



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Summary of Emergency Responses, Training, Achievements, Success and Investments that have been accomplished in 2022. Review of the status of Stations, Apparatus & Equipment.

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## CHIEF'S MESSAGE

On behalf of Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services (WFES), it is my pleasure to present the 2022 Annual Fire & Emergency Services Report. Despite the challenges that post Covid-19 Pandemic continued to present, 2022 has been the busiest and our most productive year to date. The members of WFES continue to deliver professional and excellent service to the community, and I am incredibly proud of their dedication to excellence, knowledge, skills and teamwork to serve Wainfleet 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

WFES accomplished a number of items in 2022.

- Responded to **233** calls for service
- Maintained an average response time of 9.75 minutes from time of dispatch to time first units on scene (for Wainfleet calls only)
- Completed a total of 2,604 hours (1.43FTE) of personnel time responding to calls for service
- Over 5,400 hours (2.97FTE) of personnel time conducting training, apparatus, equipment & station maintenance and attending meetings
- Personnel were able to deliver more than 134 hours (0.07FTE) of Public Education & Fire Prevention
- Began construction of the new Central Fire Station Project
- Purchased and placed into service a new Squad Utility unit.

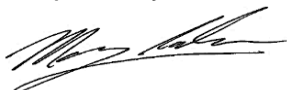
In 2022, firefighters attended a number of training events focused on further developing the skills and knowledge required to meet the needs of the community and the levels of service set by Council. Given the additional stressors that the pandemic, global conflicts and volatile market conditions brought forward, the Mental Health & Wellness of our personnel were a priority to ensure they remained resilient and flexible while continuing to serve our community.

As with previous year's reports, WFES personnel continue to deliver fire & emergency services with dedication and professionalism that the Township of Wainfleet have come to expect and deserve.

As a public safety professional and fire service leader, it is comforting to know that the community is protected by such a professional group of volunteers who bring such value and savings to the residents of Wainfleet. When looking at the value our volunteers bring it is amazing that approximately 55 volunteers performing almost 7,730 hours (4.25 FTE) of service for about \$200,000.00, ultimately saves the taxpayer more than \$350,000.00 if full time staff had to be utilized. The Township should be incredibly proud of their Fire Service and continue supporting the men and women who serve them.

As we look to 2023, I am excited and confident that WFES will handle whatever situation or need arises with Compassion, Integrity & Excellence.

Respectfully submitted,



Morgan Alcock  
Fire Chief/CEMC





## CORE VALUES, MISSION & VISION

### **CORE VALUES**

#### **Compassion**

Caring for the community as if they are family

#### **Integrity**

Honesty, Trustworthy, Steadfast and True

#### **Excellence**

Dedicated to excellence and professionalism, in the delivery of the services our community expects and deserves.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the Wainfleet Fire Department is to take action to protect and/or rescue citizens and/or property from threats to health, the effects of natural or man-made disaster, and in particular the risk that a fire, if started, would seriously endanger the health and safety of any person or quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it.

### **PRIMARY GOALS**

The primary goal of the Fire Department is to provide fire protection and rescue services through a range of programs designed to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants from the adverse effects of fire, sudden medical emergencies, or exposure to dangerous conditions created by man or nature; secondly to those Municipalities requiring assistance through authorized emergency fire service plan and program (mutual aid) activities; and thirdly, to those Municipalities which are provided fire protection by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services via authorized agreement.

### **PRIMARY OBJECTIVES of the FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

In order to achieve the goal of Fire Department, necessary funding must be in place and the following objectives met:

1. Reduce the incidence of injury, loss of life, and property damage by providing public education programs, fire cause investigation, and prevention services to secure public safety and code compliance.
2. Be responsive to local and global economics so that our service model reflects the needs of the community we serve and the changing technologies that influence cost effective delivery of services to recognized standards.
3. Provide a timely response for all services through properly equipped, trained, skilled, and efficient firefighters.
4. Identify and review the Fire Department requirements of the Municipality.
5. Provide an administrative process consistent with the needs of the Department.
6. Ensure that firefighting equipment and operating personnel are available within the Municipality to provide adequate response to a citizen's call within a reasonable length of time.
7. Provide departmental training, to an accepted standard, which will ensure the continuous up-grading of all personnel in the latest technique of fire prevention, firefighting and control of emergency situations and to co-operate with other Municipal departments with respect to management training and other programs.



- 8.** Provide a maintenance program to ensure all fire protection apparatus, involving all equipment, is ready to respond to emergency calls.
- 9.** Provide an effective Fire Prevention Program to:
  - (a) Ensure, through plan examination and inspection, that required fire protective equipment is installed and maintained within buildings,
  - (b) Reduce and/or eliminate fire hazards,
  - (c) Ensure compliance with applicable Municipal, Provincial and Federal fire prevention legislation, statutes, codes and regulations in respect to fire safety.
- 10.** Develop and maintain an effective public information system and educational program, with particular emphasis on school fire safety programs, and commercial, industrial and institutional staff training.
- 11.** Ensure in the event of a major catastrophe in the Municipality, that assistance to cope with the situation is available from outside departments and other agencies.
- 12.** Develop and maintain a good working relationship with all Federal, Provincial and Municipal departments, utilities and agencies, related to the protection of life and property.
- 13.** Interact with other Municipal departments respecting the aspects of fire or any given programs.
- 14.** Ensure these objectives are not in conflict with any other Municipal department.

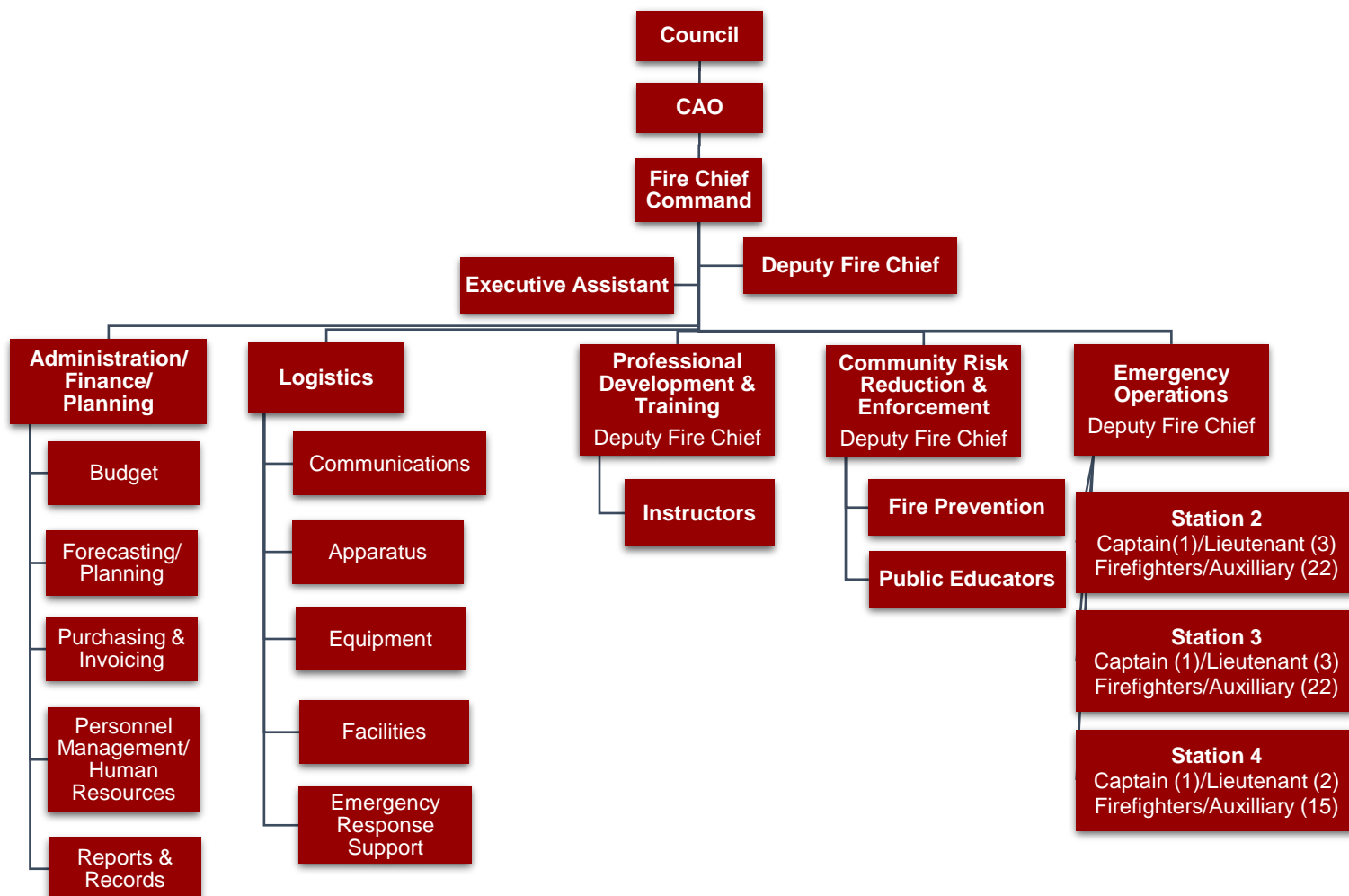


## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services Organizational Chart

The Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services has more than 50 active volunteer firefighters, supported by Executive Assistant, Tara McLachlan, Deputy Fire, Chief Shawn Schutten and Fire Chief, Morgan Alcock.

In 2022, Council amended the Establishing & Regulating by-law and approved the new WFES Organizational Chart to reflect the three-station model in preparation for the new Central Station becoming operational in 2023.



**DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL (As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022)**

<b>Chief Officers</b>	
<b>Fire Chief - Morgan Alcock</b>	<b>Deputy Fire Chief - Shawn Schutten</b>
<b>Company Officers</b>	
<b>Central Station</b>	
<b>Captain – Harold Kelly</b>	<b>Lieutenant - Matthew Holinaty</b>
	<b>Lieutenant - Trevor Airhardt</b>
	<b>Lieutenant - Joe Rodrigues</b>
<b>Station 3</b>	
<b>Captain - Conrad Beckingham</b>	<b>Lieutenant - Bruce Vandelaar</b>
	<b>Lieutenant – Brandon Mater</b>
<b>Station 4</b>	
<b>Captain - Jason Mous</b>	<b>Lieutenant - Ben Benson</b>
	<b>Acting Lieutenant - Dawsen Schutten</b>
	<b>Acting Lieutenant - Rachel VanGeel</b>
<b>Department Wide</b>	
<b>Public Education Officer - Charles Farkas</b>	
<b>FIRST CLASS FIREFIGHTERS</b>	
ETHIER, Dawson	MASOTTI, Mike
FANG, Brendan	SNIPPE, Mark
JOHNSON, Leanne	TEDESCO, Aaron
KARPINCHICK, Chris	
MALLON, John	
<b>SECOND CLASS FIREFIGHTERS</b>	
BARKER, Sean	SHOALTS, Ben
BEATTIE, Brandon	SIDER, Tyson
CHASTELET, Nicholas	STATON, Tom
GRAEF, James	STOUTH, Zachary
HOSKIN, Jason	VANDELAAR, John
KISS, Amy	VRIEND, Jerry
MONTREUIL, Christopher	WHITEHALL, Ian
MYERS, Jay	WORRALL, Jeremy
NEUDORF, Stephen	
<b>THIRD CLASS FIREFIGHTERS</b>	
AARTS, Jonathon	HERBERT, Christopher
BOUWERS, Taylor	SCHNEIDER, Jeremy
DUFF, Scott	
<b>PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS</b>	
ANNETT, Sarah	GILMORE, Jacob
BALCH, Allie	MCDONALD, Brad
BLACK, Mitch	
<b>AUXILLARY FIREFIGHTERS</b>	
HESSELS, Ted	



## RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS, PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS, RECOGNITION

### 2022 Retirements, Resignations & Returns

Acting Captain Chad Rumsby retired after 12 years of service  
Acting Captain Drew Robins retired after 6 years of service  
Firefighter Jeff Grondin retired after 6 years of service  
Firefighter Scott Walls retired after 6 years of service  
Firefighter Michael Mascitelli resigned after 4 years of service  
Firefighter Nick Carter-Flagg resigned after 3 years of service  
Firefighter Joseph Bos resigned after 2 years of service

### Promotions and Appointments

- 5 members from the class of 2022 Recruits completed their probationary period and became 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighters on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.
- Brendan Mater was promoted to Station 3 Lieutenant on January 1, 2022.
- Trevor Airhardt was promoted to Central Station Acting Lieutenant on January 1, 2022.

### Recognition & Awards

On January 4, 2022, WFES held its annual recruit class graduation and awards ceremony. They completed their oath and were presented their badges and helmets.





## HEALTH & SAFETY

### Mental Health & Wellness

In Q1, the Fire Services leadership team partnered with a local Mental Health Professional (MHP) to conduct a review of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Prevention Plan/Program. The MHP utilized a Needs & Capacity Assessment prepared by the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH), which resulted in 52 recommendations, or industry best practices, for fire services in Ontario to review and guide program evolution.

This review resulted in a new Mental Health & Wellness working group being formed. This working group includes members of the Fire Services Leadership Team, Peer Support and Critical Incident Stress Management Team, Joint Health & Safety Committee, as well as the fire services Chaplain and the Mental Health Professional.

The working group reviewed a draft Mental Health & Wellness Plan/Program (MH&WP) that was developed by the MHP. The MH&WP addresses the broader mental health of first responders, while still ensuring we meet all the legislative requirements for PTSD prevention.

Focusing on resiliency and post incident processing, the MH&WP now includes quarterly screening, rapid access to resources, and pre-planned pathways for care for all WFES personnel.

On July 13, 2022 the working group met to review the revisions to the Mental Health & Wellness Action Plan (MH&WAP) and conduct a pilot of the Mental Health & Wellness Screening Tool. There was a 90% completion rate of the tool, with 100% of those who responded indicating that access to the tool was secure and smooth, completion of the screening was easy, and that the tool was asking the correct questions related to first-responders mental health. The results of this pilot provided ample feedback to make final revisions to the program before rollout to the entire department.

The Mental Health & Wellness Action Plan includes items such as:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) prevention policy and plan,
- Mental Health Anti Stigma Policy
- Reporting of Exposures Operational Guidelines
- Post Critical Incident Screening
- Quarterly MH&W screenings
- Substance Misuse Service & Care Pathways
- WSIB Service & Care Pathway
- Peer Support & Critical Incident Stress Team training
- Employee & Family Assistance Plan
- Fire Service Chaplain
- Psychotherapist services
- Early access to intervention & care services

On September 6, 2022, the MH&WAP was presented to all personnel, including presentations by the Rapid Access to Addictions Medicine (RAAM) clinic.



Rollout of the first quarterly screening occurred in November, which aligned with “Movember”.

**There was a 96% completion rate within 2 weeks.**

Of the 47 personnel who completed the screening:

- 25% were offered a follow up call based on clinically significant scoring  
*Which is slightly lower than the 30% clinically significant scoring in July.*

Of those 25% who received follow up by WFES Psychotherapist:

- 16% received a follow-up call, were provided with resources and information and agreed to a future follow up call to check in
- 24% booked in an initial appointment (12% fire related and require funding,)
- 4% received a follow up call with no further action required

High level themes from follow up include:

- Major life transitions i.e. grief and loss, separation and divorce
- Low Resilience
- Anticipatory anxiety re: dealing with future fire & emergency responses
- Performance and personnel issues
- Trauma symptoms present from a call(s) which have not cleared

A common trend among respondents indicated:

- They have been thinking about needing support for a while but find it difficult to put needs first/ask for help
- Thinking it is best to just block out intrusive thoughts and feelings in order to move on
- Feeling supported by Chiefs
- Generally protected from unnecessary exposure

For 2023, the MHWP and any required assistance will be funded through the Professional Fees budget. Staff will be provided reports, as personnel access various resources, which will assist in the next needs assessment and development of future budgetary requirements.

Planned Activity for 2023:

- Co-facilitation of The Working Mind- First Responder (TWMFR) to new recruits
- Development and delivery of session for new recruits and partners
- Utilisation of Post Critical Incident 2-2-6 Screening and CISM support
- Quarterly skills workshops based on Before Occupational Stress (BOS) modules
- Report to MH&W Working Group/review of MH&W Action Plan with considerations re: financial implications and budget requests
- Ongoing screening, follow up and quarterly reporting to Chief

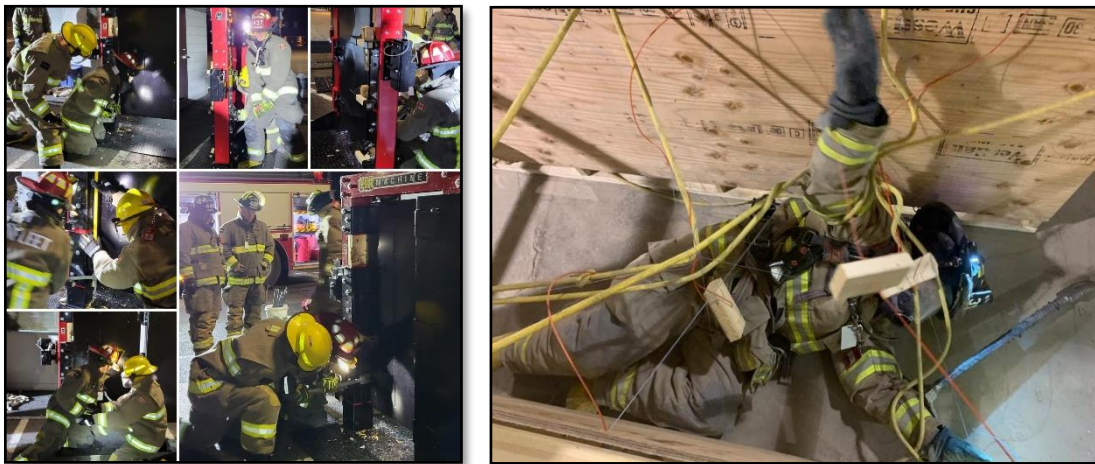


## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Following a workplace inspection that had been completed at the Training House on Forks road in late 2021, Several Health & Safety items were identified and the workplace was deemed unsafe. Given that the Township does not own the property or the building, it was determined that corrective actions could not be undertaken. All training and operations within the structure ceased immediately, resulting in the loss of a training resource. Additionally, as part of the tender process for the new central fire station, Council made the decision to demolish the existing structure on the property that was being used and was planned for renovation to be repurposed as a training building. These events have significantly impeded the ability of the fire service to conduct appropriate and realistic training while also forcing personnel and resources to leave the township, ultimately reducing the level of service to the community while these training events occur.

Throughout 2022, WFES maintained firefighter training in accordance with the Collective Agreement, NFPA and OSHA requirements, Firefighters participated in regular training meetings demonstrating both theoretical and practical skills in areas such as:

- Use, Care, Inspection and Maintenance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)
- Medical Response: First Aid, CPR, AED, Overdose response
- Rural Water Supply: Tanker Shuttle & Alternative water sources
- Pump Operations: Apparatus and Portable
- Command & Accountability
- Rescue Operations: Extrication, Patient packaging, Low angle, Rapid Intervention Teams
- Ladders and Ventilation
- Interior Fire Attack including Search & Rescue Techniques



Additionally, WFES focused on Mental Health & Wellness training for not only the firefighters but also the peer support members. WFES also hosted Critical Incident Stress Team training in November of 2022.

Training events include:

- The Working Mind – First Responder (Firefighter mental health resiliency)
- Safe Talk – Suicide awareness and intervention training (Peer Support Team)
- CISM – Assisting Individuals in Crisis (Peer Support Team)
- CISM – Group Crisis Intervention (Peer Support Team)



### **Live Fire Training**

As required in the WVFFA Collective Agreement, all firefighters must attend 1 Live Fire training event annually. Due to WFES not having dedicated training facilities, WFES utilized the Fort Erie Fire Training Tower for these training events. This requires at least half of the department personnel and equipment to be out of service and out of the township during these events.

During two Saturdays in October & November, all members were offered the opportunity to participate in live fire training sessions at the Fort Erie Fire Training Tower to practice fire ground skills. Drills included: Fire Behavior, Interior Fire Attack, Search & Rescue, Command, Accountability, Rapid Intervention Teams, and more.



### **Accredited Red Cross, NFPA & Recruit Training Program**

On July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, [O. Reg 343/22 Firefighter Certification](#) came into force. This regulation requires that all firefighters within the Province of Ontario be NFPA certified to the level of service set by the municipal E&R Bylaw within 4 years.

In anticipation of this regulation coming, WFES proactively began its certification process in 2018. As part of the ongoing certification program, WFES continues to provide NFPA certification courses that are recognized by the Academic Standards and Evaluation branch of the Ontario Fire College. In addition to the regular course offerings, our Recruit Training Program (RTP) meets all the Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) for NFPA 1001 Level I & II.

Every year WFES operates the following certified programs:

- NFPA 1001- Firefighter Level I & II – January 1 to July 1
- NFPA 1002 - Pump Operations – October/November
- NFPA 1072 - Hazardous Materials (Awareness & Operations) – October/November
- Red Cross - Standard First Aid & Basic Life Support CPR/AED – January/February
- Red Cross - Emergency First/Medical Responder (EFR/EMR) – November/December

WFES has partnered with Local Area Municipalities and Regional Training Centers to provide the following certified programs:

- Fort Erie Regional Training Centre
  - NFPA 1021 - Fire Officer Levels I & II
  - NFPA 1041 - Fire Service Instructor Levels I & II
  - NFPA 1521 - Incident Safety Officer
- Grimsby Regional Training Centre
  - NFPA 1031 - Fire Inspector Levels I & II
  - NFPA 1033 - Fire & Explosion Investigator
  - NFPA 1035 - Fire & Life Safety Educator Levels I & II & Public Information Officer



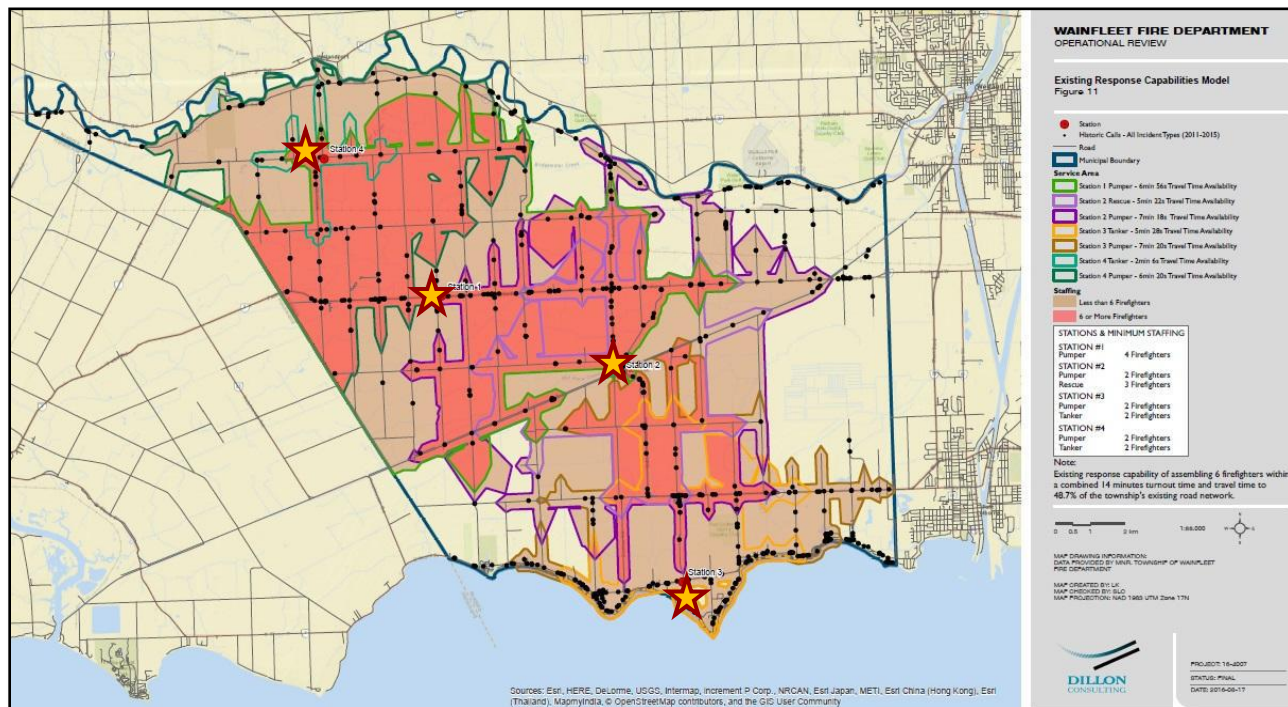


## FACILITIES, APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, & OPERATIONS

The Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services operates from four stations, with administration offices located within the Town Hall.

Number	Location	Address	Apparatus	Personnel
Administration	Wainfleet	31940 Hwy 3	Car 1, Car 2, Squad 2, UTV 2	3
Station # 1	Winger	43178 Hwy. 3	Engine 1	7
Station # 2	Wainfleet	31907 Park St.	Engine 2, Rescue 2	14
Station # 3	Burnaby	11603 Lakeshore Rd.	Engine 3, Tanker 3	19
Station # 4	Schwoob	63959 Concession 6	Engine 4, Tanker 4	12

### Current Stations & Response Areas



## **STATIONS**

In 2022 Council approved several capital investments to be made into Stations 3 (Burnaby) & 4 (Schwoob).

### **STATION 3- BURNABY**

Constructed in 1968, this is a two-bay block building with metal siding. Capital Upgrades completed in 2022 included:

- Interior Wall Paint
- Repair of Concrete Sidewalk (deferred to 2023)
- Floor repairs & coating (deferred to 2023)



### **STATION 4- SCHWOOB (WELLANDPORT)**

Constructed in 1982 this is a two-bay station constructed of metal frame and metal external walls. Capital Upgrades completed in 2022 included:

- Interior Wall Paint
- Foundation repairs
- Floor repairs & coating (deferred to 2023)



While completing the foundation repair at station 4 (Schwoob), it was discovered that much of the block walls do not have a footing and were placed directly on the clay. With this discovery, staff engaged an engineer to inspect the foundation. They reported that there are footings and piers for the steel posts and point loads and that there is no concern for the safety of the building. However, this lack of support for the block walls, provides an explanation for the movement and cracking and water infiltration of the block. Staff have asked the engineer to determine if the existing structure can be upgraded to a post disaster building. Initial discussions were that it is not and cannot become post disaster rated, however, a forthcoming report from the engineer will provide further detail.

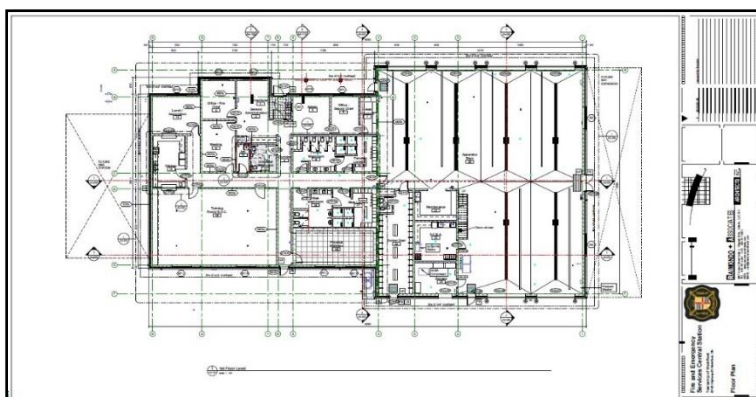
## **CENTRAL FIRE STATION PROJECT**





## CENTRAL FIRE STATION PROJECT PROGRESS

Date	Benchmark
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Charter approved by Council</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender &amp; Bid Documents issued and Bid period opens</li> <li>Mandatory site meeting for all bidders</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender Closing Date (moved from February 24, 2022)</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Award of Tender to TRP Construction</li> <li>Construction contract finalization &amp; preconstruction meeting</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Breaking Ceremony</li> <li>Demolition Permit issued</li> <li>MTO Permit issued</li> <li>Building Permit issued</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demolition of House &amp; Barn completed</li> <li>Site stripping completed</li> <li>New site entrance constructed</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footings and foundation walls complete</li> <li>Damp proofing complete</li> <li>Slab back-fill complete</li> <li>Pond infill complete</li> <li>Septic bed constructed, and tank installed</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electrical underground complete</li> <li>Mechanical underground complete</li> <li>Road and parking lot granular complete</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apparatus bay trench drains complete</li> <li>Roof trusses delivered</li> <li>Under slab insulation complete</li> <li>Floor slab reinforcing complete</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In-floor radiant heat piping complete</li> <li>Floor slab complete</li> <li>Structural steel columns completed</li> <li>Load bearing masonry commenced</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Load bearing masonry ongoing</li> <li>Electrical rough-ins within masonry</li> <li>Mechanical rough-ins within masonry</li> </ul>
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Load bearing masonry complete</li> <li>Roof trusses and sheathing complete</li> <li>Mezzanine stair and metal decking installed</li> <li>Attic space electrical conduit installed</li> <li>Roof membrane commenced</li> </ul>



## APPARATUS

WFES Services "Operates" ten (10) on road vehicles and one (1) off road vehicle.

2020 APPARATUS ROSTER				
	STATION	UNIT ID	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
1	Admin.	Car 1	Personally Owned Vehicle	
2	Admin.	Car 2	GMC Sierra 1500 4x4 – Custom Command Slide	2014
3	1	Engine 1	Pierce – Kenworth T370 (750gpm)	2003
4	2	Engine 2	Superior- International (1250gpm)	1999
5	2	Rescue 2	Fort Garry - Dodge 5500 – Walk around rescue	2018
6	2	Squad 2	2023 GMC Sierra 2500 4x4 – Utility Unit	2023
7	3	Engine 3	HME – 1870SFO (1500gpm) Rescue-Pumper	2021
8	3	Tanker 3	Fort Garry – International (3000gal.)	2018
9	4	Engine 4	Fort Garry – International (1250gpm)	2018
10	4	Tanker 4	Swentz- Freightliner (2500gal.)	2005
11	Admin.	UTV 2	Kubota RTV – Sidekick w/ CET Skid Unit	2019

Engine 2 (1999) was to be replaced in 2019 however its replacement has been deferred until the opening of the new Central Station. Due to several irreparable items on Squad 1 (2005) it was removed from service in 2021. A new 2021 Engine was purchased and placed at Station 3, with the old Engine 3 (2003) moved to Station 1, which will move again to the new Central Station.

This revised plan meant that once the new station opens, it will require a new Engine and a Tanker. Other apparatus will still need to be acquired to meet the needs of the community.

The table below outlines a ten year the fleet purchasing/replacement plan and does not forecast the replacement of the entire fleet beyond 2033.

APPARATUS FORECAST			
UNIT ID	D.O.M.	APPARATUS PLAN & DATE	*ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT COST
<b>OVERDUE</b>			
Engine 2	1999	To be removed from Service (2024)	\$0.00
<b>2023-2025</b>			
Car 1	New	2023	\$ 105,000.00
Engine 1	2003	Replace in 2023 (will remain as reserve)	\$ 850,000.00
Tanker 2	New	2024	\$ 650,000.00
Car 2	2014	2024	\$ 110,000.00
		<b>1-3 Years Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,715,000.00</b>
<b>2026-2029</b>			
Tanker 4	2005	2025	\$ 650,000.00
Rehab/Decon	New	2026	\$ 110,000.00
Rescue 2	2018	2028	\$ 650,000.00
		<b>4-6 Years Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,410,000.00</b>
<b>2030-2032</b>			
Engine 4	2017	2032	\$ 900,000.00
Squad 2	2023	2033	\$ 150,000.00
Car 1	2023	2033	\$ 125,000.00
		<b>6-10 Years Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 1,175,000.00</b>
<b>10 YEAR TOTAL ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT VALUE</b>			<b>\$4,300,000.00</b>
<b>Estimated Annual Replacement Funding Requirement</b>			<b>+/- \$ 430,000.00</b>

\*Estimates are calculated using recent comparable purchases with forecasted inflation & Values are Unaudited





## SQUAD 2

Following Council's approval of the 2022 Capital Budget, for a new Squad (Heavy Duty Crew Cab pickup truck). Council approved the purchase of a 2023 GMC Sierra 2500HD from Niagara Motors, which was delivered in September of 2022. The vehicle was then sent to up-fitters for the installation of the graphics, cap, bed-slide, emergency warning equipment (lights & sirens) and radio communications equipment. The vehicle was placed in service on December 9, 2022.

As previously reported, the purpose of this truck is to serve as a multi-role response and support vehicle. During the grass fire season, it will be loaded with wildland firefighting equipment and pre-connected to the UTV as a "brush truck".

However, during structure fire responses it will be utilized to transport personnel and equipment to and from the scene.

Additionally, as part of our "Cancer Prevention Plan" it will be used as a "Decon." truck, where all contaminated equipment, gear & PPE, post fire incident, will be bagged and transported in the bed of the truck, reducing contamination of the passenger compartments of other apparatus and personal vehicles.



## EQUIPMENT

Beginning in 2019, Council approved an annual equipment replacement program that would provide the necessary resources for the continued replacement of aging equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Some of the equipment purchased in 2022 includes:

2- Battery Operated Chainsaws	2000' of 2 1/2" (65mm) Fire Attack Hose
1 - Battery Operated Ventilation Fan	1 - Cordless tool set
200' of 4" (100mm) LDH Supply Hose	4 - Cordless reciprocating saws
Mobile Data Terminal (Tanker iPads)	Tracks for the UTV
Battery Operated Portable Scene Lighting	Portable Ground Monitor



### **RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM**

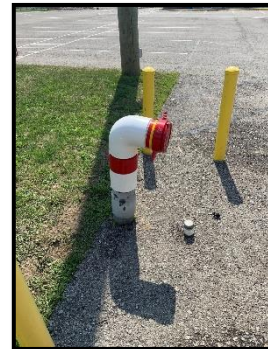
The Township of Wainfleet does not operate a Municipal Water Supply system and as such the Fire Service relies on a “Rural Water Supply Program” which includes impounded water, dry hydrants and mobile water supply apparatus (Tankers) for firefighting operations.



*Berg Farm Supply*



*Wills Rd*



*Arena*

As recommended by the Master Fire Plan, Operational Review and as approved in the Capital & Operational Budgets, WFES has begun to identify areas with water supply gaps in accordance with Fire Underwriters guidelines and NFPA standards, and is working to address these gaps with new installations. In 2021 Council approved an annual Capital Budget line for the Rural Water Supply program. Piping, hardware, connections and materials were purchased in 2021 for the installation of 2 new dry hydrants.

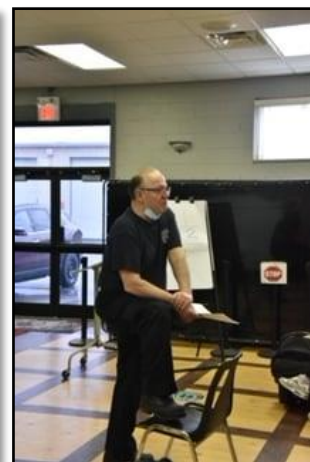
In 2022, various community partners installed drafting sites and to ensure FD accessibility, WFES supplied the final connections and piping. Staff have identified 2 areas for installation and are working with the necessary permitting agencies to facilitate the design and installation of these units, pending Council approval in 2023.

## **COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION**

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS**

#### **March 19, 2022 - Public First Aid & CPR course**

WFES personnel provided a Red Cross First Aid & CPR course to approximately 20 members of the public.





### June 2023 – Tax Mailer

An insert with Residential Fire Safety Inspection information was included with the June Property Tax mailer.

### July-September 2022 – Wainfleet Farmers Market

Members of the WFES attended some of the Wainfleet Farmers Markets and delivered Fire & Life Safety messages to people of various age groups.

Messages included:

Farm Safety, Escape Planning, Safe Cooking, Working Alarms Save Lives.

### July 1, 2022 – Canada Day

Members of the WFES conducted apparatus and equipment tours and delivered Fire & Life Safety messages to people of various age groups. Messages included: Farm Safety, Escape Planning, Safe Cooking, Working Alarms Save Lives.

**Wainfleet Fire &  
Emergency Services**

**For a Free Home Fire  
Safety Inspection**

Call 905-899-3463  
Email [fire@wainfleet.ca](mailto:fire@wainfleet.ca)  
Click [wainfleet.ca/WakeUpWainfleet](http://wainfleet.ca/WakeUpWainfleet)

**Wake Up  
Wainfleet!**

Only Working Smoke/CO Alarms  
Save Lives!



### September 22-24, 2022 – Wainfleet Fall Fair

Every year WFES provides standby Emergency Services for the motorsport's portions of the Wainfleet Fall Fair. This year, crews were only required to provide fire suppression, auto extrication and emergency medical response for the Demolition Derby on the Saturday evening.

There were no incidents that occurred and crews were able to conduct Public Education messaging while on standby. It should be noted that 2 apparatus and at least 8 firefighters are out of service when dedicated to the fall fair.



### **October 9-15, 2022 - Fire Prevention Week**

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2022 was,  
**"Fire won't wait. Plan your Escape™",**

*Which is intended to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.*

*Today's homes burn faster than ever. You may have as little as two minutes (or even less time) to safely escape a home fire from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Your ability to get out of a home during a fire depends on early warning from smoke alarms and advance planning.*

October 10, 2022 Staff attended Port Colborne for a joint Fire Prevention Week event with CHCH News.

<https://youtu.be/lsZIS7yN7k4>

On October 12, 2022 WFES personnel attended all four schools in the township to deliver Fire & Life Safety Public Education messaging.



### **October 14, 2022 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House**

On October 14, 2022, WFES celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of providing Fire & Emergency Services to the community of Wainfleet.

Members of the community, past firefighters and council were invited to attend, to share stories, see the equipment and apparatus, all while providing Fire & Life Safety messaging.



### **November 1-7, 2022 – Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week**

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week took place November 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. Information was made available at the municipal office and was also posted on Social Media and on the municipal website. Residents were encouraged to properly install and maintain their carbon monoxide alarms.

<http://cosafety.ca/>

<https://www.wainfleet.ca/en/living-here/fire-and-carbon-monoxide-hazards.aspx#CARBON-MONOXIDE>

<https://fb.watch/b3XTecTUuQ/>





**November 13, 20, 27 & December 4, 2022 – Wainfleet Christmas Vendors Market**

Members of the WFES attended the Wainfleet Christmas Vendors Market and delivered Fire & Life Safety messaging, while also accepting food and toy donations for the 2022 Christmas Basket Program. Messaging included:

- Home Escape Planning
- Smoke and CO Alarm Requirements
- Seasonal Fire Safety
- Emergency Preparedness (72 hour kits)



**December 12-23, 2022 - 12 Days of a Holiday Fire Safety**

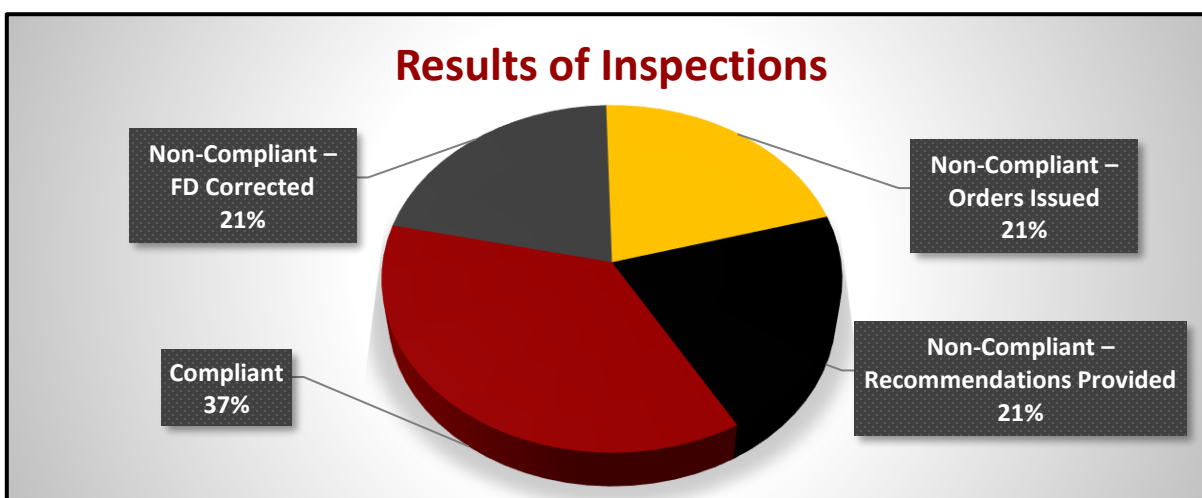
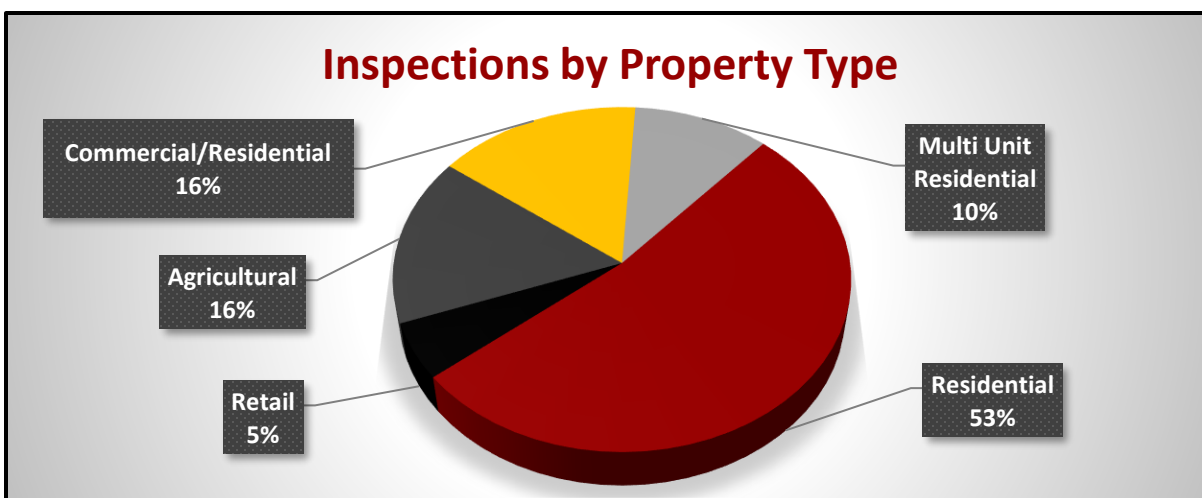
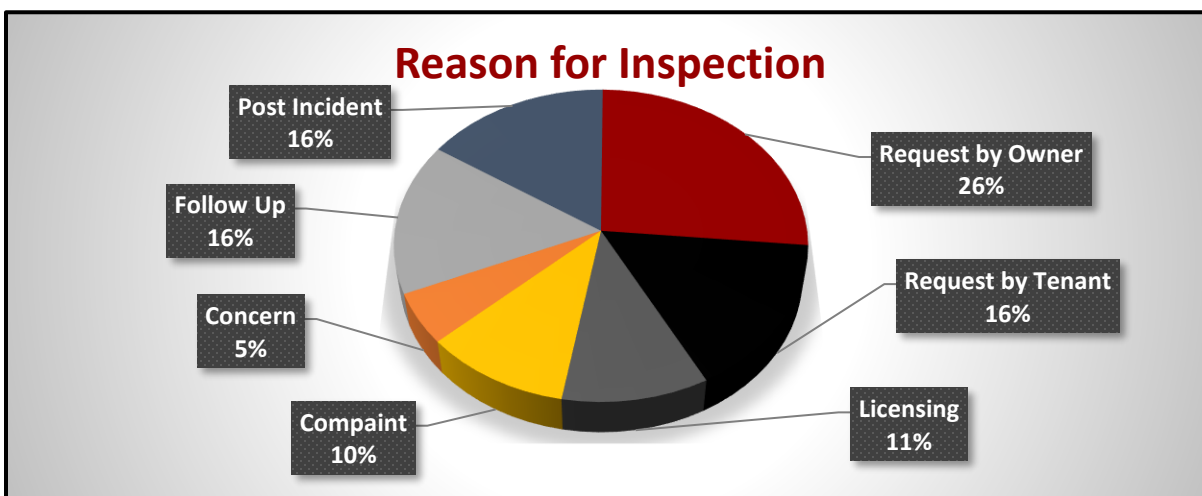
In partnership with the Office of the Fire Marshal, fire services across the province engaged in a public education/social media campaign. This campaign focused on the various hazards that predominantly occur during the holiday season and messaging was delivered through a series of online videos that were posted and shared via social media between December 12 and 23, 2022.

Date	Topic
Dec. 12, 2022	Holiday Lights
Dec. 13, 2022	Candles & Decorations
Dec. 14, 2022	Smoke Alarms
Dec. 15, 2022	Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Dec. 16, 2022	Tree Watering
Dec. 17, 2022	Electrical Hazards
Dec. 18, 2022	Candles during Hanukkah
Dec. 19, 2022	Fire Escape Planning
Dec. 20, 2022	Cooking
Dec. 21, 2022	Heating Sources
Dec. 22, 2022	Careless Smoking
Dec. 23, 2022	Lithium Batteries

## **FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS**

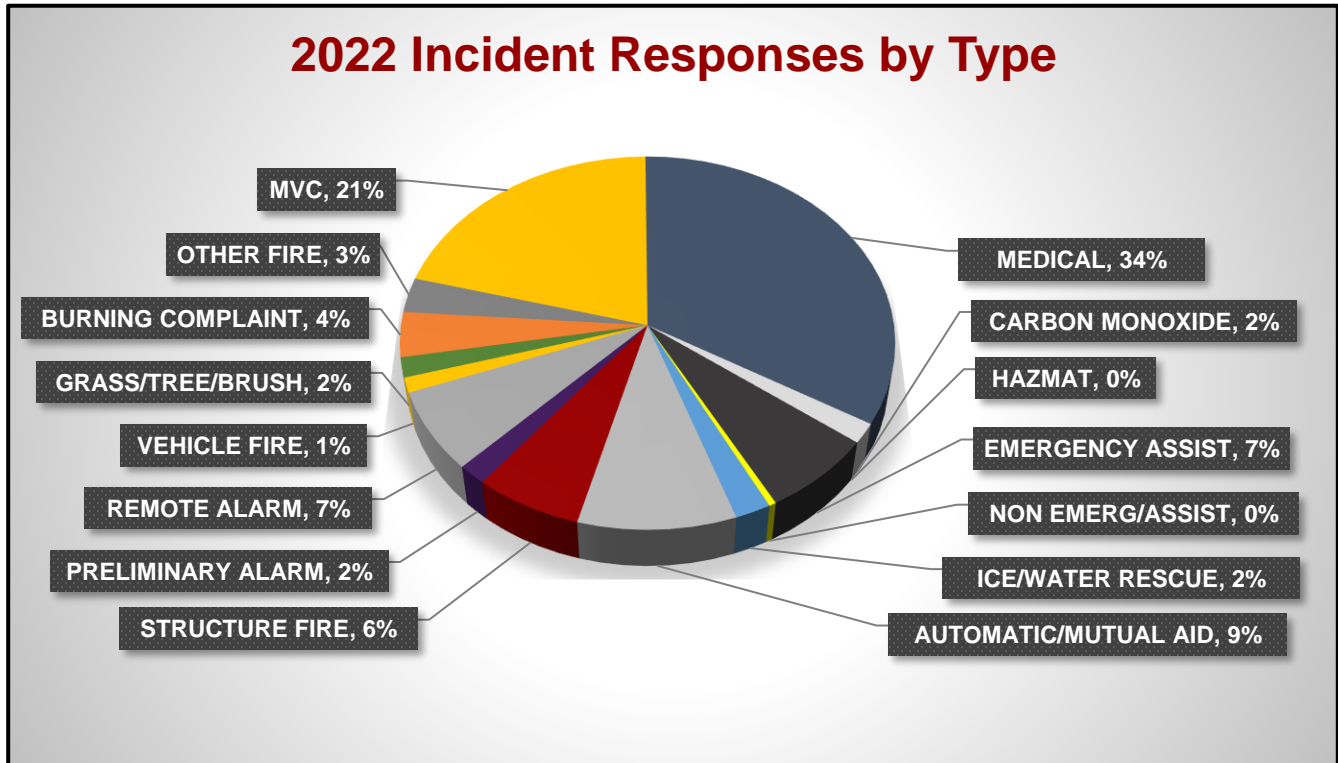
In 2022, 19 (5.5% increase over 2021) Fire Inspections were conducted as a result of either requests, complaints or post incident follow up.

- One (1) inspection resulted in Provincial Offence Notices (Tickets) being issued
- Two (2) required the Electrical Safety Authority to conduct inspections
- Three (3) inspections resulted in orders being issued
- Five (5) inspections resulted in WFES providing and installing Smoke/CO alarms
- All others were either compliant or required minor changes for compliance



## OPERATIONS - EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services responded to a total of 233 incidents in 2022, which is approximately a 26.3% increase from 2021. WFES responds to many different types of incidents.



Structure Fires/Explosion calls totaled 6% (15 incidents) of emergencies in 2022 for WFES. This is a 66.7% increase from the 9 incidents in 2021.

With the province wide strain on the healthcare systems resulting longer response times for EMS, WFES responses for medical assistance calls were at an almost pre-pandemic level, totaling 34% (78 incidents). Medical Assist calls include any emergency call where the original need for WFES assistance was medical distress, specifically: vital signs absent, unconscious, or significant delay in EMS response.

For 2022, Medical Assist calls were the highest number of incidents with Motor Vehicle Collisions being the second most required response, at 21% (48 incidents).

In 2020 “Emergency & Non-Emergency Assistance” replaced the “Public Hazard” call category reported which includes situations such as: floods, power line calls, unknown odours, general assistance, etc. These types of calls for services accounted for 7.5% (17 incidents) of call outs.

Rescues (technical and general) totaled 2% (5 incidents) of call outs.

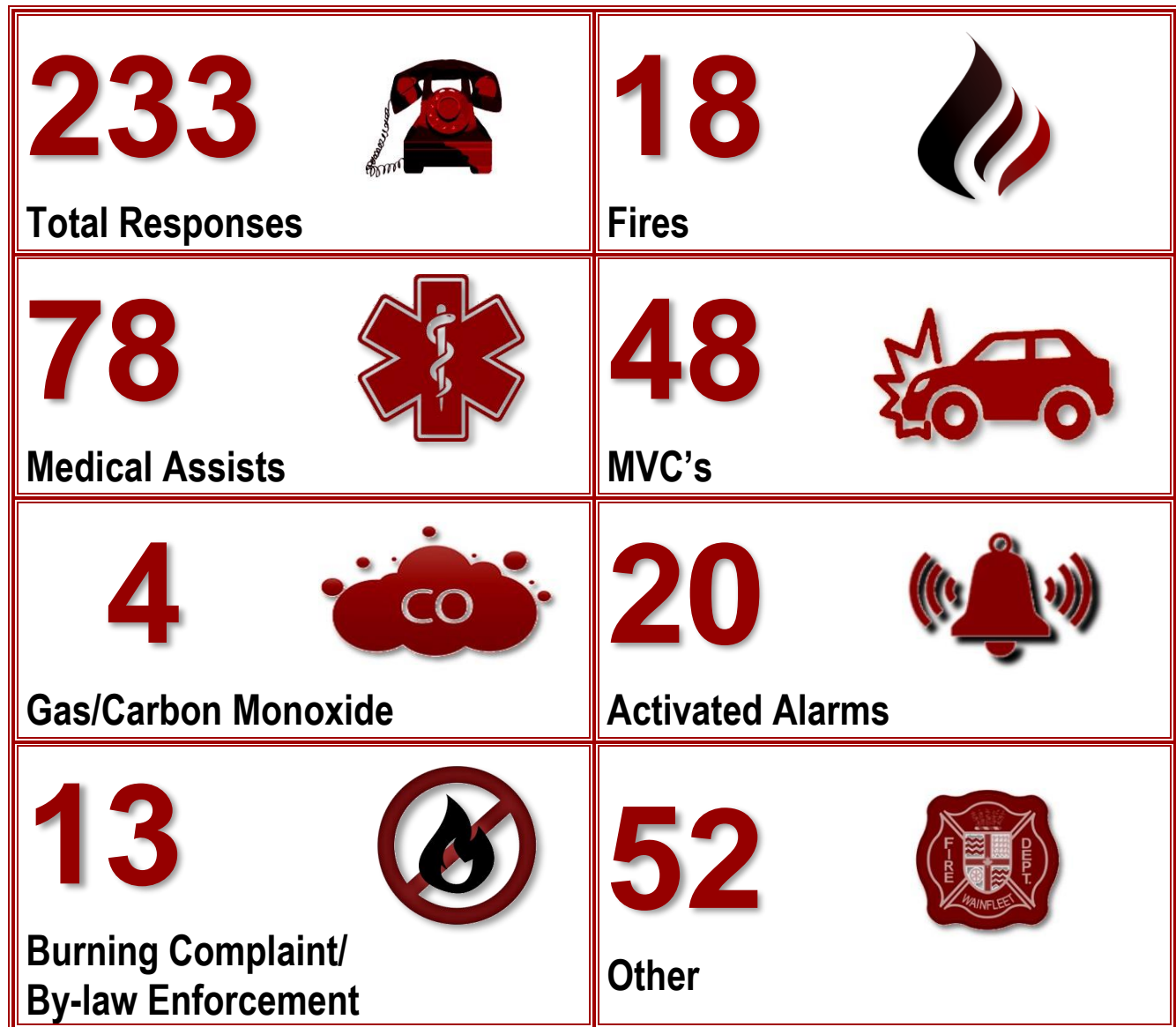
Open Air Burning By-law enforcement and response to complaints resulted in 6% (13 incidents). Most responses were a result of either no burn permit issued, non-compliant burning to the by-law and/or neighbour disputes regarding the spread of smoke and materials being burned. No burn permits were revoked, several fires ordered extinguished, and one required WFES to extinguish.

Carbon Monoxide responses totaled 2% (9 incidents), of which 7 were determined to be equipment malfunctions, 2 were a perceived emergency and 0 incidents actually had elevated levels of Carbon Monoxide present.

A total of eighteen (18) fire incidents occurred during 2022 within the Township of Wainfleet. This includes structure, vehicle, vegetation and other materials fires. These fires had a combined estimated value of \$10,625,550. The total dollar loss caused by damage of fire is estimated to be approximately \$3,574,550. This results in approximately \$7,050,000 in property saved by the Fire Department. That translates to every dollar lost an additional \$1.97 was saved.

The 2022 Fire Services approved operating budget was set at \$1,329,165.24, which means for every dollar invested in fire protection services, \$5.30 of property was saved, with the understanding that Fire responses make up approximately 10% of the total emergency responses in 2022.

The following info-graphic illustrates the incidents by type.

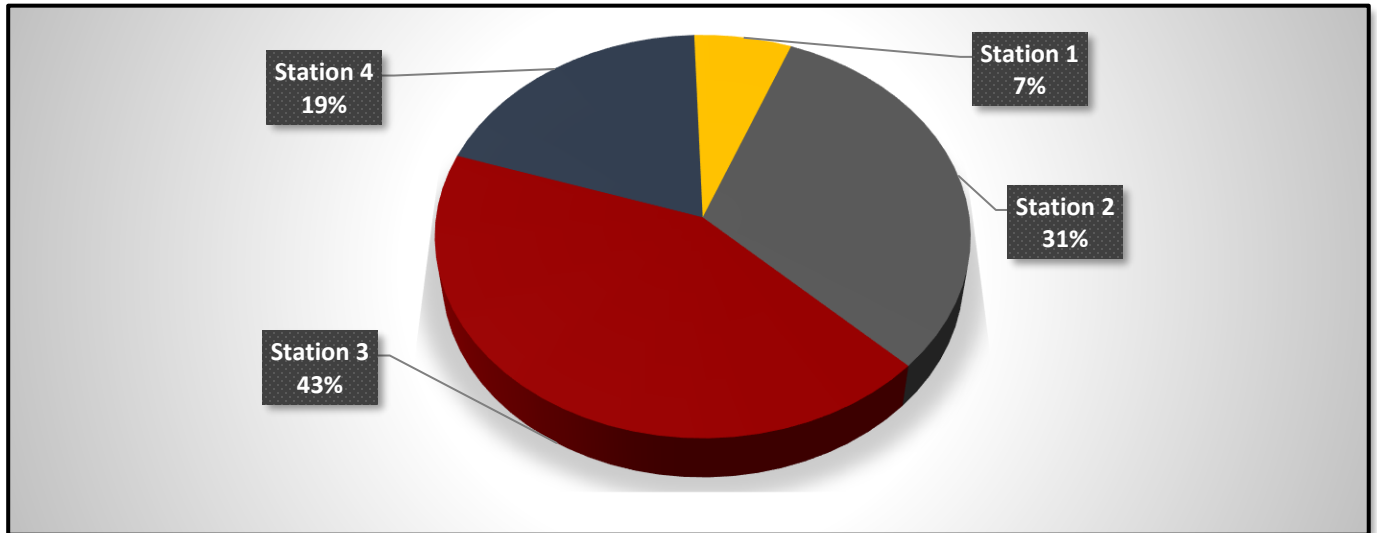


*\*Other includes: Rescue, Mutual Aid, Automatic Aid, Incidents not found, Call cancelled on route, etc.*



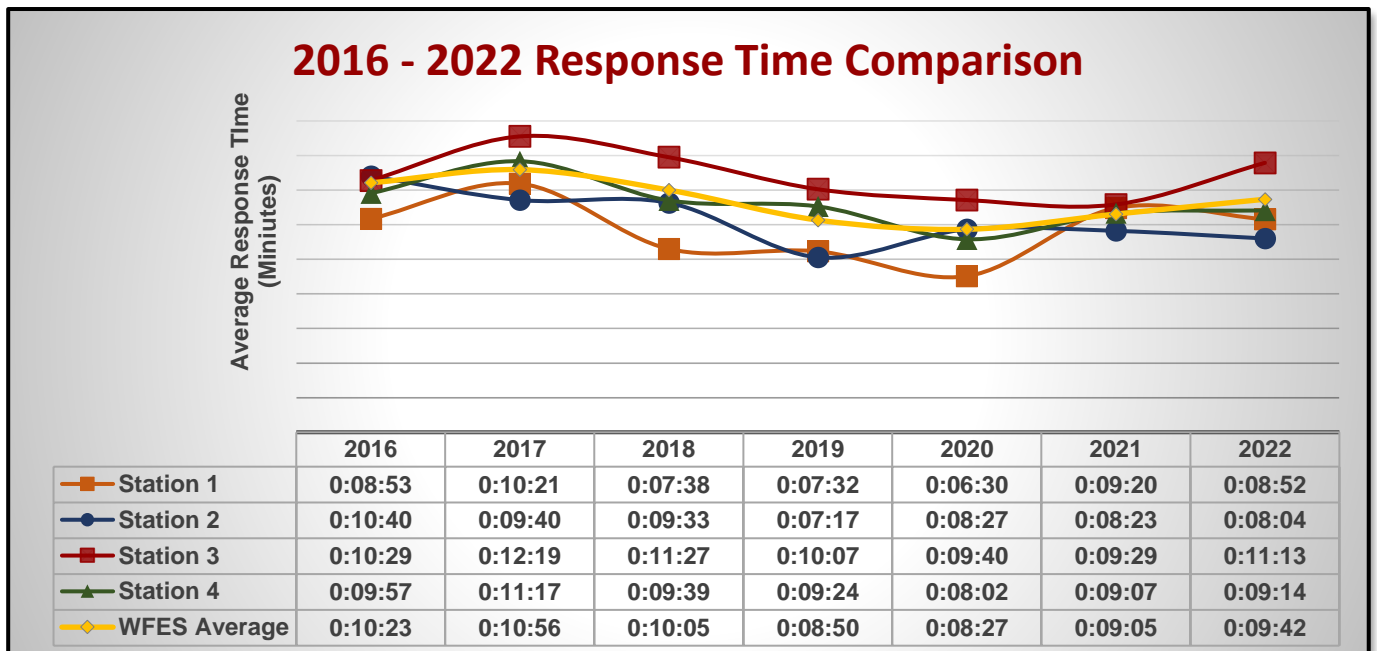
## STATION RESPONSES

The Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services operates 4 stations with Administration operating out of the Township Office. Historically, Station 3 receives the most calls for services due to the increased seasonal occupancies.



## RESPONSE TIMES

The importance of time is critical in responding to any emergency. The average response time for incidents within the municipality in 2022 was approximately 09:42 minutes. This represents the exact time from the receipt of the actual call from 911 dispatch to the on-scene arrival time by the fire department. Response times have remained stable from 2019 largely due to the fact that the township has added more total firefighters as well as allowed township employees to respond if needed. Currently, there are three township employees that respond as firefighters during daytime hours. The following chart compares the average response times for each station and provides an overall average for from 2016 to 2022.

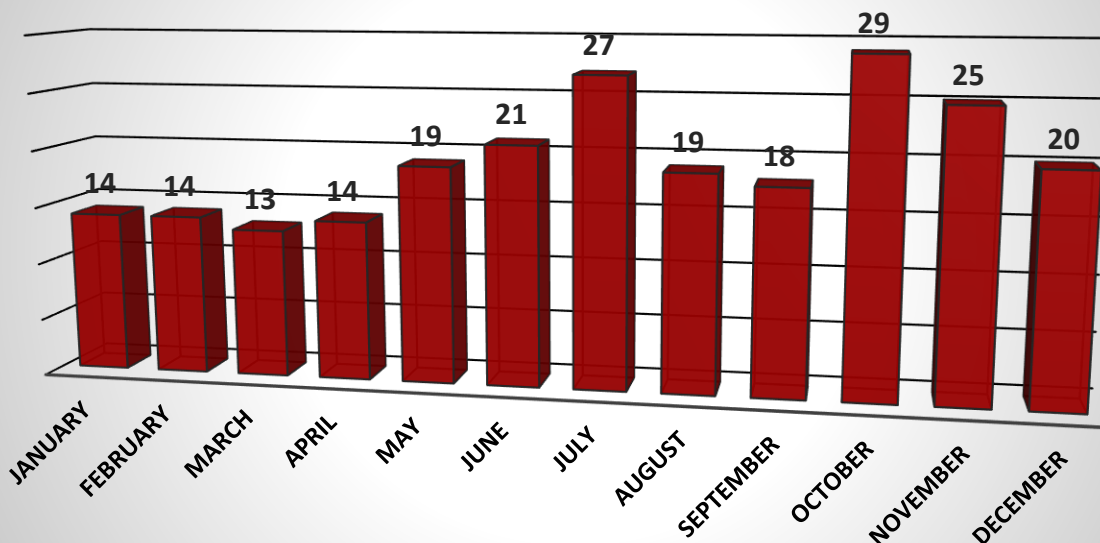


\*Some factors that affected these times are: Time of Day, Number of Responders and Location of Incident



## INCIDENTS BY MONTH

### 2022 Responses per Month



### WAINFLEET FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES 2022 MONTHLY DISPATCHES BY DETERMINANT

Determinant Group	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	2021	% Change
STRUCTURE FIRE	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	15	9	66.7%
PRELIMINARY ALARM	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	4	0	0.0%
REMOTE ALARM	2	2	1	0	2	1	3	1	0	3	0	1	16	15	6.7%
VEHICLE FIRE	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	7	-57.1%
GRASS/TREE/BRUSH	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	4	9	-55.6%
BURNING COMPLAINT	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	9	14	-35.7%
OTHER FIRE	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	7	13	-46.2%
MVC	3	3	2	1	3	5	7	2	4	8	7	3	48	42	14.3%
GENERAL/TECH RESCUE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MEDICAL	6	5	4	7	8	6	8	5	9	7	7	6	78	42	85.7%
CARBON MONOXIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	4	10	-60.0%
HAZMAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0%
EMERGENCY ASSIST	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	2	1	4	16	4	300.0%
NON EMERG/ASSIST	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	-75.0%
ICE/WATER RESCUE	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	2	150.0%
UNKNOWN 911	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.0%
Total Responses Within Municipality	14	14	12	12	16	18	24	15	18	27	21	20	211	172	22.7%
Total Responses Out of Jurisdiction (Other)	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	
To Port Colborne	0	0	0	2	3	2	3	4	0	2	4	0	20	0	
2022 TOTAL	14	14	13	14	19	21	27	19	18	29	25	20	233		
2021 TOTAL	13	12	11	6	22	12	18	17	17	15	14	16	173		
% CHANGE	7.7%	16.7%	18.2%	133.3%	-13.6%	75.0%	50.0%	11.8%	5.9%	93.3%	78.6%	25.0%	34.7%		

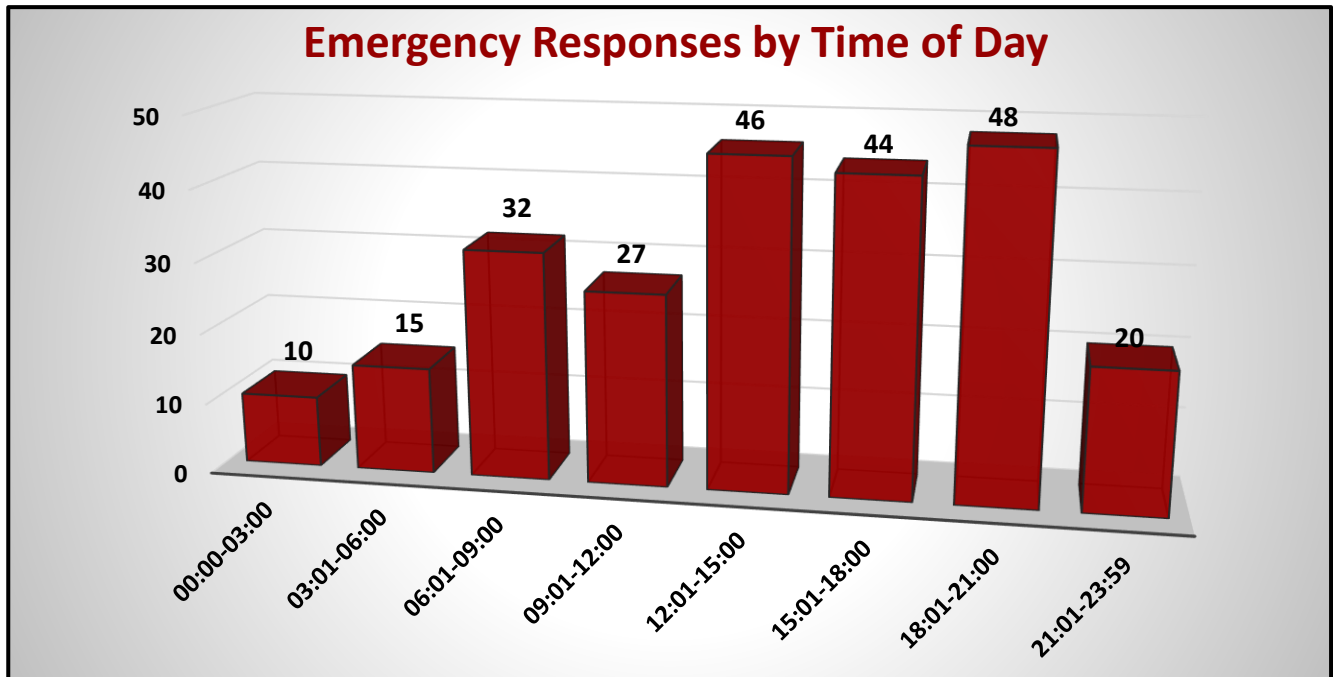
+ Fire includes: Structure, Vehicle, Vegetation and Controlled Fires

\* Other includes: Public hazards, Rescues, Utility Incidents (Electric/Gas), Agency Assistance, Mutual Aid

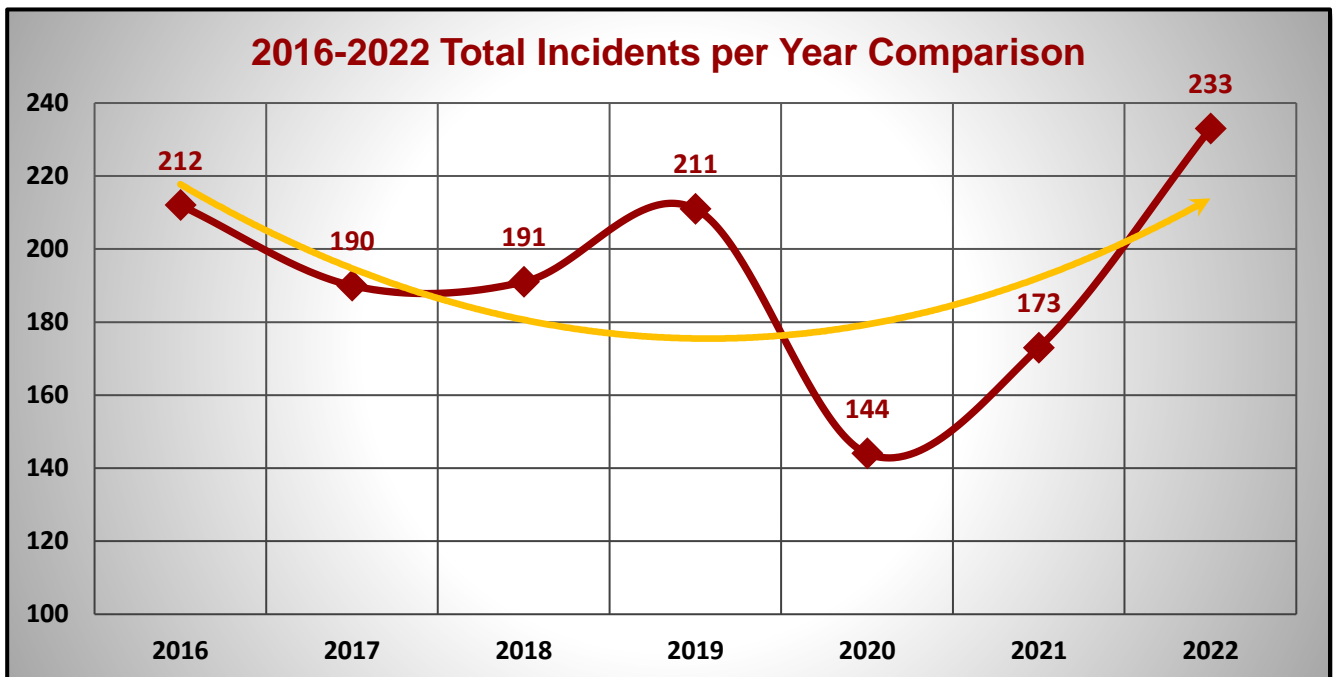


## INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY

This chart outlines emergency responses by time of day in 3-hour sections, with the highest call volume occurring between 12:00pm and 6:00pm. Given the diurnal patterns that affect wildland fire conditions such as relative humidity, wind speeds and air temperature. This data reinforces the need for daytime burning restrictions and daytime responders.



## 2016-2022 INCIDENT COMPARISON





## SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

*"Significant Incident" -*

*All Fires and any Fire Department response with more than 20 personnel and 2 stations.*

### **January 2, 2022 – Heavy Equipment Fire - Excavator**

Station #2 (Wainfleet) was the primary responding station with a department response of 9 apparatus and 20 personnel from all 4 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to an excavator fully involved and located in a field without an entrance. Firefighters laid a ladder across the ditch to access the excavator by foot. A bulldozer was parked beside the excavator. The windshield had been smashed and the driver's door was open. Oil booms were set in the ditch to contain the fuel run off.

NRP was notified and attended the incident, as the fire was deemed suspicious as the equipment has been in place for a few weeks and a single set of footprints were found leading from the equipment to the ditch.

It was estimated that the value of the equipment saved was approximately \$200,000.00

### **January 26, 2022 – Structure Fire – Single Family Dwelling**

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 8 apparatus and 26 personnel from all 4 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to find a two storey structure with visible smoke showing and all occupants out of the house. Fire had extended from the wood stove/chimney into the wall space. Crews had the fire under control in 30 minutes from the time they arrived on scene, with damage limited to the area of origin. It is estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved is approximately \$300,000.00

During a follow up inspection, it was determined that the home had expired smoke alarms. Crews installed two new combination smoke/CO alarms prior to leaving the property and the homeowner was issued orders.

### **February 9, 2022 – Structure Fire - Single Family Dwelling**

Station #2 (Wainfleet) was the primary responding station with a department response of 5 apparatus and 12 personnel from 3 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to find a single storey structure with heavy smoke and fire conditions on the lake side of the building. It was reported that there were no occupants in the building and a transitional fire attack was utilized.

Crews had the fire under control in 45 minutes from the time they arrived on scene, with damage limited to the lake side portion of the structure. Contents of the other bedrooms were all salvageable, however the building has since been demolished. It was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$100,000.00



**January 14, 2022 – Heavy Equipment Fire – Rock Crusher**

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 7 apparatus and 15 personnel from 3 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a conveyor belt burning deep within a rock crushing machine. Personnel on site were dumping water on the fire with loaders, which kept the fire from spreading.

Firefighters had to cut their way through the belt and then work to remove the belt from the machine. Once completed, crews were able to access and extinguish the fire. It was estimated that the value of the equipment saved was approximately \$200,000.00

**March 12, 2022 – Structure Fire – Commercial/Agricultural Buildings**

Station #2 (Wainfleet) was the primary responding station with a department response of 7 apparatus and 32 personnel from 3 stations. Port Colborne provided one tanker through Automatic Aid, and Pelham (Fenwick) and Haldimand (Lowbanks) also provided tankers as requested through Mutual Aid.



The Fire Department arrived on scene to heavy smoke and fire coming from a commercial building. The building was attached to a home and several greenhouses, which made access and initial attack challenging. It was reported to command that there was one occupant unaccounted for. The incident was sectorized into three areas, with search and rescue and fire spread/exposure protection being the two main priorities.

Crews had the fire under control in 43 minutes from the time they arrived on scene, with damage limited to the fire building with some extension into the greenhouses. Unfortunately, one person was located deceased inside the building. The adjoining home, retail centre and large portions of the greenhouses were all saved, however the fire building has since been demolished and rebuilt. It was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$2,000,000.00.





**March 30, 2022 – Structure Fire – Kitchen Fire – Single Family Dwelling**

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 6 apparatus and 14 personnel from all 4 stations. Both Port Colborne and Haldimand (Lowbanks) provided one tanker as requested through Mutual Aid.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to smoke and fire coming from the rear of the structure. It was reported that it was a kitchen fire and all occupants were out of the home.

Crews had the fire under control in 8 minutes from the time they arrived on scene, with damage limited to the room of origin. It was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$700,000.00.

**April 19, 2022 – Structure Fires – Agricultural & Single-Family Dwelling**

Station #2 (Wainfleet) was the primary responding station with a department response of 8 apparatus and 40 personnel from all 4 stations. Port Colborne provided an Engine with personnel and one tanker, and Haldimand (Lowbanks) also provided a tanker as requested through Mutual Aid.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to heavy smoke and fire coming from an agricultural building. Defensive operations and exposure protection became the priority, as high winds impeded crew's abilities to control the fire. Radiant heat and the winds blew embers under a nearby vacant dwelling to the east, which also ignited on the outside corner and extended into the walls and attic space.



An interior attack was attempted but progress was hindered by access issues and interior content loads. A second interior attack was attempted but crews backed out due to the potential of structural collapse. An excavator was called to the site for overhaul of both buildings and the eventual extinguishment of all fires.

Crews had the fire under control in approximately 5 hours from the time they arrived on scene. It was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$400,000.00.

**June 5, 2022 – Structure Fire – Multi-Unit Residential**

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 7 apparatus and 21 personnel from all 4 stations. Port Colborne was first on scene, and provided both an engine and a tanker through the Automatic Aid agreement.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a small fire on the front porch of a multi-unit residential structure that had been extinguished by an NRP officer who was passing by.

Crews completed a home fire safety inspection and found that the unit did not have working smoke/CO alarms on any of the floors. Crews installed combination smoke/CO alarms on both floors and issued orders to the property owner. Personnel conducted a follow-up inspection of the adjoining unit to ensure the property owner had complied with the orders. No charges were laid.



### **July 1, 2022 – Motor Vehicle Collision**

Station #2 (Wainfleet) was the primary responding station with a department response of 6 apparatus (including the UTV) and 21 personnel from all 4 stations.

The Fire Department responded to a single vehicle rollover with multiple occupant ejections and persons trapped in the vehicle. Crews attended to 4 patients while simultaneously stabilizing the vehicle for the extrication of a 5<sup>th</sup> patient. All occupants were transported to nearby hospitals with many of them transferred to out of region trauma centres.

WFES peer support team and the mental health consultant were notified to provide support and assistance to the responders involved.

### **July 10, 2022 – Medical Assistance**

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 1 apparatus and 6 personnel.

The Fire Department responded to a patient that presented with high velocity trauma injuries and vital signs absent caused by a high elevation fall from a skydiving accident. Crews assisted EMS with patient care, until such time that the patient was declared deceased on scene.

WFES peer support team and the mental health consultant were notified to provide support and assistance to the responders involved.

### **July 19, 2022 – ATV Rollover**

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 7 apparatus and 24 personnel from all 4 stations.

The Fire Department responded to an ATV rollover that had one rider pinned between the unit and a tree. Crews removed the ATV, attended to the patient and transported them out of the bush to waiting EMS crews.

### **September 7, 2022 – Structure Fire – Single Family Dwelling**

Station #2 (Wainfleet) was the primary responding station with a department response of 9 apparatus and 24 personnel from all 4 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a fully involved single storey residence. The property owner confirmed that the tenant was not home at the time and a defensive operation was utilized. Crews had the fire under control in approximately 25 minutes from the time they arrived on scene.

The circumstances surrounding the fire were considered suspicious, which resulted in WFES personnel conducting a joint investigation into the origin and cause of the fire, with NRPS forensics. The fire was deemed to be incendiary in nature and police have not identified any suspects.



**November 6, 2022 – Structure Fire – Single Family Dwelling**

Station #2 (Wainfleet) was the primary responding station with a department response of 8 apparatus and 25 personnel from all 4 stations. Port Colborne provided one tanker through Automatic Aid

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a two-storey residential structure with heavy fire and smoke coming from the second-floor windows. The property owner confirmed that all occupants were out of the home at the time and a transitional attack was utilized.

The fire was contained to the room of origin as crews had the fire under control in approximately 21 minutes from the time they arrived on scene. The rest of the home sustained smoke and water damage, with much of the home and contents salvageable. It was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$1,200,000.00

**November 25, 2022 – Structure Fire – Single Family Dwelling**

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 6 apparatus and 20 personnel from all 4 stations. Port Colborne provided two engines, a ladder truck, a rescue truck and a tanker with 14 personnel, through Automatic Aid.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a single storey residential structure with heavy fire and smoke coming from the rear of the structure. The property owner confirmed that all occupants were out of the home at the time and a transitional attack was utilized.

The fire had extended across the entire rear of the structure and into the attic space which caused the roof to collapse. Crews had the fire under control in approximately 58 minutes from the time they arrived on scene. The attached garage and basement sustained little damage and it was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$250,000.00



**December 23, 2022 – Equipment & Structure Fire – Agricultural Building**

Station #1 (Winger) was the primary responding station with a department response of 8 apparatus and 26 personnel from all 4 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to an elevated work platform (Genie Boom) on fire that had been removed from the building. Crews extinguished the fire, and confirmed that there was no extension of fire into the building or attic space. One occupant was treated and transported to hospital for smoke inhalation.

Crews had the fire under control in approximately 7 minutes from the time they arrived on scene. The building and nearby equipment sustained little damage and it was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$400,000.00



**December 23/24, 2022 – Winter Storm Event**

On Friday December 23 and Saturday December 24, Wainfleet experienced a “Complex Multi-Hazard Weather Event” which included a Wind Storm, Sieche, Flooding, Flash Freeze and Blizzard conditions. Crews staffed the stations on both days and responded to the various emergencies that came about as the storm progressed.



**Other Incident Scene Photos**





## WAINFLEET VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Members of the WVFFA participated in events as permitted, including the following:

- Various Fundraising events for local groups
  - Good Friday and Fall Fair Fish Fry
  - Labour Day Boot Drive (Road Toll)
  - Turkey Raffle
  - 2023 Firefighters Calendar
- “Movember”
- Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Christmas Vendors Market
- Christmas Hamper program
- Community Support Team – Prescription and Grocery Delivery

The WVFFA extended the January 2019-December 2020 Collective Agreement to the end of 2021. This effectively froze the remuneration rates for the past three years while the Township focused on other priorities.

The Collective Agreement with the WVFFA expired December 31, 2021. The WVFFA gave notice in Q4 of 2021 that they would not be extending again and would like begin working on a new agreement for 2022-2026. Negotiations were put on hold pending the Municipal Election and subsequent CUPE negotiations. A new agreement will need to be ratified in 2023 with retroactive backpay for 2022.

## MOVING FORWARD

2022 proved to be a return to normal with most events and operations returning. Throughout the year, firefighters invested over 7700 hours (4.25 FTE) staff hours for public education events, emergency calls, training and meetings. Without dedicated and professional firefighters, WFES's ability to provide effective and efficient emergency response would not be possible.

### OPERATIONS

Again for 2023, WFES will be running a Recruit Training Program in house. This program will provide all new recruits with NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 & 2 certified training while reducing course costs and travel time. Additional training opportunities with neighbouring Fire Depts. will continue to be offered as a method of sharing costs and ensuring standardized training with our mutual aid partners.

The Automatic Aid Agreement with Port Colborne that provides additional resources to all fire incidents that occurred, has proven to be beneficial in the timely delivery of fire protection services to the south-east portion of the Township. Staff will work with other neighbouring departments to develop similar agreements that will benefit other parts of the Township.

### FACILITIES (STATIONS & TRAINING)

Progress will continue on the new Central Fire Station with the substantial completion scheduled for June 2023.

The other stations will continue to require regular maintenance and capital upgrades as per the long term building assessment plan that was completed in 2016.

With the loss of the training house on Forks Rd. due to firefighter Health & Safety concerns, staff are actively working to find suitable, safe and cost effective solutions for the delivery of firefighter training. Staff had originally planned to utilize the barn on the site of the central fire station, but with the removal of that building, staff are looking at further alternative solutions. Examples of such systems would include the use of multiple shipping containers and simulation props.



## APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT

Since Engine 2 (1999 International) has not been replaced as scheduled in 2019, this has resulted in Station 2 losing its Insurance Grading by Fire Underwriters Survey. Additionally, with Engine 1 (2003 Kenworth) now being 20 years old, Station 1 has also lost its Insurance Grading by Fire Underwriters Survey.



A new Engine and Tanker are required at the new central station once it opens. Until that occurs, staff have identified opportunities to move the fire service forward until those items can be addressed. In 2023, WFES staff have identified a new Engine and a Command Vehicle as priorities. Any delays in the purchase of an Engine will result in increased purchase costs as well as push future replacements closer together.

Since 2018, WFES has been utilizing the Fire Chief's personally owned vehicle as an Emergency Response and Command Vehicle. This was mutually agreed to as a short term solution while the Township addressed other priorities. 2023 provides an opportunity to address this gap as there is no facility that can house any of the apparatus that require replacement.

Other priorities include: Radio Communications, Apparatus safety equipment (cameras & headsets), and a plow for the Squad unit.

Additionally, in 2023, WFES will continue its investment in the standardization and replacement of necessary firefighting equipment including: Saws, Ventilation Fans, Fire Hose, Cordless tools, Rescue Equipment, Ladders, and Scene Lighting.

## FIREFIGHTERS

In January 2023, 12 new recruits are set to begin their training and upon completion will begin responding on July 1<sup>st</sup>, bringing WFES to +62 strong. The Township of Wainfleet continues to be supported by volunteer firefighters who are willing to respond to emergencies at any given time, without notice, and no schedule. WFES firefighters are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. The success of the department is 100% the result of the firefighters, and the employers they work for. A sense of community and commitment is what compels WFES firefighters to help when specific skills are required.

Grounded with Integrity and Compassion, WFES strives for Excellence in everything we do. We strive for continuous improvements in our efficiencies, training, operations and resources. This view to the future will ensure that the Township of Wainfleet remains in very good hands, with experts ready to respond to the communities' needs whenever required.

## PLANNING

In 2018, the Province of Ontario passed Ontario Regulation 378/18, *Community Risk Assessments*, requiring all municipalities in the province to complete a Community Risk Assessment, utilizing nine mandatory community profiles. The purpose of these assessments is to identify, analyze, evaluate and prioritize risks to public safety and to inform decisions about the provision of fire protection services within the municipality. Given that this is a legislative requirement that must be completed and submitted to the province by July 1, 2024, the fire service is providing notice to Council of these requirements. Staff will begin work on the CRA throughout 2023, with the intent to have Council receive and adopt the final report in Q1 of 2024. This project will result in additional staff time and resources to be completed accurately and on time.





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Wainfleet Fire Department

