



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

Summary of Emergency Responses, Training, Achievements, Success and Investments that have been accomplished in 2023. 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 2023 Annual Fire & Emergency Services Report.

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 2023.

- Responded to **227** 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 2,439 hours (1.34FTE) of personnel time responding to calls for service
- Over 7,000 hours (3.85FTE) of personnel time conducting training, apparatus, equipment & station maintenance and attending meetings
- Personnel were able to deliver more than 687 hours (0.38FTE) of Public Education & Fire Prevention
- Finalized construction of the new Central Fire Station Project
- Purchased and placed into service a new Command unit.

In 2023, firefighters from Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services (WFES) participated in a range of training initiatives designed to further develop the competencies required to meet both the needs of the community and the service levels established by Council.

Consistent with previous years, WFES personnel have demonstrated unwavering dedication and professionalism in the delivery of fire and emergency services—qualities that the Township of Wainfleet has come to both expect and deserve.

As a public safety professional and fire service leader, I am reassured by the knowledge that the Township is safeguarded by a highly committed and capable group of volunteer firefighters. Their contributions provide not only exceptional service, but also considerable value and cost savings to the residents of Wainfleet. The Township should take great pride in its Fire Service and remain steadfast in its support of the individuals who so dutifully serve the community.

As we look ahead to 2024, I remain confident that WFES will continue to respond to all challenges with compassion, integrity, and 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.



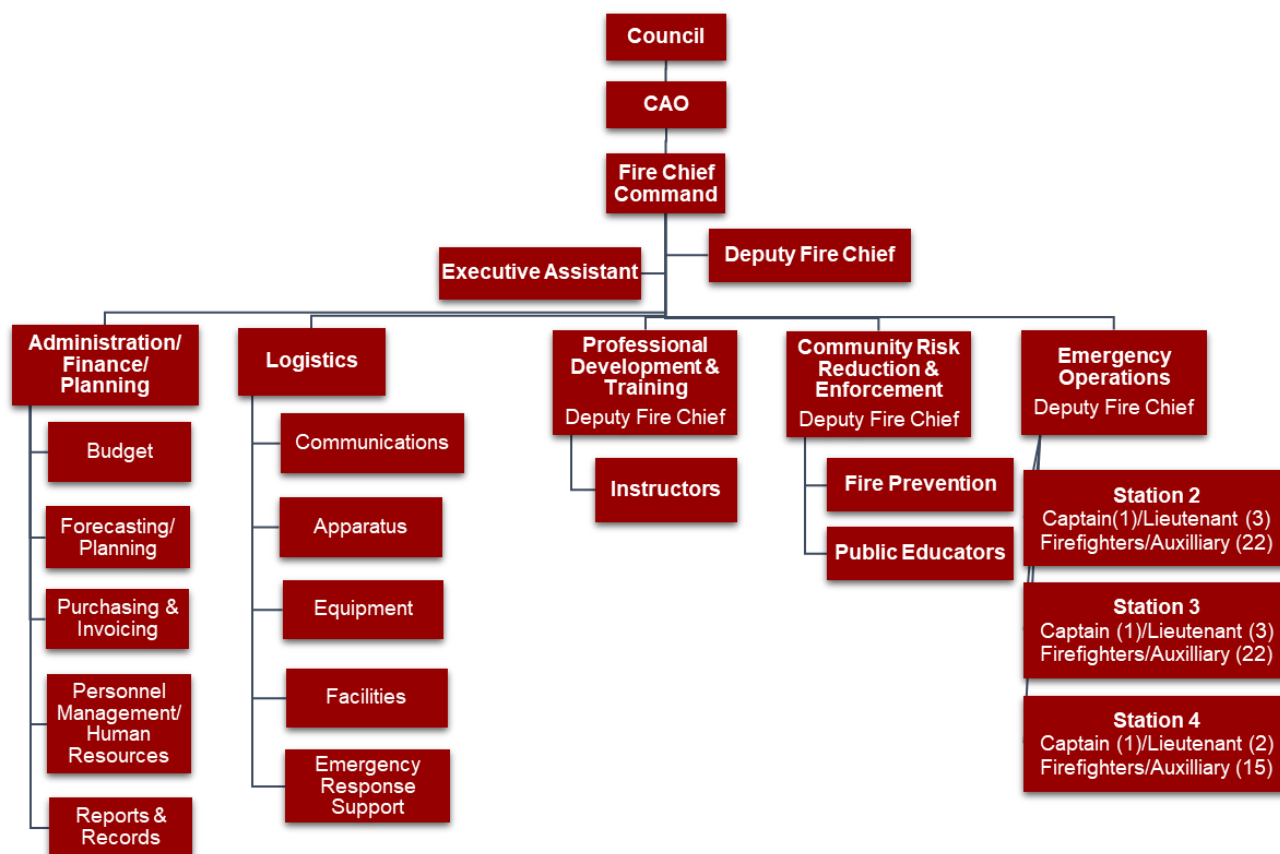
- 9.** Provide an effective Fire Prevention Program to:
 - (a) Ensure, through plan examination and inspection, that required fire protective equipment is installed and maintained within buildings,
 - (b) Reduce and/or eliminate fire hazards,
 - (c) Ensure compliance with applicable Municipal, Provincial 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 31st, 2023)

Chief Officers	
Fire Chief - Morgan Alcock	Deputy Fire Chief - Shawn Schutten
Company Officers	
Central Station	
Captain – Harold Kelly	Lieutenant - Trevor Airhardt
	Lieutenant - Joe Rodrigues
	Lieutenant - Vacant
Station 3	
Captain - Conrad Beckingham	Lieutenant - Bruce Vandelaar
	Lieutenant - Brendan Mater
	Lieutenant - Vacant
Station 4	
Captain – Ben Benson	Acting Lieutenant - Dawsen Schutten
	Acting Lieutenant - Rachel VanGeel
Department Wide	
Public Education Officer - Charles Farkas	
FIRST CLASS FIREFIGHTERS	
CARTER-FLAGG, Nicholas	MALLON, John
ETHIER, Dawson	MCDONALD, Brad
GRAEF, James	NEUDORF, Stephen
JOHNSON, Leanne	SNIPPE, Mark
KARPINCHICK, Chris	STATON, Tom
SECOND CLASS FIREFIGHTERS	
BARKER, Sean	MYERS, Jay
BEATTIE, Brandon	SHOALTS, Ben
CHASTELET, Nicholas	SIDER, Tyson
DUFF, Scott	STOUTH, Zachary
HERBERT, Christopher	VANDELAAR, John
HOSKIN, Jason	VRIEND, Jerry
KISS, Amy	WHITEHALL, Ian
MONTREUIL, Christopher	WORRALL, Jeremy
THIRD CLASS FIREFIGHTERS	
AARTS, Jonathon	BOUWERS, Taylor
ANNETT, Sarah	GILMORE, Jacob
BALCH, Allie	SCHNEIDER, Jeremy
BLACK, Mitchell	
PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS	
DEKKER, Cullen	IRELAND, Spencer
HALAGIAN, Adam	KIEVIT, Suzanne
HALAGIAN, Bradley	MACDONALD, Terri-Lynn
HALAGIAN, Katelyn	SLAPPENDEL, Diana
HARRISON, Rex	SONNEVELD, Timothy
AUXILIARY FIREFIGHTERS	
HESSSELS, Ted	



RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS, PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS, RECOGNITION

2023 Retirements, Resignations & Returns

Captain Jason Mous, retired after 15 years of service
Lieutenant Drew Robins, resigned after 8 years of service
Lieutenant Aaron Tedesco, resigned after 8 years of service
Firefighter Brendan Fang, resigned after 6 years of service
Firefighter Michael Masotti, resigned after 4 years of service

Promotions and Appointments

- 4 members from the class of 2022 Recruits completed their probationary period and became 3rd Class Firefighters on January 1st 2023.
- Ben Benson was promoted to Station 4 Captain on June 1, 2023
- Harold Kelly was promoted to Central Fire Station Captain on Dec. 1, 2022
- Trevor Airhardt was promoted to Central Station Lieutenant on Jan. 1, 2023
- Joe Rodrigues was promoted to Central Fire Station Lieutenant on Jan. 1, 2023
- Dawsen Schutten was promoted to Station 4 Acting Lieutenant on Jan. 1, 2023
- Rachel VanGeel was promoted to Station 4 Acting Lieutenant on Jan. 1, 2023

Recognition & Awards

On January 3, 2023, WFES held its annual Recruit Graduation, Awards, Recognition and Officer Promotion Ceremony. The recruits completed their oath and were presented their badges and helmets. WFES promoted four probationary members to various classes of firefighters, as well as, promoted one member to the rank of Captain (Central Station), two members to the rank of Lieutenant (Central Station), and two members to the rank of Acting Lieutenant for Station 4. Additionally, three members received their Provincial and Federal long service medals.

- Jerry Vriend 20 Years
- Chris Karpinchick 25 years
- Ted Hessels 35 years



HEALTH & SAFETY

Health & Safety

The Joint Health & Committee met on January 11, April 12, July 12, & October 11, 2023. Facilities, apparatus, equipment, training & operations were discussed with the new and returning members of the committee. Any Health & Safety concerns identified were addressed and/or corrected by the Chief and Deputy Chief. The Terms of Reference were reviewed and revised as required. The Guide for Health & Safety Committees and Representatives was presented to the new committee members. Committee members were provided the opportunity to attend JHSC Certification Part 1 and Part 2 training.

Mental Health & Wellness

2023 was the first full year for the redesigned Mental Health & Wellness Program which included the following:

- New recruits received Mental Health and Resiliency Training (TWM-FR), as well as a workshop on key resources and skills for trauma exposure. The recruits key supports joined them for a workshop, which included a Q&A period from current members partners on their experience of having a partner on the Fire Department and how they support each other as a family. The workshop also included a presentation from a Local Naturopathic Doctor re: how to support your body to process stress
- Delivery of Before Operational Stress Modules to Members on a quarterly basis to ensure that Mental Health and Wellness is a regular, embedded part of their ongoing training.
- Ongoing engagement and oversight of the Action Plan with the Mental Health and Wellness Working Group
- Participated in the Peer Connect App trial in partnership with Firewall and McMaster University to offer tiered levels of support and options related to how members can access peer support and mental health information and resources.
- Future planning for the Mental Health Training Program via Resilient Minds facilitator training.
- Quarterly Mental Health and Wellness Screening Program delivered with overall 85% engagement and evidence of reducing clinically significant scoring. *(7% in August (*12% including Critical incident responses at the same time), 13% in May, 20% in February, 25% in November, 30% in July)*
- 4 post critical incident screenings undertaken with an 85% engagement rate. Results demonstrated individual's unique response to trauma exposure and recovery process.
- 11 members have accessed consultation services in 2023 (sought support/advice/referrals for family/friends or members of the public.)
- 15 members have received direct clinical services.

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 clinical assistance was funded through the Professional Fees budget. Staff were provided quarterly reports, as personnel access various resources, which will assist in the next needs assessment and development of future budgetary requirements.

Planned Activity for 2024

- Co-facilitation of Resilient Minds to new recruits (Jan) and rollout to the rest of the Department
- Utilisation of Post Critical Incident 2-2-6 Screening and CISM support
- Support to arrange/facilitate Peer Support Refresher Workshop
- Report to MH&W Working Group/review of MH&W Action Plan
- Ongoing screening, follow up and quarterly reporting to Chief



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Throughout 2023, 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: Relay, Nursing, Tanker Shuttle & Alternative water sources
- Pump Operations: Apparatus & Portable
- Incident Command, Personnel Accountability & Rehabilitation
- Special Operations:
 - Auto Extrication – occupant removal & patient packaging
 - Low Angle Rope Access rescue,
 - Shore Based Water rescue.
 - Rapid Intervention Team – Firefighter rescue
 - Hazardous Materials response and decontamination
- Ladders and Ventilation
- Interior Fire Attack including Search & Rescue Techniques
- Mental Health: Before Operational Stress – Resiliency



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 utilizes both Niagara Falls and Fort Erie Fire Training Towers 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, all members were offered the opportunity to participate in live fire training sessions at the Niagara Falls 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 Certification & Recruit Training Program

On July 1st 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 by June 2026.

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:

NFPA 1021 - Fire Officer - I & II	NFPA 1041 - Fire Service Instructor - I & II
NFPA 1031 - Fire Inspector - I & II	NFPA 1033 - Fire & Explosion Investigator
NFPA 1035 - Fire & Life Safety Educator - I & II and Public Information Officer	NFPA 1521 - Incident Safety Officer

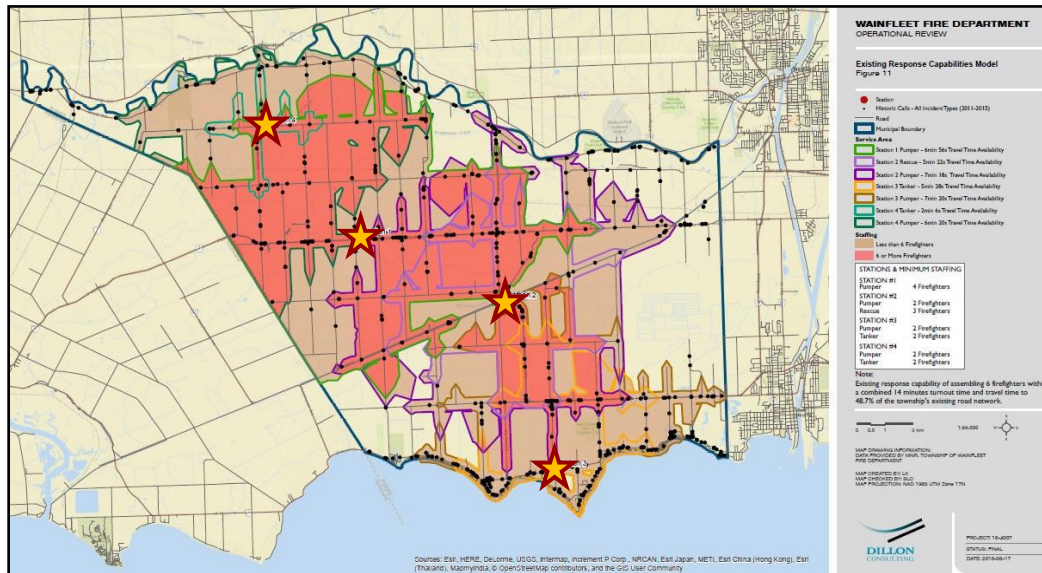


FACILITIES, APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, & OPERATIONS

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



In previous years Fire Underwriters Survey has graded Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services with a Dwelling Protection Grade of 4 and 5 with 5 being “no protection provided”. As a result of the continued investments and support of Council through apparatus, training, and recruitment, FUS upgraded Station 3 to a level 3B and the remaining stations to a level 4. Once WFES is operating out of the Central Station, staff will provide an update to FUS for regrading. It is the long-term goal to achieve a level 3A (Accredited Tanker Shuttle) across the entire township.



STATIONS

In 2023 Council approved a couple of improvements 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 2023 included:

- Repair of Concrete Sidewalk
- Floor repairs & coating (deferred)



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:

- Fire Cistern connections
- Floor repairs & coating (deferred)

CENTRAL FIRE STATION PROJECT



CENTRAL FIRE STATION PROJECT PROGRESS

Date	Benchmark
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof fascia framing complete • Mezzanine concrete poured • Roof membrane complete on Administration side • Attic fire block complete on Administration side • Underside of truss drywall complete on Administration side • Mechanical and electrical rough-ins on going
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof watertight • Non-load bearing masonry commenced • Ductwork installation commenced • Exterior spray foam insulation completed on Administration side • Mechanical and electrical rough-ins are on going
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glazing installed • Non-load bearing masonry completed • Mechanical equipment in mechanical room underway • Electrical switchgear and transfer switch installed • Painting commenced • Exterior masonry commenced
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brick veneer completed • Floor polishing in Administration completed • Metal roofing commenced • Fire cisterns installed • Gas meter/station installed • Apparatus bay ceiling commenced
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potable water cistern installed • Metal roofing complete • Siding commenced • Drywall ceilings complete • Second coat of paint complete • Apparatus bay doors installed • Administration millwork completed • Mechanical equipment installation ongoing • Electrical devices installation commenced
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concrete curbs and sidewalks complete • Base course asphalt complete • Generator installed • Permanent power connected • Light fixture installation • Plumbing fixture installation • Soffit installation commenced • Floor polishing apparatus bay commenced
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washroom fixtures and partitions installed • Generator installation complete • IT room complete • Fire alarm devices installed • Bunker gear racks installed • Bollards and fencing installed

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potable water pump installed • Fire cistern pump installed • Mechanical controls installed • IT network online • Security cameras installed • Appliances delivered
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top-cost asphalt complete • Line painting complete • Mechanical start-ups commenced • Mechanical and electrical deficiencies ongoing • Commissioning activities commenced
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical start-ups ongoing • Mechanical and electrical deficiencies ongoing • Commissioning activities ongoing
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appliance install and hook up • Mechanical and electrical deficiencies ongoing • Commissioning activities ongoing • Flooring Installation • Landscaping and sod
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture Installation • Walk through and handover • Move in and occupancy



APPARATUS

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

2023 APPARATUS ROSTER				
	STATION	UNIT ID	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
1	Admin.	Car 1	GMC Sierra 1500 4x4	2021
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	Public Works	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. This revised plan means 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
OVERDUE			
Engine 2	1999	To be removed from Service (2024)	\$0.00
2024-2026			
Engine/Tanker 2	New	2024	\$ 955,000.00
Car 2	2014	2024	\$ 125,000.00
Tanker 4	2005	2025	\$ 750,000.00
Rehab/Decon	New	2026	\$ 110,000.00
		1-3 Years Subtotal	\$ 1,940,000.00
2027-2029			
Engine 1	2003	Kept as reserve – to be replaced in 2027 with new engine (twin to E3) moving to Station 4	\$ 1,250,000.00
Rescue 2	2018	2029	\$ 1,100,000.00
		4-6 Years Subtotal	\$ 2,350,000.00
2030-2032			
Squad 2	2023	2033	\$ 180,000.00
Car 1	2023	2033	\$ 145,000.00
		6-10 Years Subtotal	\$ 325,000.00
10 YEAR TOTAL ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT VALUE			\$4,615,000.00
Estimated Annual Replacement Funding Requirement			+/- \$ 460,000.00

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



FLEET MODERNIZATION

As part of the 2023 Capital program, Council approved various fleet modernization projects which included:

Car 1: In 2018 the decision to not provide the Chief a vehicle was mutually made as a "stop gap measure" and was only meant to be a short-term cost savings option while other priorities were being addressed. Beginning in 2019 the Fire Chief had included the new vehicle in the fleet replacement forecast, and long-term financial plan, to ensure appropriate funds are allocated for future purchases with minimal impact to taxes.



In Cab Hearing Protection & Communications: Engine 3 & Engine 4 are the only two engines that have full crew seating capacities. The JHSC has identified that the noise levels inside the cabs are excessive and prohibit communications between the operator, officer and crews. Currently, only the operator has a headset that acts as both hearing protection and hands-free radio communication operations. The intent of this project is to provide hearing protection and communications for all occupants of the Engines.



Fleet Safety Systems (Cameras, AVLs, MDTs): Cameras - as with passenger vehicles, most new apparatus come standard with rear view cameras. This is not only a safety concern but also an operational issue, given that WFES operates a volunteer staffing model resulting in some apparatus only having an operator with no additional personnel. Additionally, as part of our risk reduction program forward facing dash cameras can be used for training, evidence and defence purposes.

Utility/Squad Unit - Snow Plow: Following the December 2022 Winter Storm, Public works informed the Fire Service that winter control/ snow removal activities will only occur after all roads have been fully cleared and after the Townhall, Library and Arena have been cleared. This has resulted in instances where the Fire Stations were not accessible and the station had to be removed from service for several hours, ultimately placing the community at risk. Additionally, the Township has been impacted by snow squall/winter storm events that result in roadways not being passable due to Public Works not operating throughout the night. As in many other municipalities, the fire services provide emergency response with a plow unit for both EMS and Police, as well as fire responses during these weather events.



Personnel have been trained on the use of the plow and are now plowing the fire stations as needed.

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 2023 includes:

Portable Ground Monitors	Wildland Hose Packs
Battery Operated Ventilation Fan	Large Diameter Hose Appliances
200' of 4" (100mm) LDH Supply Hose	Rapid Intervention Team Rope Bag
Electric Vehicle Disable Device	Portable Scene Lighting



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS

January - Public Education information was included with the Tax bills

March 25, 2023 - Public First Aid & CPR course WFES personnel provided a Red Cross First Aid & CPR course to approximately 16 members of the public.



April 20, 2023 – Community Open House at Wainfleet Arena

May 11-14, 2023 – Camp MOLLY

WFES provided 3 team captains and had 3 attendees from Wainfleet participate in Camp Molly 2023



May 16, 2023 – Test it Tuesday Open House at Station 2

June 2023 – Tax Mailer An insert with Residential Fire Safety Inspection information was included with the June Property Tax mailer.

June 8, 2023 – WEB Fun Day

June 17, 2023 – Berg Equipment Grand Opening & Open House

July-September 2023 – 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.

September 22-23, 20223 – Wainfleet Fall Fair

Every year WFES participates in the fall fair parade, has a Public Education booth in the arena and provides standby Emergency Services for the motorsport 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.



September 18, 2023 – First Annual Provincial Test Your Smoke Alarm Day

WFES participated in the Ontario Wide Smoke Alarm Program

October 4, 2023 – Winger Pumpkin Fest

WFES attended Winger Public School Fall Festival “Pumpkin Fest” and provided various Fire & Life Safety Public Educational materials and messages



October 8-14, 2023 - Fire Prevention Week

The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2022 was, ***“Cooking Safety Starts with YOU!”***

On October 11, 2023 WFES personnel attended all four schools in the township to deliver Fire & Life Safety Public Education messaging.



November 1-7, 2023 – Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week took place November 1st – 7th. 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.



November 19, 26 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 2023 Christmas Basket Program. Messaging included:



December 12-23, 2023 - 12 Days of a Holiday Fire Safety

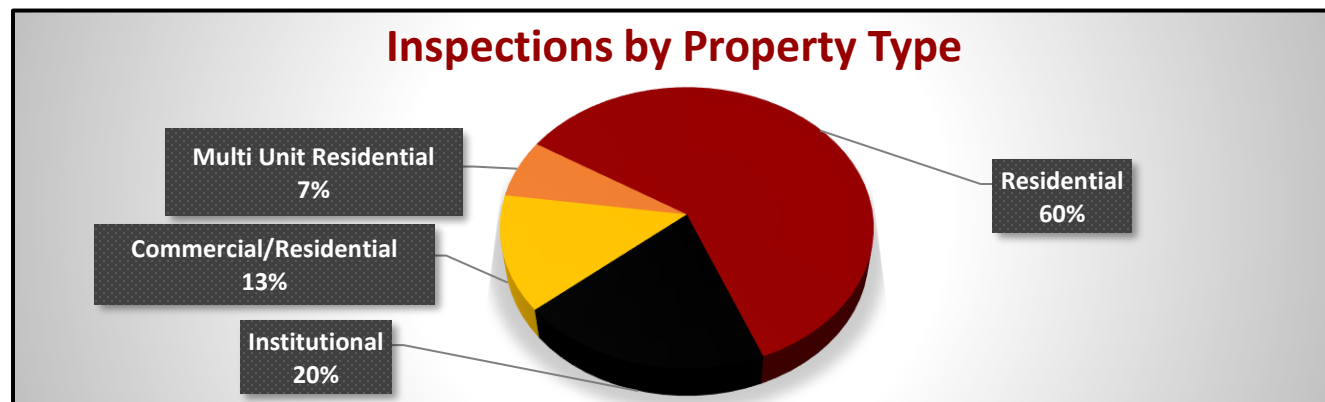
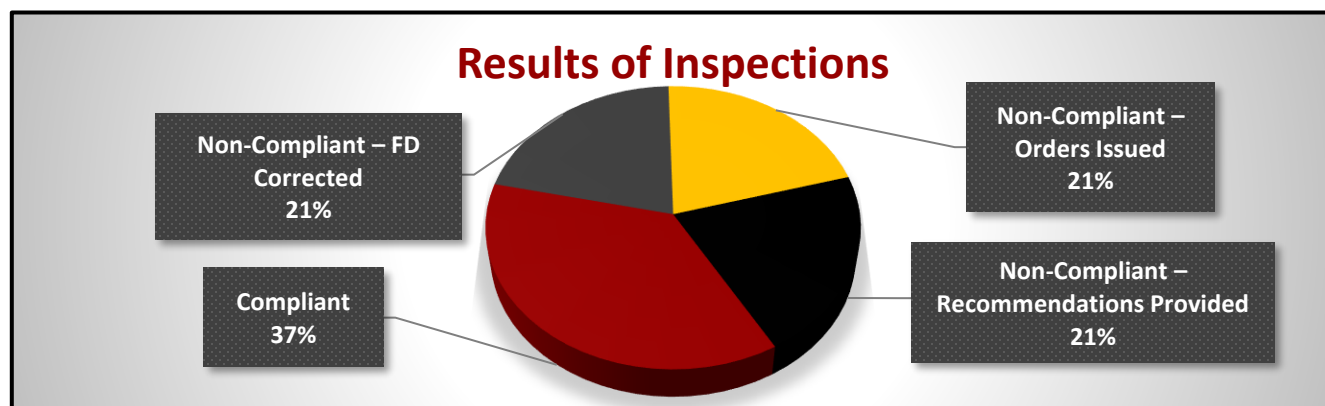
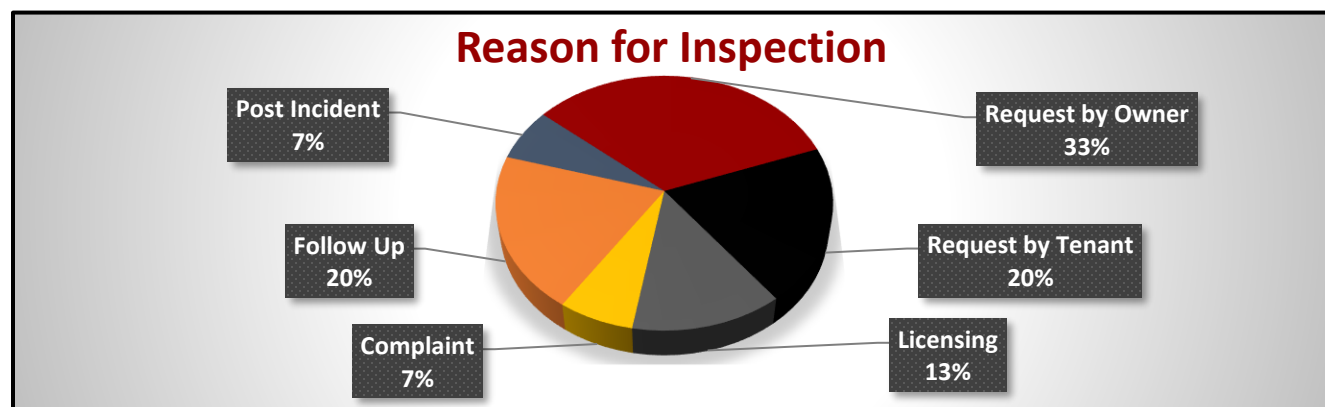
In partnership with the Office of the Fire Marshal, fire services across the province engaged in a public education/social media campaign. This campaign focused on the various hazards that predominantly occur during the holiday season and messaging was delivered through a series of online videos that were posted and shared via social media between December 12 and 23, 2023.

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Dec. 12, 2023	Holiday Lights	Dec. 18, 2023	Kids in the Kitchen
Dec. 13, 2023	Candles & Decorations	Dec. 19, 2023	Fire Escape Planning
Dec. 14, 2023	Smoke Alarms	Dec. 20, 2023	Cooking
Dec. 15, 2023	Carbon Monoxide Alarms	Dec. 21, 2023	Heating Sources
Dec. 16, 2023	Tree Watering	Dec. 22, 2023	Careless Smoking
Dec. 17, 2023	Electrical Hazards	Dec. 23, 2023	Lithium Batteries

FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

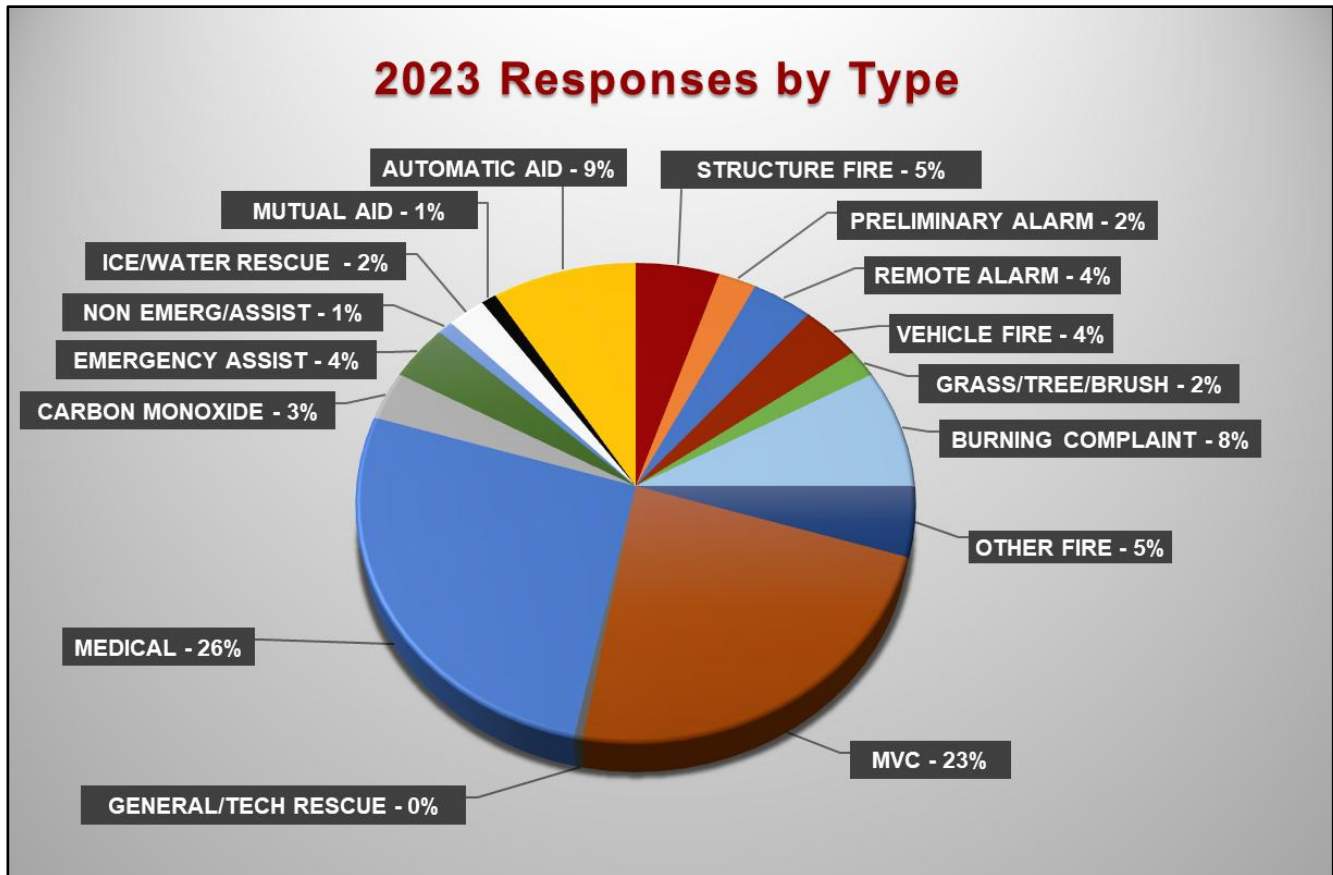
In 2023, 15 Fire Inspections were conducted as a result of either requests, complaints or post incident follow up.

- 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

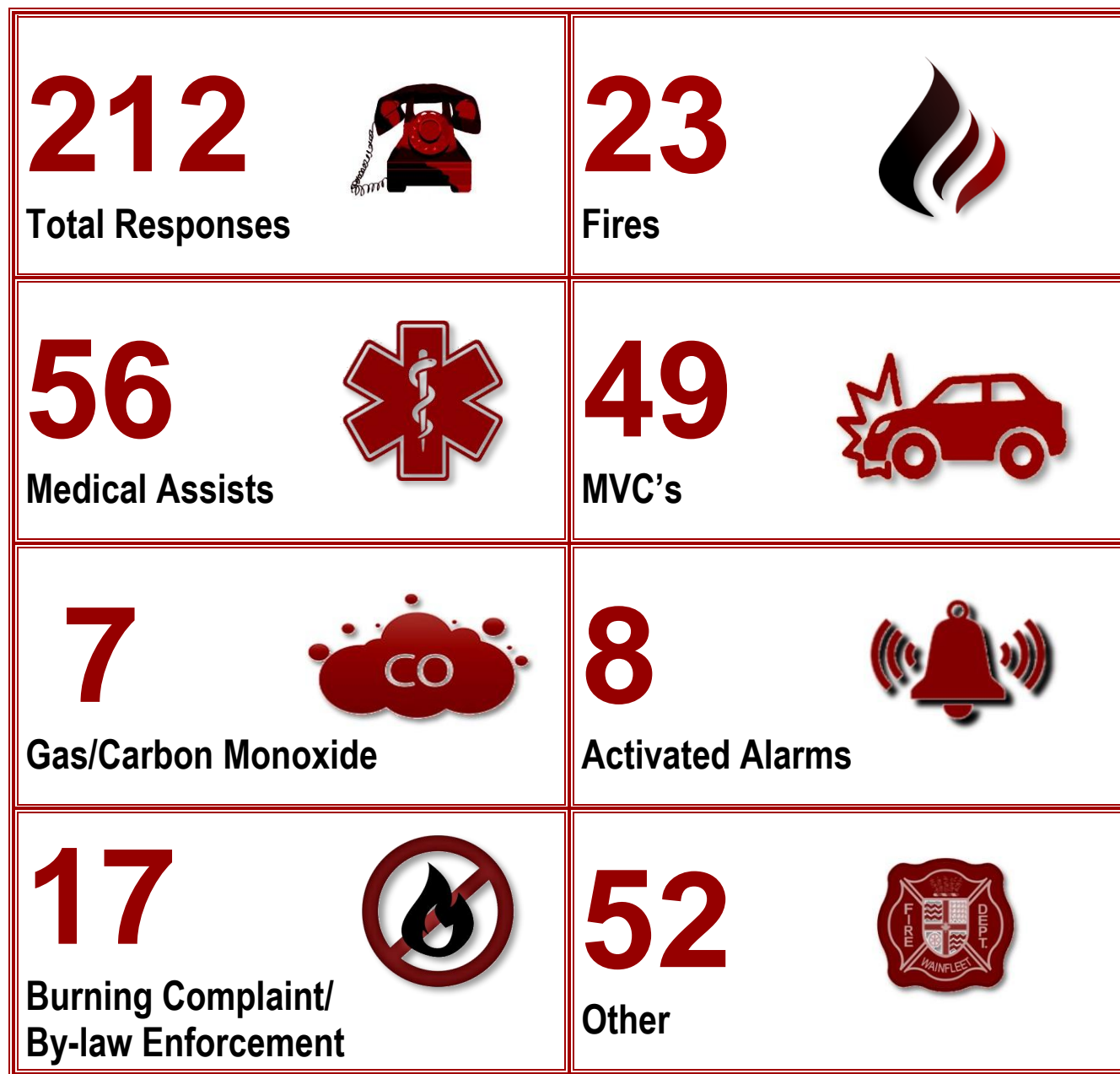
The Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services responded to a total of 212 incidents in 2023, which is approximately a 9% decrease from 2022. WFES responds to many different types of incidents.



A total of twenty-three (23) fire incidents occurred during 2023 within the Township of Wainfleet. This includes structure, vehicle, vegetation and other materials fires. These fires had a combined estimated value of \$4,845,800.00. The total dollar loss caused by damage of fire is estimated to be approximately \$1,865,000.00. This results in approximately \$2,980,000.00 in property saved by the Fire Department.

The 2023 Fire Services approved operating budget was set at \$1,456,436.00, which means for every dollar invested in fire protection services, \$2.05 of property was saved, with the understanding that Fire responses make up approximately 11% of the total emergency responses in 2023.

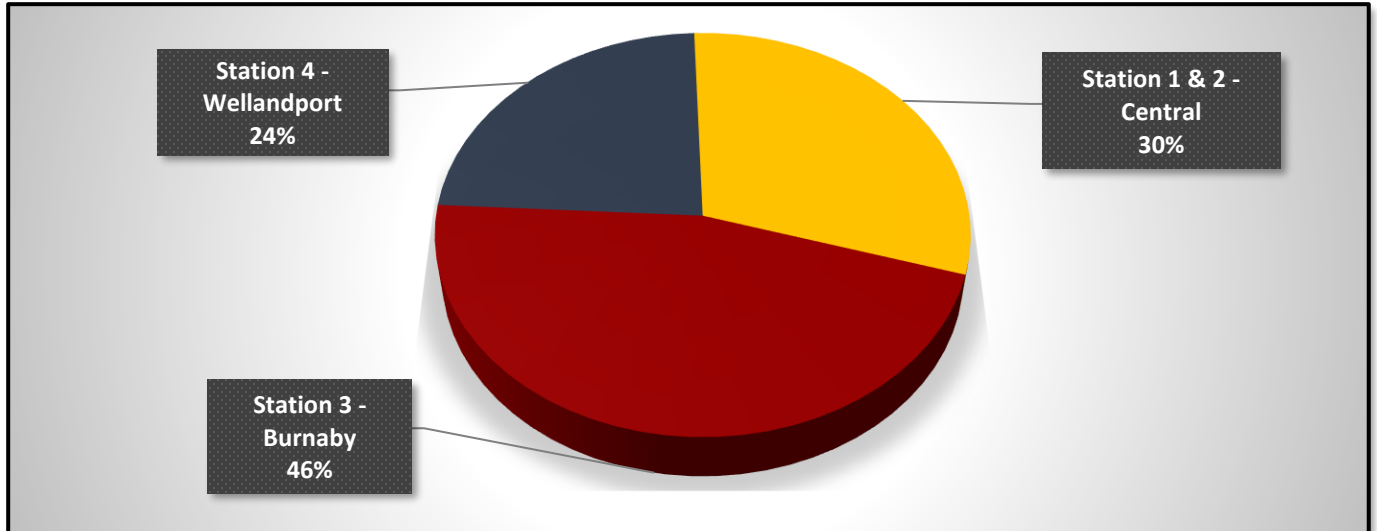
The following info-graphic illustrates the incidents by type.



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

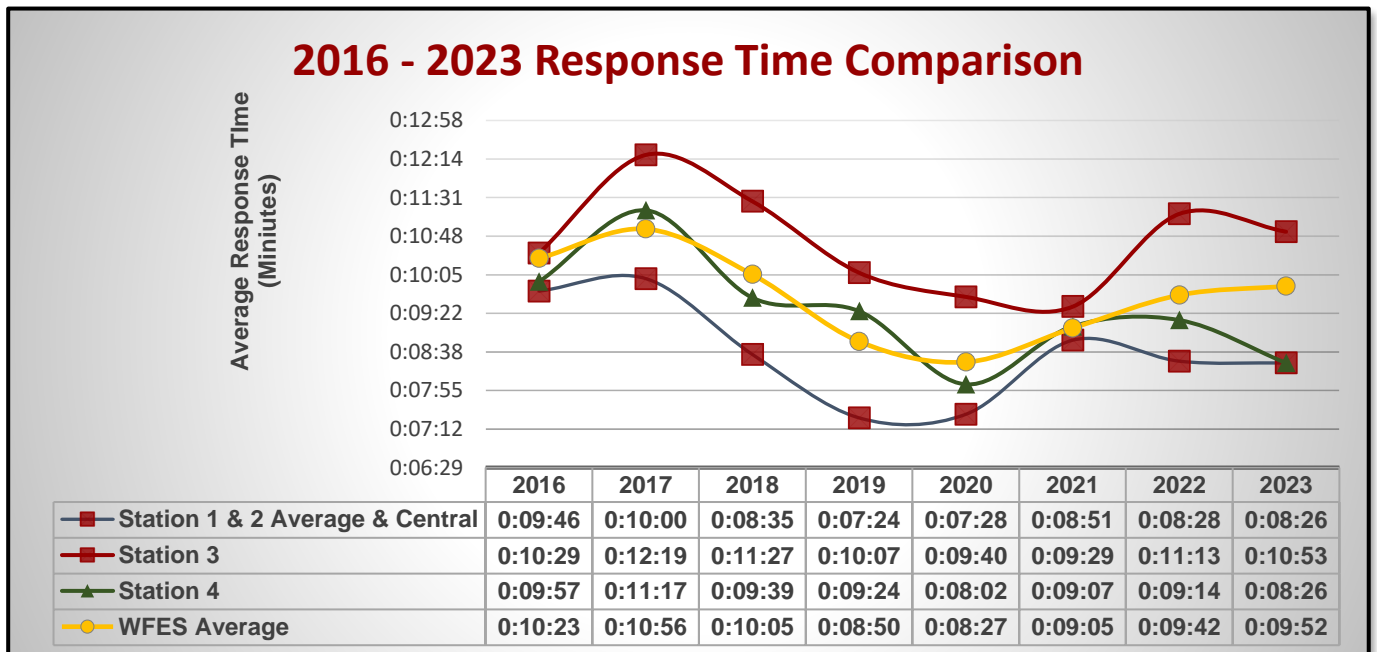
STATION RESPONSES

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. For 2023, with Council amending the organizational chart to reflect the three-station model, all reporting was completed utilizing the three stations.



RESPONSE TIMES

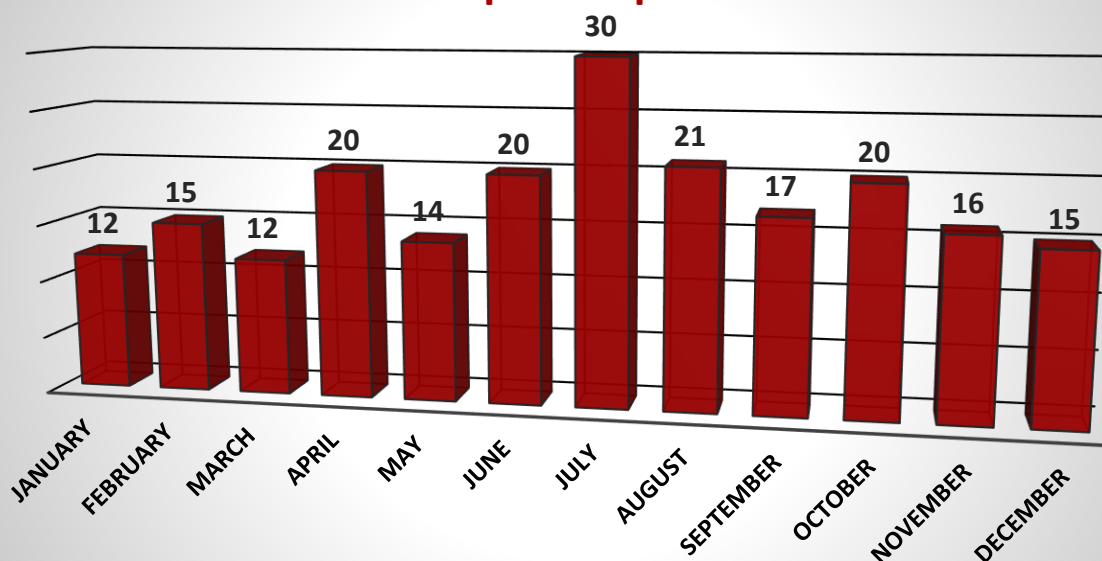
The importance of time is critical in responding to any emergency. The average response time for incidents within the municipality in 2023 was approximately 09:52 minutes. This represents the exact time from the receipt of the actual call from 911 dispatch to the on-scene arrival time by the fire department. 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 2023.



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

INCIDENTS BY MONTH

2023 Responses per Month



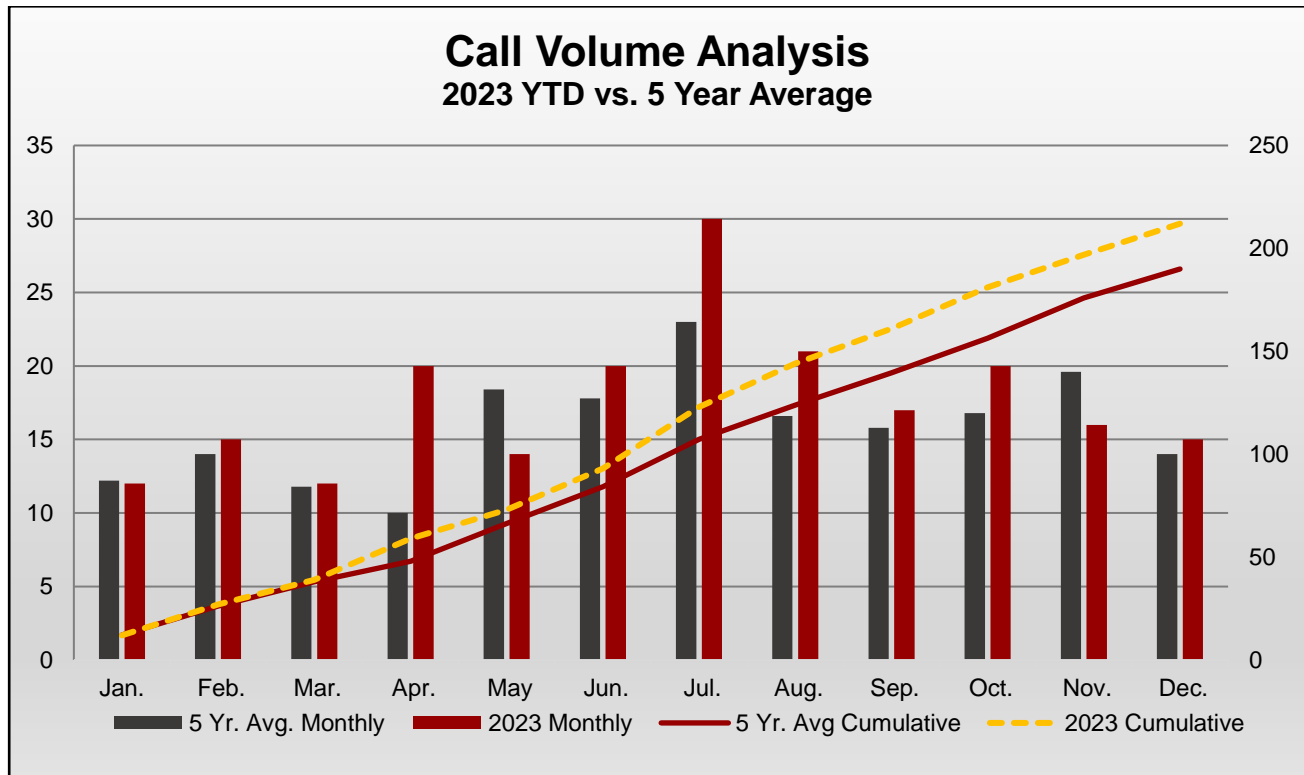
WAINFLEET FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES 2023 MONTHLY DISPATCHES BY DETERMINANT

Determinant Group	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	2022	% Change
STRUCTURE FIRE	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	11	15	-26.7%
PRELIMINARY ALARM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	5	4	0.0%
REMOTE ALARM	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	1	8	16	-50.0%
VEHICLE FIRE	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	8	3	166.7%
GRASS/TREE/BRUSH	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0.0%
BURNING COMPLAINT	0	0	1	6	0	4	4	1	0	0	1	0	17	9	88.9%
OTHER FIRE	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	0	1	10	7	42.9%
MVC	0	5	2	3	4	2	8	6	5	5	6	3	49	48	2.1%
GENERAL/TECH RESCUE	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.0%
MEDICAL	4	3	4	6	5	4	9	2	3	6	5	5	56	78	-28.2%
CARBON MONOXIDE	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	7	4	75.0%
HAZMAT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EMERGENCY ASSIST	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	8	16	-50.0%
NON EMERG/ASSIST	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	100.0%
ICE/WATER RESCUE	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	5	0.0%
UNKNOWN 911	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.0%
Total Responses Within Municipality	11	12	10	20	12	19	25	19	16	19	15	13	191	211	-9.5%
Total Responses Out of Jurisdiction (Other)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	
To Port Colborne	1	2	2	0	2	1	5	2	1	0	1	2	19	20	
2023 TOTAL	12	15	12	20	14	20	30	21	17	20	16	15	212		
2022 TOTAL	14	14	13	14	19	21	27	19	18	29	25	20	233		
% CHANGE	-14.3%	7.1%	-7.7%	42.9%	-26.3%	-4.8%	11.1%	10.5%	-5.6%	-31.0%	-36.0%	-25.0%	-9.0%		

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

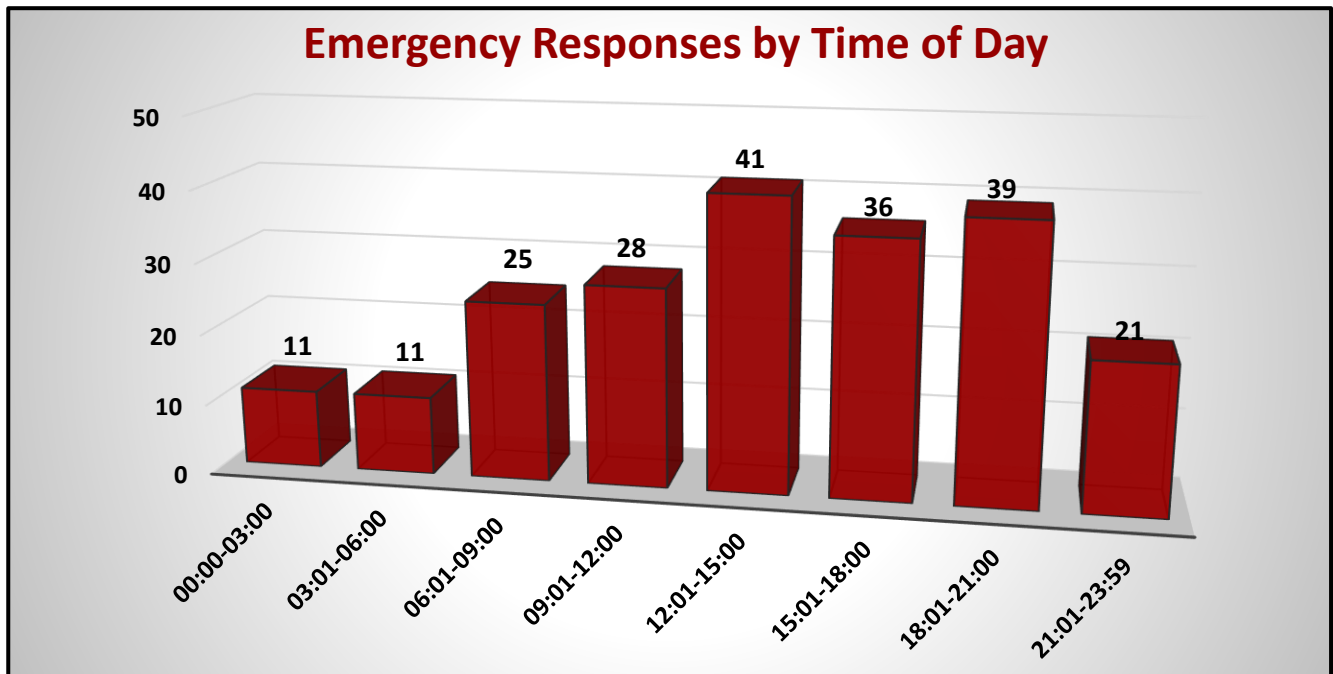
* Other includes: Public hazards, Rescues, Utility Incidents (Electric/Gas), Agency Assistance, Mutual Aid



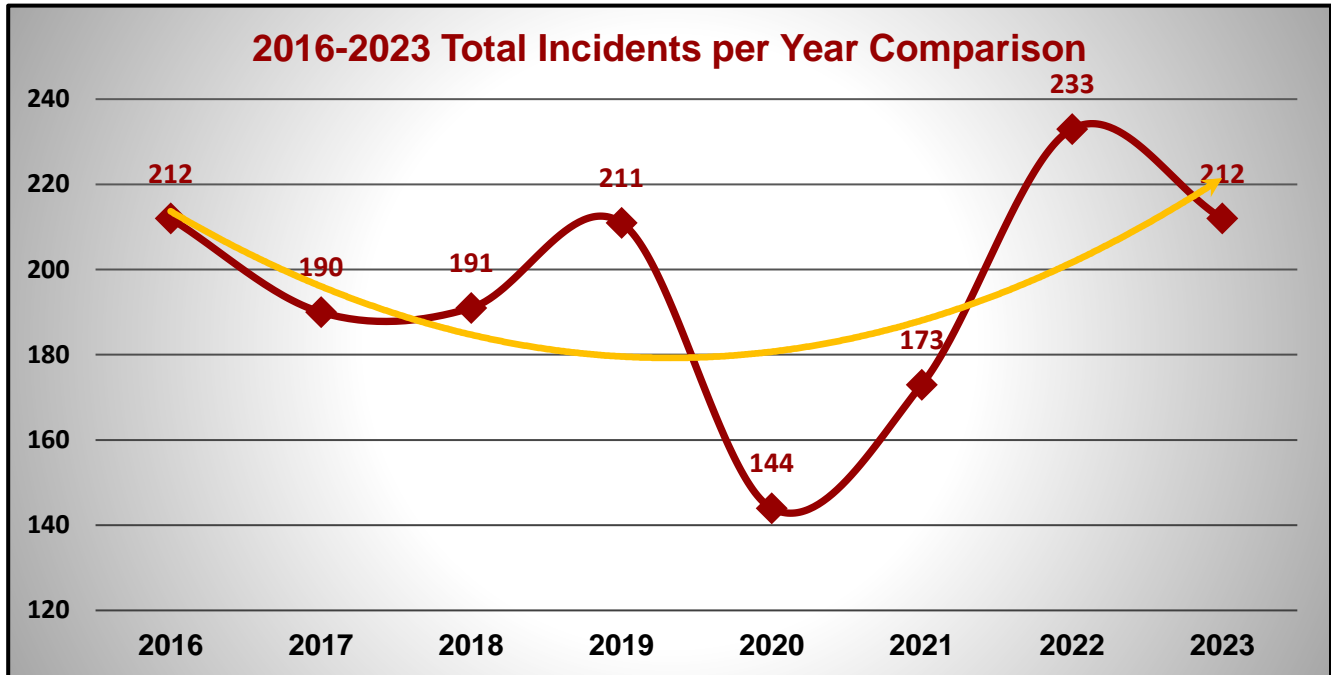


INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY

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.



2016-2023 INCIDENT COMPARISON



SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

“Significant Incident” -

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

January 28, 2023 – Vehicle Fires with Extension to Multi-Unit Residence

Station #4 (Wellandport) was the primary responding station with a department response of 6 apparatus and 18 personnel from all 4 stations.

Fire Department arrived on scene to find two vehicles on fire. An individual was working on Vehicle 1 inside a garage and had placed the welding torch on the frame at the back of the pickup truck. Upon noticing the fire, they pulled the vehicle out of the garage to the side of the home, where Vehicle 2 then caught fire. The fire melted the siding and cracked one window on the house. Crews had the fire under control within 8 minutes of arrival. While checking for extension into the home, crews observed that the smoke alarms in the house had expired. Additionally, there were no working Smoke or CO alarms in either unit (2-unit building). Smoke and CO alarms were replaced.

It was estimated that the value of the property saved was approximately \$600,000.00

February 9, 2023 – Structure Fire – Single Family Dwelling

Station #4 (Wellandport) was the primary responding station with a department response of 11 apparatus and 33 personnel from all 4 stations. Mutual Aid was provided by Haldimand and Pelham for Tanker Shuttle support.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to find a single storey structure with heavy fire conditions visible from the front of the home. Two occupants were already out of the home and reported that one person was still inside. Deputy Chief Schutten was first on scene and was able to locate the missing individual inside the front hallway. He made entry and pulled the occupant out of the home, unfortunately, they had succumbed to smoke inhalation and was declared deceased on scene.



Initial crews had to then provide care to multiple patients prior to the arrival of EMS, while attempting to bring the fire under control. The fire had extended throughout the structure and the roof collapsed during suppression efforts. Crews had water on the fire within 7 minutes of arrival and took approximately 50 minutes to bring the fire under control, with damage limited to the area of origin.

Due to the fatality, the OFM attended the scene and conducted an extensive post fire investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fatality as well as determining both the area of origin and possible causes of the fire.



July 6, 2023 – Pre-fire Condition

Station 3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 8 apparatus and 21 personnel from all 3 stations.

Crews arrived to a reported fire that had started in the second-floor bathroom fan. Smoke had filled both the first and second floors requiring ventilation. Additionally, firefighters opened the ceiling in the bathroom to ensure the fire had not extended into the attic.

During the investigation it was noted that there was no working smoke or CO alarm on the second floor. The occupants confirmed they were not going to stay in the house for the night, and were instructed to install a new working smoke alarm on the second floor prior to occupying the dwelling. No other orders or enforcement was issued.

September 7, 2023 – Structure Fire - Single Family Dwelling

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 9 apparatus and 19 personnel from all 3 stations.

The Fire Department responded to a call for fire and smoke under a deck attached to the house, with a possible propane leak. The property owner reported a lighting strike nearby his home, and while looking to see what had happened located a fire and gas leak under the attached gazebo. The homeowner shut off the propane feed and used a garden hose to contain the fire. Crews made entry and extinguished remaining hot spots and completed an investigation for extension into the home.

An arc where an electrical wire crossed a corrugated stainless gas line resulted in the rupture causing both the leak and the fire.

September 22, 2023 – Vehicle Fire (Fall Fair)

While at the Fair, a passerby noticed a vehicle with smoke visible inside cab, parked in the Arena parking lot. They notified firefighters at the fair who broke into the vehicle and located a small fire on the front seat that was started by the sun shining through a water bottle left on the seat.

Firefighters extinguished the fire utilizing a fire extinguisher.



October 15, 2023 – Structure Fire – Single Family Dwelling

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 10 apparatus and 29 personnel from all 3 stations. Port Colborne provided one tanker through Automatic Aid

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a single storey residential structure with smoke coming from the rear of the structure. During initial survey the back door had failed and heavy fire was located. Two Stat-X fire extinguishing grenades were deployed – 1 into the kitchen and 1 into the basement stairwell.

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. It was estimated that the value of the property (structures & contents) saved was approximately \$400,000.00

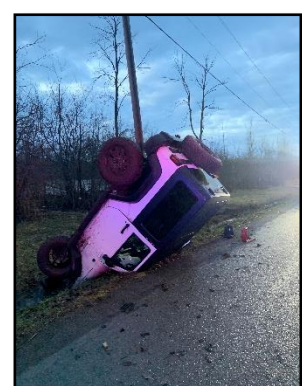
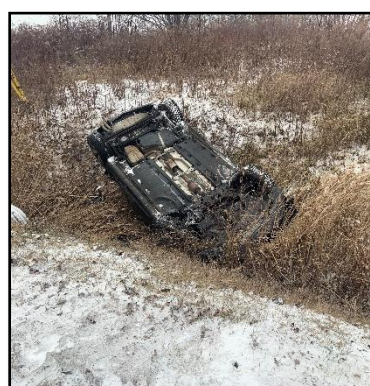
December 9, 2023 – Structure Fire – Single Family Dwelling

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 9 apparatus and 23 personnel from all 4 stations. Port Colborne provided a tanker through automatic aid and Haldimand provided a tanker through mutual aid.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a two-storey residential structure fully involved with exposures located to the west and south. Crews focused initial efforts on protecting exposures and containing the fire to the single building.

The structure was a complete loss and an excavator was utilized to make the property safe prior to fire clearing the scene.

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

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 2024.

MOVING FORWARD

2023 proved to be an incredibly busy year, with firefighters investing over 10,000 hours (5.58 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 2024, 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)

Project wrap up and warranty items will be completed on the Central Fire Station throughout 2024.

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.

Staff are actively exploring suitable, safe, and cost-effective solutions for the continued delivery of firefighter training. While initial plans included the use of the barn located at the Central Fire Station site, the removal of that structure has necessitated the consideration of alternative training options. Potential solutions under review include the deployment of multiple shipping containers and the incorporation of specialized simulation props to support realistic and effective training scenarios.



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.

Additionally, in 2024, 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 2024, seven new recruits will commence their firefighter training. Upon successful completion, they are expected to begin active response duties on July 1st. The Township of Wainfleet continues to be served by a dedicated team of volunteer firefighters who are prepared to respond to emergencies at any time—without prior notice and outside of any formal schedule. WFES firefighters remain on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The continued success of the department is a direct result of the unwavering commitment of these volunteers and the invaluable support of their employers. It is their deep sense of community and dedication to service that drives them to respond when their unique skills are most needed.

Grounded in integrity and compassion, WFES remains committed to excellence in all aspects of our operations. We continually strive to improve our efficiency, training, and resource management. This forward-looking approach ensures that the Township of Wainfleet remains well protected by capable and highly trained professionals, ready to meet the community's needs whenever called upon.

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. This project will result in additional staff time and resources to be completed accurately and on time.



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