	708	718	-1%
Other Incidents (assisting other agencies, no incident found on arrival, etc.)	534	523	2%
Total	2,414	2,314	4%
TOTAL Estimated Loss for Fires	\$ 7,076,435	\$ 14,080,458	-50%

Data Source: Fire House

Fleet

As part of the Fire Apparatus Standardization and Replacement Program, three new fire engines approved in the 2021 Budget were delivered in 2022. They are now in service and have been allocated to Station 1 – Van Horne, Station 3 – New Sudbury and Station 4 – Long Lake. The existing fire engines from these stations will be relocated within the Fire Service, replacing apparatus which are due to be decommissioned. A new tender has been sent out for the purchase of an additional fire engine, approved in the 2022 Budget, with an expected delivery date to be in 2023.

A new electronic clothing ordering system developed by our approved supplier, KLE Canada, is now active where career and volunteer staff can order online and deal directly with the supplier. This process will enhance the efficiency of ordering, timeframe for delivery, and reduce delays in the overall process.

The Fleet and Mechanical Section continues to work on the following testing processes which form part of Fire Services annual requirements for 2022:

- NFPA ground ladder testing, completed as of June 30.
- Annual NFPA SCBA flow testing, underway across all stations.
- Hose tower hoist tests, completed as of June 30.
- Annual Ministry of Transportation Inspections for light and heavy fleet vehicles, ongoing.

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention is actively completing mandatory complaint, request, and vulnerable occupancy inspections. All 54 vulnerable occupancy inspections are scheduled to be completed by the end of the third quarter of 2022.

Two members from Fire Prevention attended the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Symposium in London this past month and participated in presentations and training pertaining to: Fire Cause and Origin, Inspection Orders and Fire Marshal Reviews, New Fire Alarm System technology, Social Media, Diversity and Updated Standards including Integrated Systems Testing of Fire Protection Life Safety Systems. All Fire Prevention staff in attendance received training from Program Specialists with the Office of the Fire Marshal. The material learned will be shared with all Fire Prevention staff to provide opportunity for additional program development.

Public Education

As the Covid-19 restrictions are further reduced, the Public Safety Officers are beginning to see an increase in requests for fire safety presentations and fire service attendance at local events. Fire Services attended the Rayside-Balfour Heritage Days in June where auto extrication demonstrations were well attended by the public. This gave the audience a chance to see how an auto extrication is performed and ask questions pertaining to fire services and fire safety in general.

In-person fire station tours have resumed, which allow the public to book a date and time with the Public Safety Officer and attend a fire station. During the tour, visitors get to interact with firefighters and see the various tools and equipment used by Fire Services. They also receive fire safety information pertaining to smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, hazards in the home, and home escape planning.

Starting in September and continuing in the 2022/2023 school year, an emphasis will be placed on returning to in-class fire safety presentations in schools. Public Safety Officers will meet with all school board representatives to review our school fire safety program and request approval to make a commitment for all schools to take part in the program since fire safety education to school aged children was reduced over the last two years due to the pandemic.

Training

With the Ontario rollout of the Firefighter 1001-I & II certification for all suppression staff in the province of Ontario, the Training Section is working to develop a training package which will meet the needs of this upcoming legislation.

The focus from the start was to draft a training model of both self-directed and skills development. A course outline was developed to brief the firefighter of expectations prior to and during course delivery. This included self-directed learning prior to attending, with knowledge evaluations at the beginning of each course day and then skills development training for the remainder.

The purpose of the revamped course delivery is to align with the new legislation content. This will enable the participants to gain both the required knowledge and skills to challenge the upcoming certification.

To ensure appropriate student to trainer ratios, the training is limited to 24 participants at a time. This is to allow ample time to demonstrate proficiency in the required skills outlined in the Firefighter 1001-I certification standard. With that said, the Training Section has provided three Firefighter-I courses for this year and scheduled to do five additional courses in 2023. The multiple courses allow the participants flexibility to fit into their busy schedules and provide the required seats for the number of participants.

A challenge for the Training Section is to provide the required resources for the additional courses and the flexibility that is required to meet the needs of the participants. The Section currently maintains three full-time Training Officers, which also oversee/instruct industry specific disciplines on top of the Firefighter I & II core competencies. Balancing the current training demands with the pressures that the Firefighter I courses apply is a concern being discussed for potential future staffing considerations.

Along with the human resource demand element, there are equipment resource needs. These include specialty training props that would streamline the required learning and support the Provincial certification.