

## Fire Services Update – July 2024

Presented To: Community and  
Emergency Services  
Committee

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Prepared by: Jesse Oshell  
Community Safety

Recommended by: General Manager of  
Community Safety

## 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

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) January 1 – May 31, 2024		
Date	Location	Estimated Loss
Thursday, January 11, 2024	Ivan Steet, Hanmer	\$ 256,000
Monday, January 15, 2024	Ash Street, Sudbury	\$ 250,000
Wednesday, January 24, 2022	Young Street, Capreol	\$ 950,000
Saturday, February 3, 2022	Lavoie Street, Sudbury	\$ 180,000

Monday, February 26, 2024	Larch Street, Sudbury	\$ 160,000
Sunday, May 5, 2024	Royal Street, Blezard Valley	\$ 650,000

Data Source: Fire House

Incident Type	Jan 1 – May 31 2023	Jan 1 – May 31 2024	Change
Fires	117	146	25%
Fire Alarms	454	451	-1%
Vehicle Collisions	237	210	-11%
Open Air Burning Response	67	124	85%
Medical Assistance	495	582	18%
Other Incidents (assisting other agencies, no incident found on arrival, etc.)	484	538	11%
Total Incidents	1854	2051	11%
TOTAL Estimated Loss for Fires	\$ 9,315,102	\$ 3,501,491	-62%

Data Source: Fire House

Response Time Average (time from dispatch to on scene)	First Quarter 2024	Second Quarter 2024
Career	8 minutes 14 seconds	7 minutes 49 seconds
Volunteer	15 minutes 35 seconds	16 minutes 36 seconds

Data Source: Fire House

## Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Section comprises a Chief Fire Prevention Officer, five Fire Prevention Officers, a Public Safety Officer, and a Fire Prevention Clerk. Guided by the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), our efforts focus on two lines of defense: Public Fire Safety Education and Fire Safety Standards and Code Enforcement.

Fire Prevention staff, designated as Assistants to the Ontario Fire Marshal, enforce Fire Code compliance under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. This includes property inspections, building permit plans review, onsite training, and legal prosecution. We conduct inspections based on requests, complaints, and requirements for vulnerable occupancies (care and treatment residential facilities).

Our Fire Prevention Officers hold NFPA 1031 certification, qualifying them as Fire Inspectors and Plans Examiners. The Public Fire Safety Officer is certified as an NFPA 1035 Level II Public Fire and Life Safety Educator and Public Information Officer.

The Fire Prevention Section is actively conducting proactive fire inspections for multi-residential buildings to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. This effort aims to reduce fire-related fatalities within our community. A particular focus is placed on older residential buildings constructed before the Ontario Building Code, which may require retrofitting to meet minimum fire and life safety standards.

### 2024 Inspection Summary (as of May 31)

- Complaint Inspections: 102
- Request Inspections: 210
- Vulnerable Occupancies: 21
- Target Inspections: 105
- Total Inspections Completed: 438

## Residential Occupancy Inspection Strategy

The Fire Prevention Section's objective is to inspect all residential occupancies within a 10-year period. Below is a breakdown of the residential occupancies and estimated time to complete inspections:

Type of Occupancy	Number of Occupancies	Avg. Inspection Time (hours)	Estimated Time to Complete (hours)
Duplex	1,698	3	5,094
Triplex	434	3.25	1,410
Four Plex	418	3.5	1,463
Five Plex	75	3.75	281
Six Plex	70	4	280
7+ Units	342	7	2,394

The goal is to ensure all multi-residential buildings meet the required safety standards to protect the lives of our residents.

## Public Education

The City of Greater Sudbury Fire Services (GSFS) delivers life-saving messages through various fire safety education programs and activities. These programs target identified fire risks and involve partnerships with community groups to enhance public fire safety education.

### Initiatives for 2024

#### Home Safe and Sound Program

- Objective: Increase the number of single-family dwellings with working smoke alarms and educate residents on home fire safety.
- Approach: Door-to-door surveys, home fire safety reviews, and education for all 46,300 single-family dwellings within seven years. Utilizes electronic tablets and the "Field Maps" app to track inspections and follow-ups.
- Outcome: Decrease fires, injuries, and fatalities; statistical data will be collected for evaluation.

#### After The Fire Program

- Objective: Enhance fire safety awareness in neighborhoods where a fire occurred within the last 72 hours.
- Approach: Fire Prevention Officers canvas the area, providing fire safety reminders and distributing fire safety booklets.
- Outcome: Increased engagement and fire safety awareness.

#### Community Action Network (CAN) Presentations

- Objective: Provide fire safety education to CAN members.
- Approach: Public Safety Officer coordinates presentations at CAN meetings, often collaborating with the Emergency Management Coordinator.
- Outcome: Enhanced community-wide fire safety knowledge.

#### Elementary Schools – Fire Safety Program

- Objective: Educate elementary school students on fire safety.
- Approach: Provide teachers with lesson plans and resources tailored to different grade levels.
- Outcome: Consistent fire safety education across all elementary schools in Greater Sudbury.

#### Fire Prevention Week

- Objective: Promote Fire Prevention Week (October 06-12, 2024) to a broader audience.
- Approach: Host open houses and station tours with fire safety education.
- Outcome: Increased public participation and awareness during Fire Prevention Week.

## **Partnerships**

- Objective: Collaborate with community agencies to support fire safety programs.
- Approach: Seeking grant funding from partners like Vale and Glencore to purchase smoke alarms for the Home Safe and Sound Program.
- Outcome: Offset costs for smoke alarms, making them accessible to financially challenged residents.

## **Lesson Plans**

- Objective: Ensure fire safety education materials are accurate and up to date.
- Approach: Review and standardize all fire safety materials, providing stations with binders and electronic copies.
- Outcome: Consistent and effective fire safety education during station tours and public training sessions.

The Fire Prevention and Public Education staff are dedicated to delivering mandatory fire safety education, meeting Office of the Fire Marshal requirements, and prioritizing fire and life safety for all residents of Greater Sudbury. Through these initiatives the division aims to reduce the number of fires and enhance public awareness and education on fire safety.

## **Training Section**

Fire Services delivers high-quality training programs, achieving a 100% success rate for all certification training participants. Our training ensures that both new recruits and existing firefighters meet the Ontario Fire Marshal regulatory standards in order to deliver the council approved service levels. The introduction of the Ontario Fire Marshal's mandatory certification has required our fire service to significantly increase our training requirements, and our firefighters' recent success in certification exams highlights the quality and effectiveness of our programs.

### **2024 Program Delivery**

#### **NFPA 1001-FF1 (Ontario Fire Marshal mandatory training part 1)**

- 2023 Volunteer Recruits: The first course for the 2023 volunteer recruits is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2024. These recruits are set to take the provincial certification examination in July 2024.
- 2024 Volunteer Recruits: The second course for the 2024 volunteer recruits will commence on August 25, 2024, and is scheduled to be completed by October 27, 2024.

#### **NFPA 1001-FF2 (Ontario Fire Marshal mandatory training part 2)**

- Existing Volunteer Firefighters: Three courses are scheduled in 2024. Two courses began in January 2024 and are scheduled for completion by June 2, 2024. The third course will commence on August 24, 2024, and be completed by October 20, 2024.

#### **NFPA 1006 (Ontario Fire Marshal mandatory technical rescue training)**

- 32 Mandatory Training Days Completed: Off-duty training days have been utilized to provide the necessary technical discipline training to our career staff. This ensures compliance with the legislated deadline of July 1, 2028. The tech disciplines training includes Hazmat, Water Rescue and High Angle Rescue.

### **Portable Fire Suppression Props**

GSFS recently received portable fire suppression props, which will be incorporated into volunteer certification and weekly training sessions. These props enable volunteer firefighters to practice realistic fire operations in various fire districts, reducing the need to travel to the Lionel E. Lalonde training grounds for live fire training. These new training tools will enhance the practical skills of our volunteer firefighters and ensure

environmentally responsible training practices. Prop features include:

- Simulated scenarios (barbeque, car, upright propane cylinder, gas meter, and garbage bin fires).
- Propane-fueled for clean burning, minimizing smoke and toxin release.

## **Fleet Section**

In the first two quarters of 2024, several important actions were taken to enhance the operational efficiency and safety of our fire services fleet:

### **Hiring of an Additional Mechanical Officer**

With the approval of Council, included in the 2024 budget, is a second Mechanical Officer, who was hired and has just begun this role. The addition of a second Mechanical Officer will assist with meeting logistical and operational requirements within facility, fleet, equipment, and respiratory management, improving our maintenance capacity and reliability of our vehicles and equipment.

### **Divestment of Old Fire Trucks and Expired Bunker Gear**

We have divested ourselves of two fire trucks which were beyond their useable life cycle of 20-years and were removed from service due to significant mechanical breakdowns. One unit was a former ladder truck and the other was a former pumper, both of which sold at auction for a total of \$12,000. This move not only reduces maintenance costs but also allows us to allocate resources towards newer, more efficient vehicles. This divestment is part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a modern, effective, and safe fleet. Additionally, our expired bunker gear was sold at auction for \$3,000, and new gear was purchased, ensuring our firefighters are equipped with equipment that meets the highest safety standards. All funds recovered from the divestment of apparatus and equipment is placed back into the capital holding account as required.