



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR IN REVIEW

Summary of Emergency Responses, Training, Achievements, Success and Investments that have been accomplished in 2024. 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 honour to present the 2024 Annual Fire & Emergency Services Report. This document highlights the dedication, accomplishments, and continued evolution of our department over the past year.

Despite the operational complexities that accompanied shared service arrangements and other organizational challenges, 2024 has been a year marked by resilience, progress, and professional growth. Our members have remained steadfast in their commitment to protecting life, property, and the environment within our Township.

Key Accomplishments in 2024.

- Responded to **227** calls for service
- Maintained an average response time of **10** minutes from time of dispatch to time first units on scene (for Wainfleet calls only)
- Completed a total of **1600 hours** (0.88FTE) of personnel time responding to calls for service
- Over **7300 hours** (4.0FTE) of personnel time conducting training, apparatus/equipment & station maintenance and attending meetings
- Personnel were able to deliver more than **595 hours** (0.33FTE) of Public Education & Fire Prevention
- Grand Opening of the new **Central Fire Station**
- Purchased and placed into service a new **Incident Support Unit** and an **Engine/Tanker**.

The volunteer firefighters of WFES continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication, responding to emergencies at all hours, under unpredictable circumstances, and often at great personal sacrifice. Their professionalism, skill, and teamwork serve as a foundation for the high level of service our community has come to expect—and rightfully deserves.

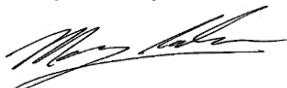
Throughout the year, we have continued to invest in training, equipment, and operational improvements, with a clear focus on maintaining the highest standards of emergency service delivery. Our efforts remain grounded in the core values of **Integrity, Compassion, and Excellence**, and we are proud to uphold these principles in every aspect of our work.

As a public safety professional and fire service leader, I am continually reassured by the knowledge that our community is protected by such a capable and committed group of volunteers. The value they bring is extraordinary: approximately **60 volunteers** contributed nearly **9600 hours** (5.27 FTE) of service in 2024. For a total personnel cost of around **\$266,000**, our community saved approximately **\$300,000** compared to the cost of utilizing full-time staff. These savings are substantial—and a testament to the efficiency and value of a well-supported volunteer fire service.

The Township of Wainfleet should be immensely proud of its Fire & Emergency Services team. Continued support for the dedicated men and women who serve is vital to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

As we reflect on 2024 and look ahead to the future, I remain confident in the strength of our department and the dedication of our people. Wainfleet is well-served by this exceptional team, and I encourage continued support and recognition for the men and women who protect our community every day.

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.

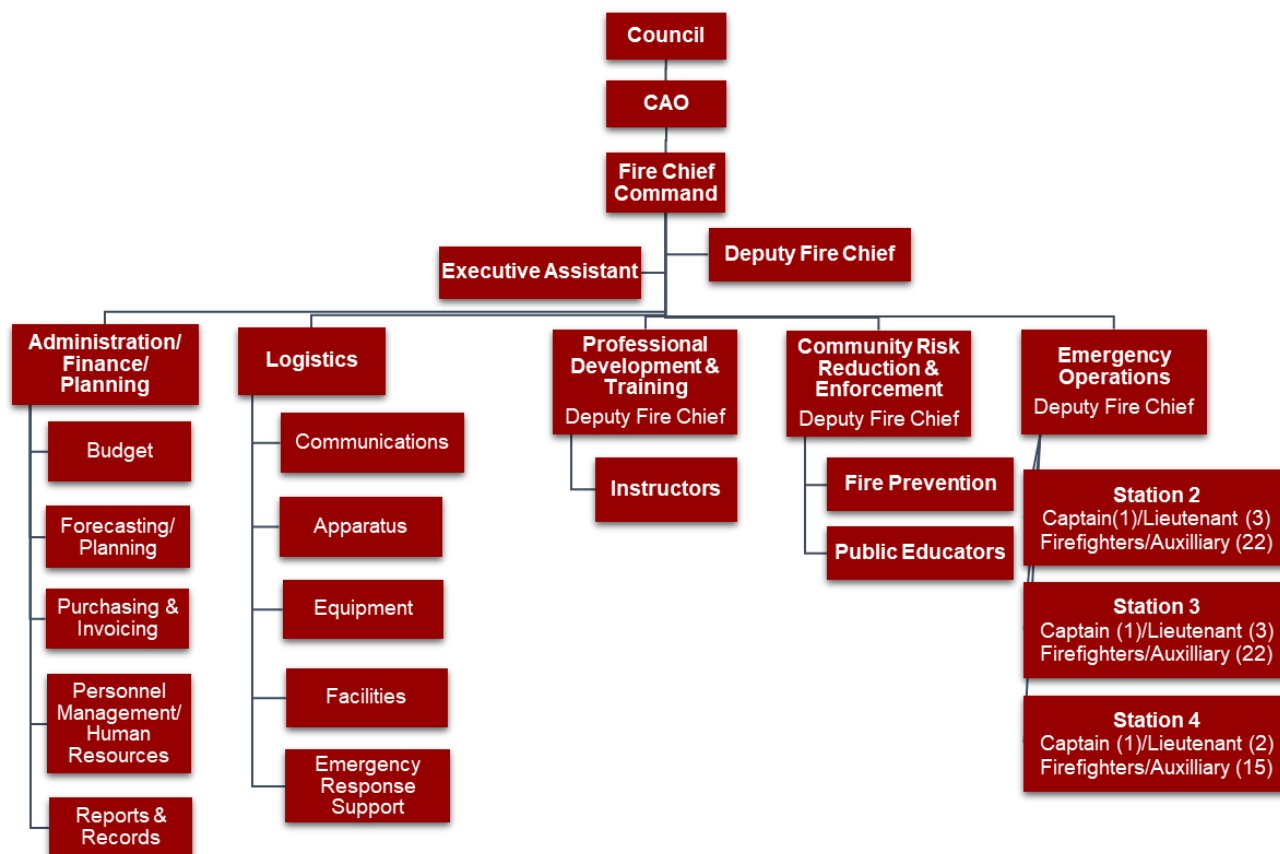


- 8.** Provide a maintenance program to ensure all fire protection apparatus, involving all equipment, is ready to respond to emergency calls.
- 9.** Provide an effective Fire Prevention Program to:
 - (a) Ensure, through plan examination and inspection, that required fire protective equipment is installed 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 60 active volunteer firefighters, supported by Executive Assistant, Tara McLachlan, Deputy Fire Chief, Shawn Schutten and Fire Chief, Morgan Alcock.



DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL (As of December 31st, 2024)

| 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 - Dawsen Schutten |
| Station 3 | |
| Captain - Conrad Beckingham | Lieutenant - Brendan Mater |
| | Acting Lieutenant – Brad McDonald |
| | Acting Lieutenant – Christopher Montreuil |
| Station 4 | |
| Captain – Ben Benson | Lieutenant - Bruce Vandelaar |
| Department Wide | |
| Public Education Officer - Charles Farkas | |
| FIRST CLASS FIREFIGHTERS | |
| BALCH, Allie | KISS, Amy |
| CARTER-FLAGG, Nick | MALLON, John |
| CHASTELET, Nicholas | MYERS, Jay |
| ETHIER, Dawson | NEUDORF, Stephen |
| GRAEF, James | SNIPPE, Mark |
| HERBERT, Christopher | STATON, Tom |
| JOHNSON, Leanne | STOUTH, Zachary |
| KARPINCHICK, Chris | VANGEEL, Rachel |
| SECOND CLASS FIREFIGHTERS | |
| BARKER, Sean | KIEVIT, Suzie |
| BEATTIE, Brandon | MACDONALD, Terry-Lynn |
| BLACK, Mitch | SHOALTS, Ben |
| DEKKER, Cullen | SLAPPENDEL, Dianne |
| DUFF, Scott | SONNEVELD, Timothy |
| GILMORE, Jacob | VANDELAAR, John |
| HALAGIAN, Adam | VRIEND, Jerry |
| HALAGIAN, Bradley | WHITEHALL, Ian |
| HALAGIAN, Katelyn | WORRALL, Jeremy |
| THIRD CLASS FIREFIGHTERS | |
| AARTS, Jonathon | HARRISON, Rex |
| BOUWERS, Taylor | SCHNEIDER, Jeremy |
| PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS | |
| BOK, Derek | KOTZER, Ryan |
| COLEMAN, Louis | KUHN, Lee |
| GUTTIN, Cory | PARNELL, Dillon |
| KELLY, Paige | WALL, Jacob |
| AUXILIARY FIREFIGHTERS | |
| HESSELS, Ted | |



RETIREMENTS & RESIGNATIONS, PROMOTIONS & APPOINTMENTS, RECOGNITION

2024 Retirements, Resignations & Returns

Firefighter Sarah Annett resigned after 2 years of service

Promotions and Appointments

- 10 members from the class of 2023 Recruits completed their probationary period and became 3rd Class Firefighters on January 1st 2024.
- Brad McDonald was promoted to Station 3 Acting Lieutenant.
- Chris Montreuil was promoted to Station 3 Acting Lieutenant.

Recognition & Awards

On January 2, 2024, WFES held its annual recruit class graduation and awards ceremony. They completed their oath and were presented their badges and helmets. Members were also presented with various NFPA certifications and years of service pins. Captain Jason Mous was presented a ceremonial axe in recognition of his retirement after 15 years of service.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Health & Safety

The Joint Health & Committee met on January 10, April 10, July 10, & October 9, 2024. 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

WFES has an agreement with Amanda Harry Psychotherapy and Consulting to promote the mental health and wellbeing of the Members. This is done via pro bono and fee for service provision of local, flexible, waitlist free support.

The Mental Health Consultant is a part of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team, and provides training, oversees and implements a quarterly Mental Health and Wellbeing Screening Program and is available to provide consultation, support and guidance to the Peer Support Program and members of the Service as needed. The WFES Mental Health Consultant has specialised training and expertise in working with Trauma Exposed Professionals. Services are independent of the Township and WFES.

The following is an overview of the work completed in 2024, which was the third year this role has been in place.

Highlights:

- New recruits received full day *Resilient Minds: Building the Psychological Strength of Firefighters* training developed by the Canadian Mental Health Association by Firefighters, for Firefighters. Family and friends participated in key components to support early recognition and proactive help seeking behaviours related to mental health and wellness.
- The Peer Support Team received a full day refresher skills and Critical Incident Stress Management training from an external provider, alongside Peer Support Team members in Fort Erie and Thorold
- Quarterly Mental Health and Wellness Screening Program delivered with overall 79% engagement rate.
- 1 post critical incident screening undertaken with 100% engagement rate.
- 13 members or their spouses have accessed consultation services in 2024 (sought support/advice/referrals for family/friends or members of the public.)
- 27% of current members have received direct clinical services from the consultant since July 2022.
- Those who reach out identify that they would not have accessed support without the direct relationship with a mental health professional facilitated through the Department.
- **Over 118 hours of pro bono service provision delivered in 2024 valued at over \$20,145**

What has worked well?

A “business as usual” approach to the quarterly screening program where members are accustomed to having it as part of their schedules and new recruits are oriented to the program, meant that the engagement rates in the Quarterly and Post Critical Incident Screening, and utilisation of the Mental Health Professional as a local source for advice, resource and support remains high.

The ongoing commitment and clear messaging to members re: prioritising Mental Health and Wellness, and engagement with the Program from Chief Alcock and Deputy Chief Schutten, has ensured ongoing positive engagement rates and delivery of the program.



Planned Activity for 2025

- Co-facilitation of Resilient Minds to new recruits (Jan)
- Rollout of the Resilient Minds Program to the rest of the Department via quarterly workshops
- Utilisation of Post Critical Incident 2-2-5 Screening and CISM support
- Annual 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

Recommended Next Steps:

Considering the busy year, the Department had with temporary shared service agreements in place and completion of Central Fire Station underway, it may be important to:

- review the function and frequency of the Mental Health and Wellness Working Group to consider what it will look like in 2025, as it did not meet in 2024.
- review the engagement of the Peer Support Team and consider any training, development and support needs
- review why the decline in activation of post critical incident screening occurred, and if there is any learning from this for the program.

Continuing to combat stigma associated with Mental Health by: Normalising individualised reactions to trauma exposure through ongoing messaging re: ways to build resilience, impact of a stress response, importance of early intervention, recovery tools and supports available through regular dialogue, training, debriefs, peer support and screening feedback and follow up.

Ensuring members know where to go for support by: promoting options for support through regular messaging including: Peer Support Team as well as Local and National Resources after each critical call, via quarterly and post critical incident screening feedback.

Provide members with a regular opportunity to reflect on their wellbeing, familiarise themselves with signs and symptoms of common mental health concerns for First Responders, and act early when concerns begin to emerge by: continuing to promote engagement with the Quarterly and Post Critical Incident Screening Program with reminders re: the purpose of the program, encouraging others to share their experiences, communication re: timing of screenings and expectations re: engagement.

Engaging with significant others as the key supports for members by: Providing opportunities for social gatherings which would also include information about available supports and resources, signs and symptoms and other's experiences to facilitate a sense of community and confidence. Consider utilising resources like: www.pspnet.ca/en/for-families-of-psp/ssw-wellbeing-course)

Ensuring that the Peer Support Team is sustainable, skilled, supported and confident by: reviewing engagement of current peer support members, considering suitability of other prospects, identify training needs and opportunities, continue to promote support offered by Leadership Team and Mental Health Consultant for the Peer Support Role.

Ensuring the MH&W Program is meeting the needs of the members and continuing to learn and grow by: Regular reporting and 2-way feedback with the peer support team, leadership team MH&W WG and Mental Health Consultant. Regular review and revision of the action plan by the MH&W WG.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2024, 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 and Alternative water sources
- Pump Operations: Apparatus and Portable pumps
- Incident Command, Personnel Accountability and Rehabilitation
- Special Operations:
 - Auto Extrication – occupant removal and 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 and Rescue Techniques
- Mental Health: Before Operational Stress – Resiliency

WFES partnered with the contractor to conduct training in the old St. Elizabeth Catholic School prior to its demolition. WFES had use of the school for 2 weeks with which wide area search, commercial fire attack and search and fire hose extension were all practiced.



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 Niagara Falls 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, 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 & 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 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.

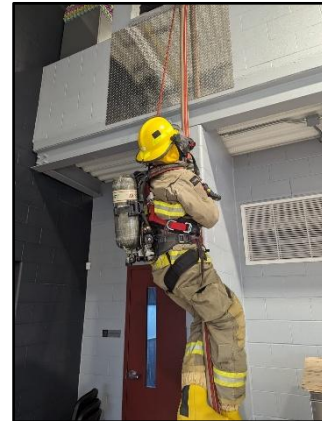
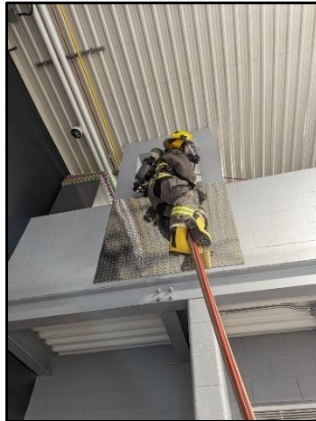


Every year WFES operates the following certified programs:

- 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:

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



FACILITIES, APPARATUS, EQUIPMENT, & OPERATIONS

2024 was the first full year where Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services operated from three stations, with administration offices located within the Central Fire Station.

| Number | Location | Address | Apparatus | Personnel |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---|-----------|
| Administration Central Station | Chambers Corners | 42143 Highway 3 | Car 1, Car 2, Engine 1, Engine 2, Rescue 2, Squad 2, UTV 2 | 24 |
| Station # 3 | Burnaby | 11603 Lakeshore Rd. | Engine 3, Tanker 3 | 25 |
| Station # 4 | Schwoob | 63959 Concession 6 | Engine 4, Tanker 4 | 15 |

In previous years, Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) has graded WFES 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, in 2023, FUS upgraded Station 3 to a level 3B and the remaining stations to a level 4.



With WFES now operating out of Central Station and with the addition of the new Engine 2, staff provided these updates to FUS for regrading, with which FUS also gave Central Station a 3B grade.



A new tanker and 15 firefighters at station 4 will bring it up to a 3B as well. It is the long-term goal to achieve a level 3B(S) (Accredited Superior Tanker Shuttle) across the entire township.



STATIONS

In 2024 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 2024 included:

- Overhead Door openers and panels
- Asphalt Driveway & Parking Lot (deferred)
- 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 2024 included:

- Overhead Door openers and panels
- Asphalt Driveway & Parking Lot (deferred)
- Floor repairs & coating (deferred)



CENTRAL FIRE STATION PROJECT

WFES moved into the new station in December of 2023, and 2024 was the first full year operating out of the new station. A grand opening and open house were held on July 20, 2024.



Photos by Griz Witlib



APPARATUS

WFES Services “Operates” ten (10) on road vehicles, one (1) off road vehicle and one (1) Incident Support Trailer

| 2024 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 | Central | Engine 1 | Pierce – Kenworth T370 (750gpm) | 2003 |
| 4 | Central | Engine 2 | Dependable Pumper-Tanker (1250gpm. & 3000 gal.) | 2024 |
| 5 | Central | Rescue 2 | Fort Garry - Dodge 5500 – Walk around rescue | 2018 |
| 6 | Central | Squad 2 | 2023 GMC Sierra 2500 4x4 – Utility Unit | 2023 |
| 7 | Central | ISU | Stealth Nomad 18FK – Rehab & Command Trailer | 2024 |
| 8 | Central | UTV 2 | Kubota RTV – Sidekick w/ CET Skid Unit | 2019 |
| 9 | Burnaby | Engine 3 | HME – 1870SFO Rescue-Pumper (1500gpm) | 2021 |
| 10 | Burnaby | Tanker 3 | Fort Garry – International (3000gal.) | 2018 |
| 11 | Wellandport | Engine 4 | Fort Garry – International (1250gpm) | 2018 |
| 12 | Wellandport | Tanker 4 | Swentz- Freightliner (2500gal.) | 2005 |

Engine 2 (1999) was to be replaced in 2019 however its replacement had been deferred until the opening of the new Central Station. In order for the new station to be recognized by FUS, both a pumper and a tanker were required.

FUS approved the purchase of a combination Pumper/Tanker as a temporary measure until Engine 1 can be replaced in 2028. The long term fleet plan is to have a twin Rescue-Pumper to Engine 3 placed at Station 4 and the 2018 Engine moved to Central as Engine 1.

The Rehab Unit was also purchased ahead of schedule which was funded through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant.

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 & REPLACEMENT DATE | *ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT COST |
| OVERDUE | | | |
| Car 2 | 2014 | 2025 | \$125,000.00 |
| 2025-2027 | | | |
| Tanker 4 | 2005 | 2026 | \$750,000.00 |
| | | 1-3 Years Subtotal | \$ 875,000.00 |
| 2028-2030 | | | |
| Engine 1 | 2003 | Kept as reserve – to be replaced in 2028 with new engine (twin to E3) moving to Station 4 | \$ 1,250,000.00 |
| Rescue 2 | 2018 | 2029 | \$ 1,250,000.00 |
| | | 4-6 Years Subtotal | \$ 2,500,000.00 |
| 2031-2033 | | | |
| Car 1 | 2021 | 2031 | \$ 125,000.00 |
| Squad 2 | 2023 | 2033 | \$ 150,000.00 |
| | | 6-10 Years Subtotal | \$ 275,000.00 |
| 10 YEAR TOTAL ESTIMATED REPLACEMENT VALUE | | | \$3,650,000.00 |
| Estimated Annual Replacement Funding Requirement | | | +/- \$ 365,000.00 |

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



ENGINE 2

Following Council's approval of the 2024 Capital Budget, Council approved the purchase of a 2024 Spartan Engine/Tanker from Dependable Emergency Vehicles, which was delivered on August 8, 2024. Prior to the apparatus being placed into service, staff conducted driver/operator training, communications up-fit and equipment mounting.

As an Engine/Tanker this new apparatus seats 6 with SCBA, carries over 3000gal (11,300L) of water, has a pump capacity of 1250gpm (4000Lpm), with 1200 feet (365m) of 4" (125mm) supply line and over 800 feet (245m) of various fire attack hand lines. It also has storage compartments for firefighting suppression, ladders, and medical response equipment.



The new apparatus was officially placed into service on September 6, 2024 with a "Wash-Down & Push-In Ceremony". The old Engine 2 was removed from service and sold on GovDeals.



INCIDENT SUPPORT UNIT

Following Council's approval of the 2024 Capital Budget, and funded through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG) Council approved the purchase of a 2025 Stealth Nomad Incident Support Unit (trailer) which was delivered on June 5, 2024.

This unit provides space for firefighters to cool down in summer, warm up in the winter, and decontaminate themselves during and after firefighting. This unit includes a washroom which eliminates the need to leave the scene for facilities. It can also serve as an emergency shelter during incidents and can be used in partnerships with mutual aid fire departments and other emergency services during large-scale events.

It's first deployment was to Fort Erie Fire for a multi-day fire investigation during a heat wave in June. It was also used as the command post and on-site operations centre for crews on stand by during the Mr. Beast filming along the GIO Railway.

It has also been used during off site training, at longer emergency scenes and has been greatly appreciated by all members of the department.



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 2024 includes:

| | |
|---|---|
| Battery powered Ventilation Fan | Battery powered auto extrication Cutter |
| Battery powered auto extrication Spreader | Battery powered auto extrication Ram |
| Battery powered Chainsaw | Battery powered Cut Off Saw |
| Portable Scene Light | Portable Power Station |



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS

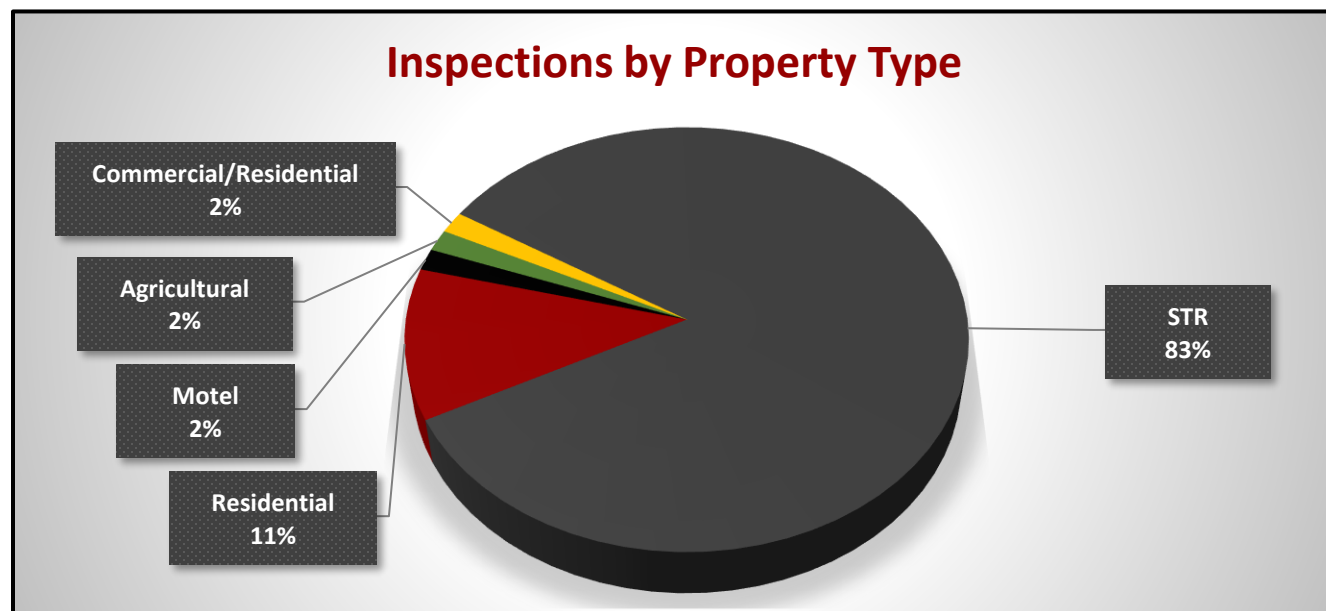
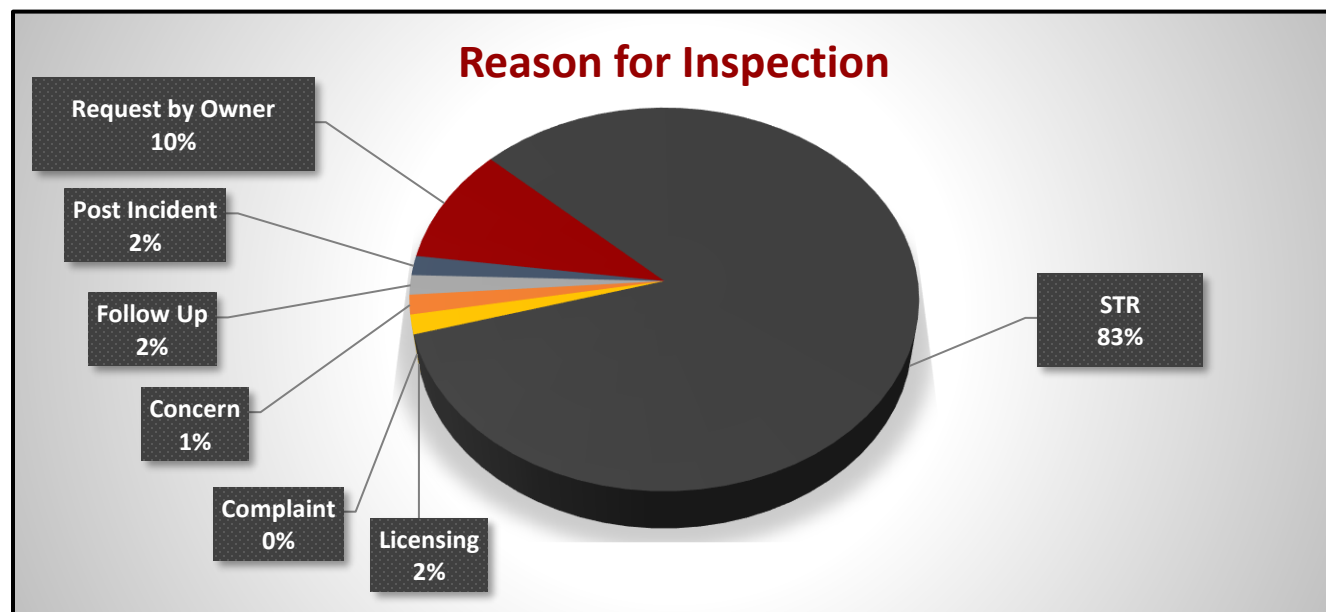
| Date | Event |
|--------------------------|---|
| 29-02-2024 | Central Fire Station Group Tour |
| 20-04-2024 | Ben Berg's Anniversary Open House |
| 24-04-2024 | Wainfleet Open House |
| 30-04-2024 to 03-05-2024 | Niagara Kids Water Festival |
| 11-05-2024 | Public CPR Course |
| 31-05-2024 | Preschool Visit |
| 06-06-2024 | WEB Family Fun Day |
| 06-07-2024 | Community Safety Day |
| 19-09-2024 to 21-09-2024 | Wainfleet Fall Fair |
| 09-10-2024 | Fire Prevention Week School Visits - Acres and Marshville |
| 12-10-2024 | Public Education/Prevention Presentation – Pie in the Sky |
| 18-10-2024 | Marshville Public School Pumpkinfest |
| 31-10-2024 | Hallowe'en Night Treats and Pub Ed |
| 17 & 24-11-2024 | Wainfleet Christmas Market |



FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS

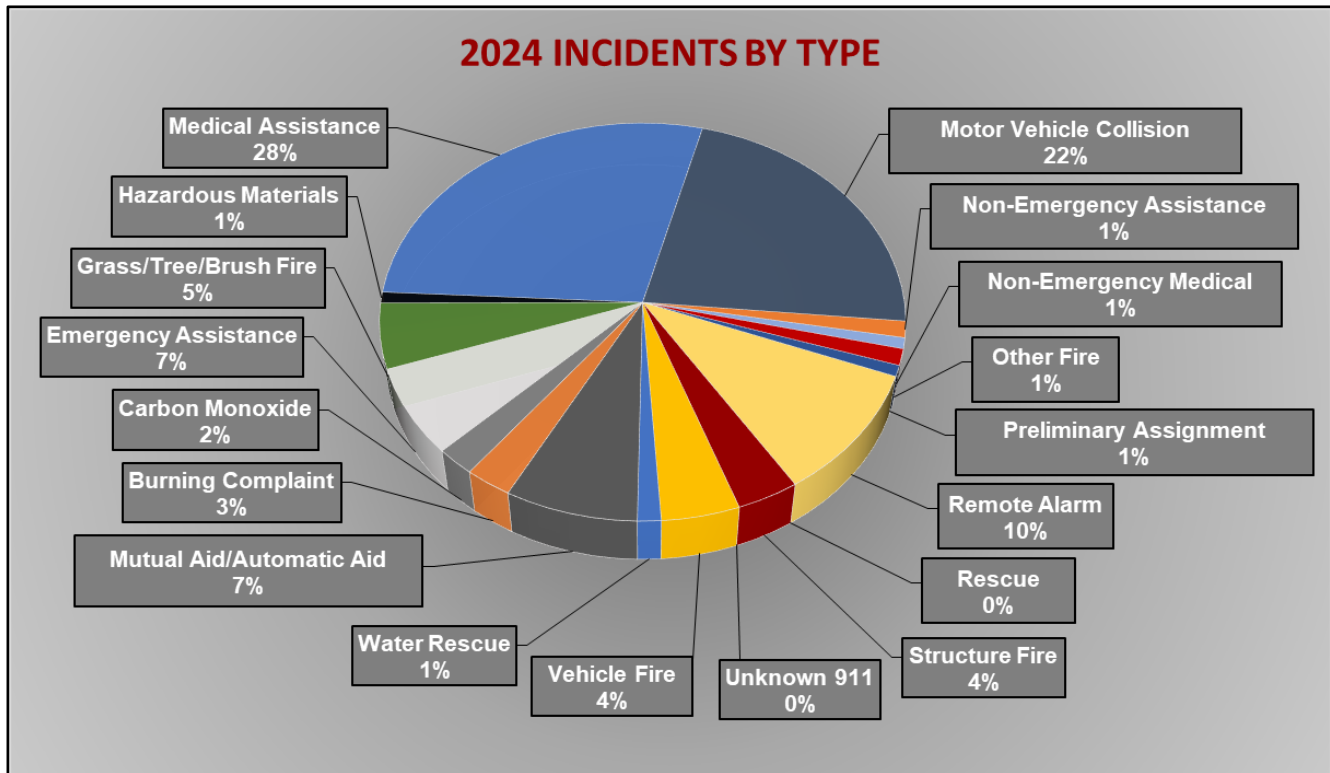
In 2024, 61 Fire Inspections were conducted as a result of either requests, complaints or post incident follow up.

- Fifty-One (51) inspections were required as part of Short-Term Rental Licencing
- One (1) inspection was requested as part of Cannabis Licencing
- One (1) inspection resulted in orders issued and a follow up inspection being required
- One (1) inspection included a fire drill exercise which showed a failure of the system resulting in orders issued and required fire watch of the building when occupied



OPERATIONS - EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services responded to a total of 227 incidents in 2024, which is approximately a 7% increase from 2023. WFES responds to many different types of incidents.



Structure Fires/Explosion calls totaled 4% (8 incidents) of emergencies in 2024 for WFES. Which is a 38% decrease from the 11 incidents in 2023.

For 2024, Medical Assist calls were the highest number of incidents 28% (64 incidents) with Motor Vehicle Collisions being the second most required response, at 22% (51 incidents).

“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 9% (21 incidents) of call outs.

Rescues and Water Rescues totaled 3% (3 incidents) of call outs.

Open Air Burning By-law enforcement and response to complaints resulted in 3% (6 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.

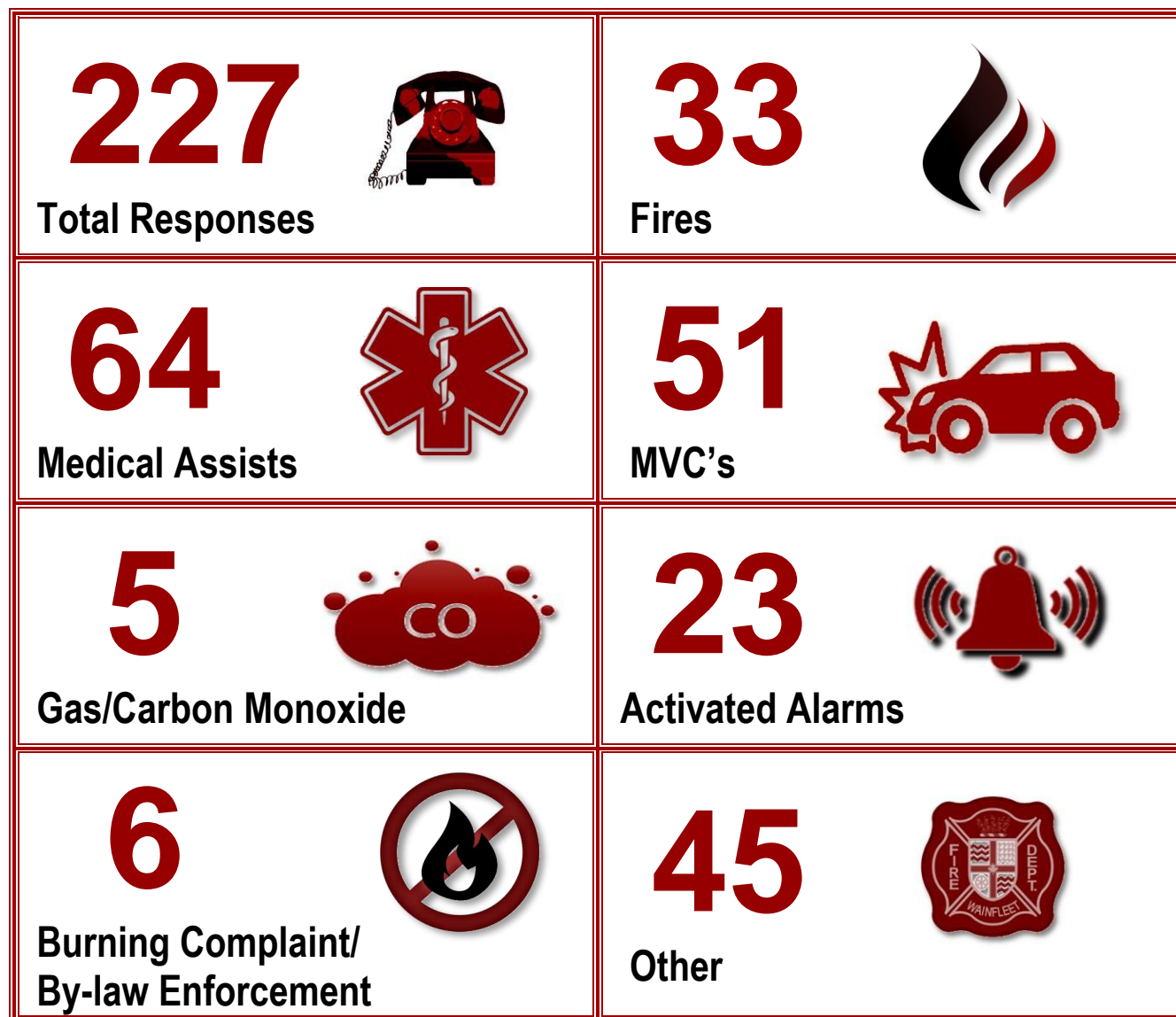
Carbon Monoxide responses totaled 2% (5 incidents).

A total of thirty-three (33) fire incidents occurred during 2024 within the Township of Wainfleet. This includes structure, vehicle, vegetation and other materials fires. These fires had a combined estimated value of \$3,265,000. The total dollar loss caused by damage of fire is estimated to be approximately \$965,000.00. This results in approximately \$2,300,000.00 in property saved by the Fire Department.

The 2024 Fire Services approved operating budget was set at \$1,190,204.00, which means for every dollar invested in fire protection services, \$1.93 of property was saved, with the understanding that Fire responses make up approximately 9% of the total emergency responses in 2024.



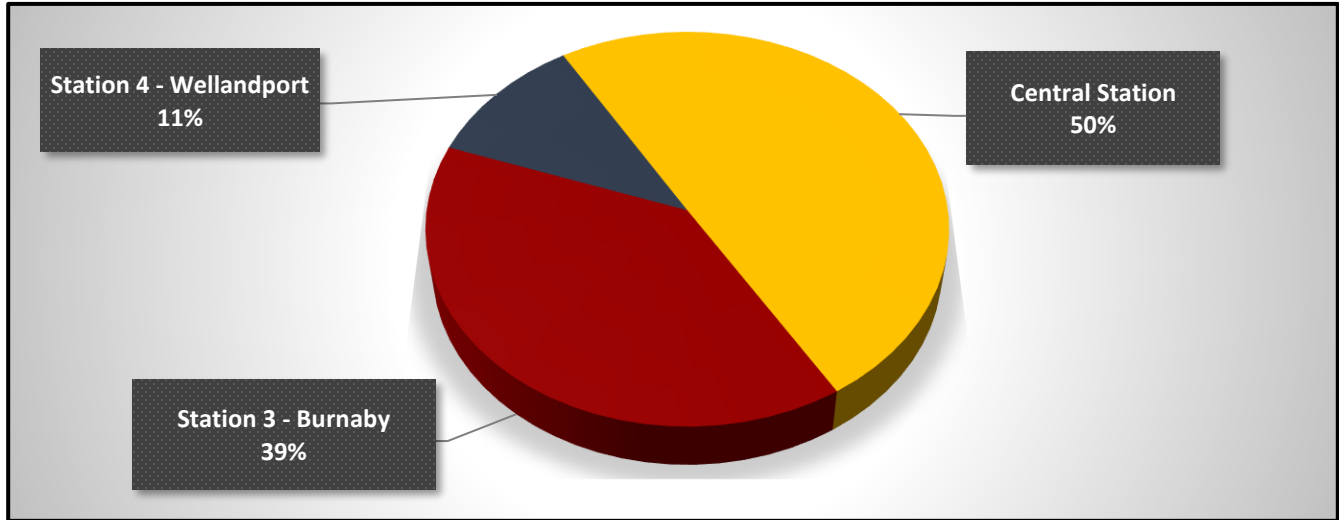
The following info-graphic illustrates the incidents by type.



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

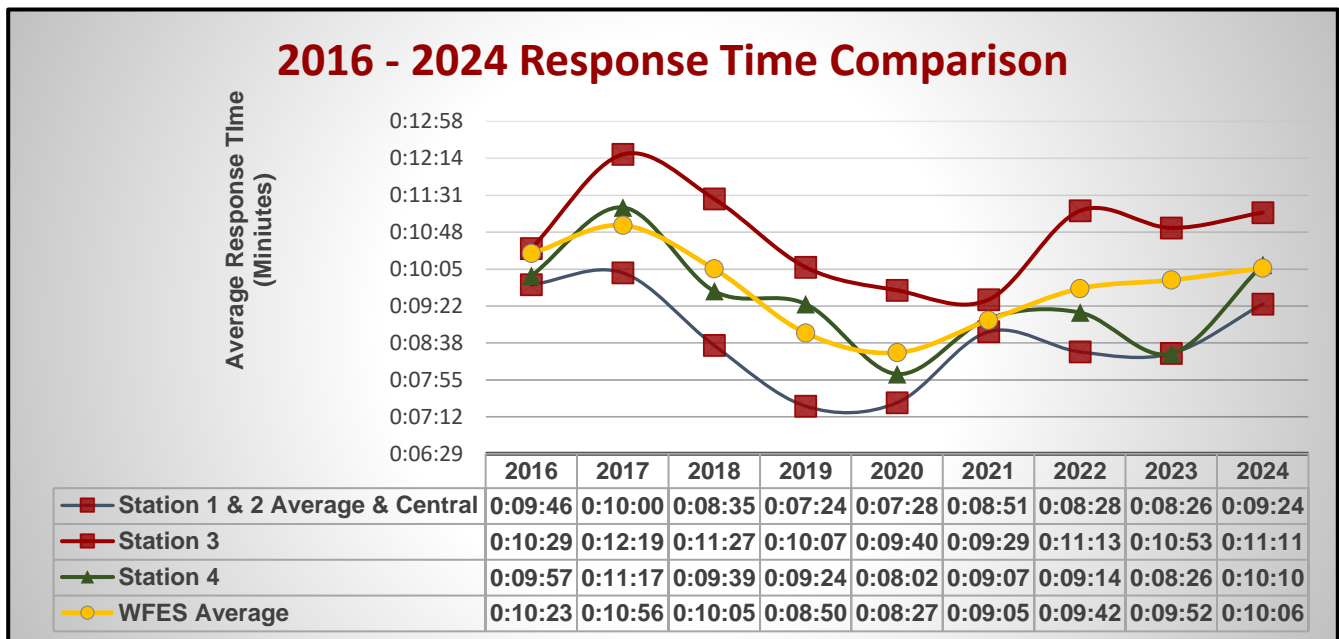
STATION RESPONSES

The Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services operates 3 stations with Administration operating out of the new Central Station. Historically, Station 3 received the most calls for services due to the increased seasonal occupancies, however with the opening of Central Station that has changed with Central responsible for 50% of the responses.



RESPONSE TIMES

The importance of time is critical in responding to any emergency. The average response time for incidents within the municipality in 2024 was approximately 10:06 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. The following chart compares the average response times for each station and provides an overall average for from 2016 to 2024.

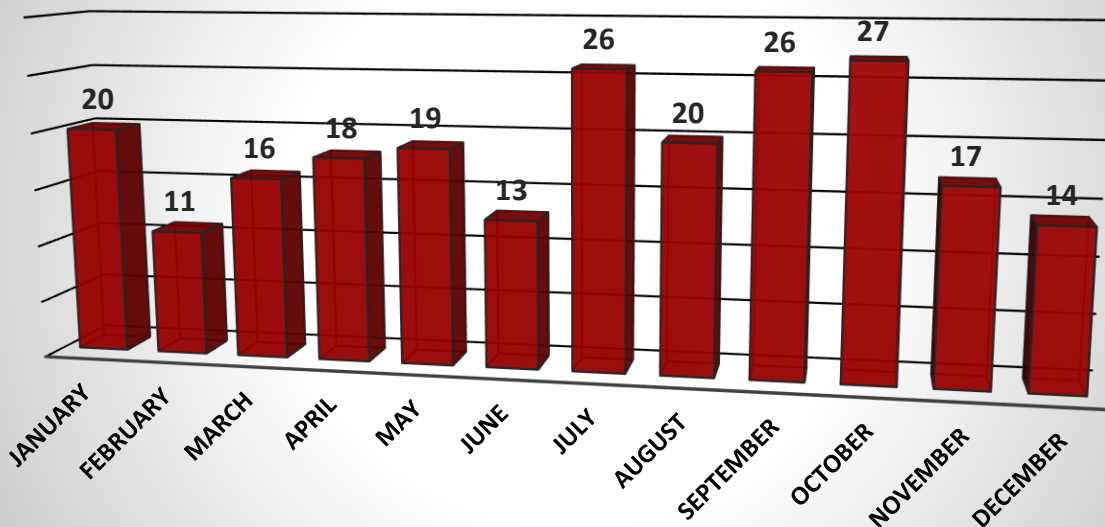


*Some factors that affected these times are: Time of Day, Number of Responders and Location of Incident



INCIDENTS BY MONTH

2024 Responses per Month



WAINFLEET FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

2024 MONTHLY INCIDENTS BY TYPE

| Determinant | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | TOTAL | 2023 | % CHANGE |
|--------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Burning Complaint | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 17 | -183% |
| Carbon Monoxide | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 7 | -40% |
| Emergency Assistance | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 8 | 50% |
| Grass/Tree/Brush Fire | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 67% |
| Hazardous Materials | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 100% |
| Medical Assistance | 7 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 64 | 56 | 13% |
| Motor Vehicle Collision | 6 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 51 | 49 | 4% |
| Non-Emergency Assistance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 33% |
| Non-Emergency Medical | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 100% |
| Other Fire | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 10 | -233% |
| Preliminary Assignment | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | -150% |
| Remote Alarm | 2 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 8 | 65% |
| Rescue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | -100% |
| Structure Fire | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 11 | -38% |
| Unknown 911 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Vehicle Fire | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 8 | 20% |
| Water Rescue | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 5 | -67% |
| Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 17 | 21 | -24% |
| 2024 MONTHLY | 20 | 11 | 16 | 18 | 19 | 13 | 26 | 20 | 26 | 27 | 17 | 14 | 227 | 212 | 7% |
| 2023 MONTHLY | 12 | 15 | 12 | 20 | 14 | 20 | 30 | 21 | 17 | 20 | 16 | 15 | 212 | | |
| % CHANGE | 40% | -36% | 25% | -11% | 26% | -54% | -15% | -5% | 35% | 26% | 6% | -7% | 7% | | |

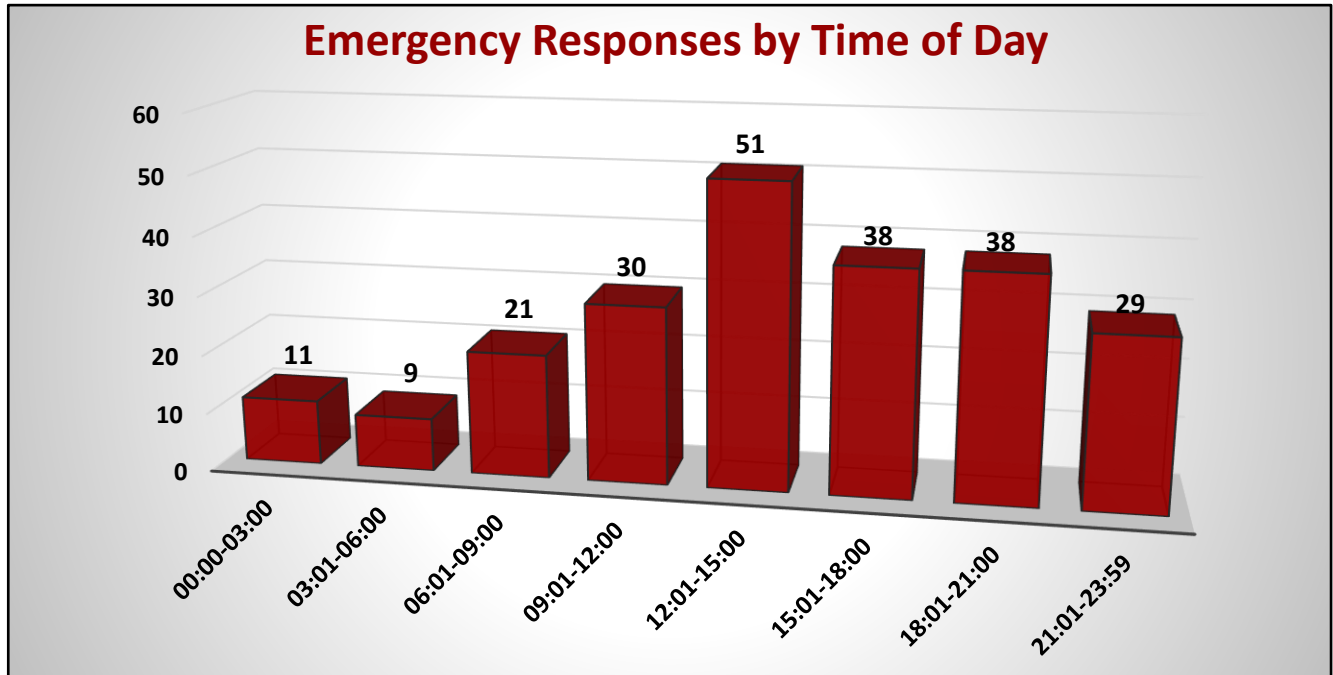
+ Fire includes: Structure, Vehicle, Vegetation and Controlled Fires

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

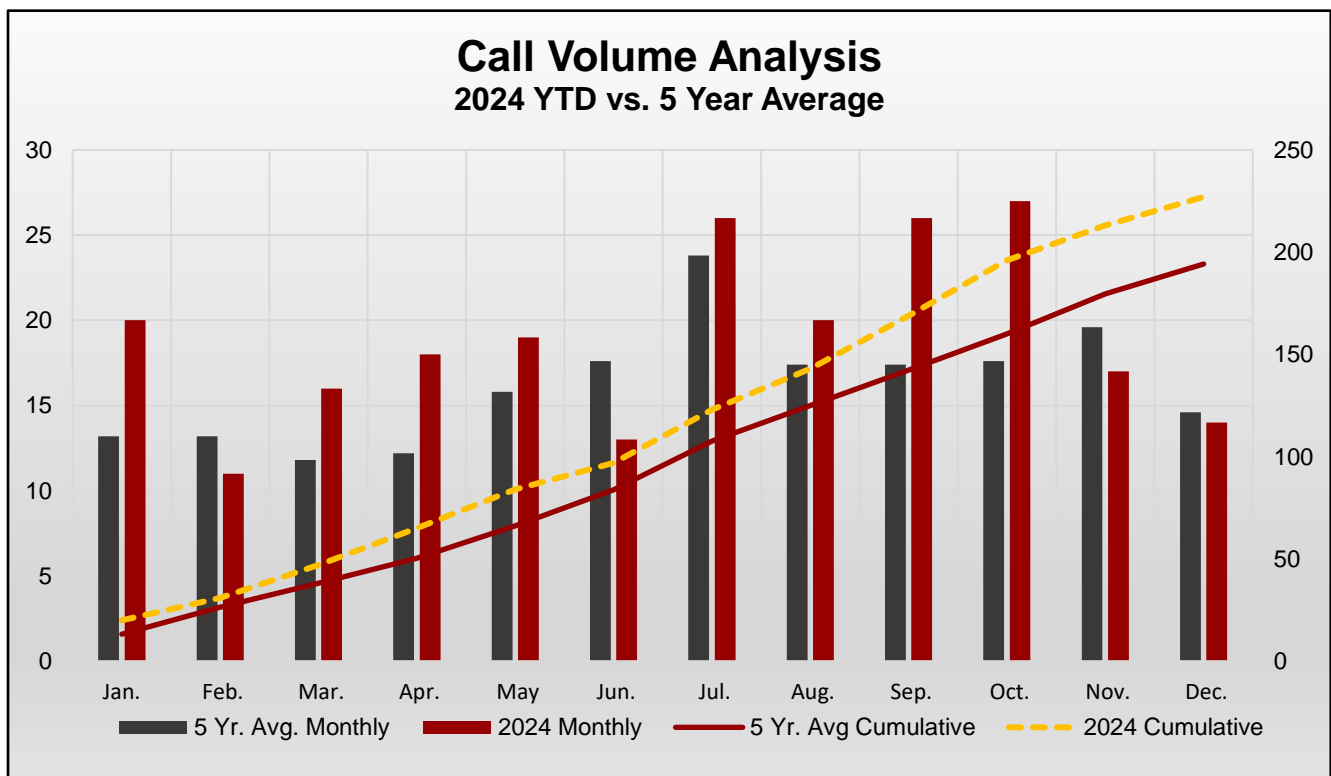


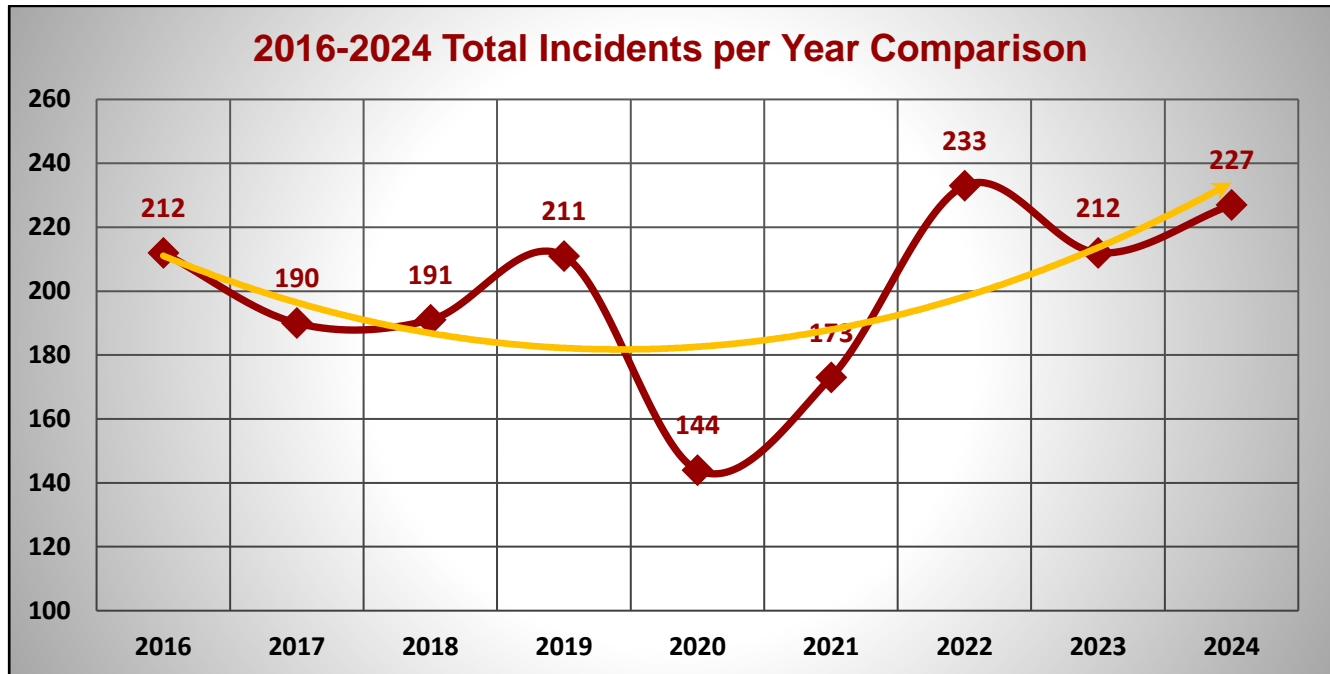
INCIDENTS BY TIME OF DAY

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.



HISTORICAL INCIDENT COMPARISON





SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

“Significant Incident” -

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

January 21, 2024 – WF24-018 - Snowmobile Fire

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 4 apparatus and 14 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a snowmobile on fire in the middle of the road. Fire was brought under control within 4 minutes of department arrival. One patient was treated for burns to their shins.

March 30, 2024 – WF24-058 – Vehicle Fire

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 4 apparatus and 12 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a fully involved vehicle fire. Fire was brought under control within 8 minutes of department arrival. Owner stated the they smelled electrical burning and pulled off the road.

April 6, 2024 – WF24-063 - Structure Fire - Single Family Dwelling

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 7 apparatus and 22 personnel from all 3 stations. Port Colborne provided a tanker via Automatic Aid.

Fire Department arrived on scene to smoke showing from the basement. The homeowner was in the basement attempting to extinguish the fire requiring firefighters to evacuate the homeowner. EMS checked both occupants but transport was not required.

Engine 3 crew entered with an ABC extinguisher to locate and control the fire. Crews had the fire under control in 7 minutes from the time they arrived on scene. Damage was limited to the basement with some extension into the floor and wall.



April 6, 2024 – WF24-065 - Structure Fire - Single Family Dwelling

Station #3 (Burnaby) was the primary responding station with a department response of 5 apparatus and 16 personnel from all 3 stations.

Fire Department arrived on scene and was met by the homeowner, who informed them that while they were moving items out of the house they noticed smoke in the basement. Smoke could be seen coming from the structure upon arrival of command who conducted a 360 check and found a working fire.

Crews made entry into the structure and located another fire in the basement. The fire was brought under control approximately 43 minutes from the time of arrival.

Upon investigation it was noted that that all the breakers had been turned back on in the panel. This is likely the cause of the second fire at this location on this date.

Crews remained on scene to ensure the fire was completely extinguished and had Hydro One remove the meter to ensure the structure could not be energized again.

April 20, 2024 – WF24-079 – Vehicle Fire

Station #4 was the primary responding station with a department response of 6 apparatus and 13 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a fully involved vehicle fire. Fire was brought under control within 14 minutes of department arrival. Occupants could not be located and the scene was left with OPP for investigation.

May 2, 2024 – WF24-084 – Vehicle Fire

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 3 apparatus and 13 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a fully involved vehicle fire. Fire was brought under control within 11 minutes of department arrival.

June 9, 2024 – WF24-110 – Vehicle Fire

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 4 apparatus and 8 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a fully involved vehicle fire. Fire was brought under control within 10 minutes of department arrival. All occupants had evacuated prior to FD arrival with not injuries reported and the scene was left with OPP for investigation.

July 31, 2024 – WF24-153 – Vehicle Fire

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 4 apparatus and 10 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a minor motor vehicle collision between a pickup truck and a shipping container resulting in a small fire. Fire was brought under control within 13 minutes of department arrival. The owner of the pickup was able to drive the vehicle away. Crews investigated the sea container and found no further fire.



August 3, 2024 – WF24-155 – Silo Fire

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 4 apparatus and 10 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to investigate possible spread of open-air burn to a nearby grain silo. The property owner was applying water to the burn, but was concerned about spread into the silo. Upon investigation, crews located some charring at the drain tube at the bottom of the silo.

Engine 1, Tanker 4 and Rescue 2 called to scene to apply water to the open-air burn and silo.

Upon further investigation, the silo showed no signs of heat or fire and property was turned over to the homeowner.

August 10, 2024 – WF24-162 - Structure Fire – Attached Garage

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 5 apparatus and 13 personnel from all 3 stations.

Fire Department responded to a lawn tractor fire located inside an attached garage. The unit was removed from the garage and extinguished by property owner prior to arrival. Crews searched for fire extension into the attic, porch and through the eaves with none located, at which point they vented the structure and isolated the power to the garage.

Fire damage to inside of garage included smoke and heat, melted wires, melted equipment, broken garage door opener and melted soffits.

Property was turned back over to the homeowner and advised him not to turn power back on to the garage.

October 6, 2024 – WF24-214 – Vehicle Fire

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 3 apparatus and 14 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a fully involved vehicle fire. Fire was brought under control within 5 minutes of department arrival. Occupants could not be located and the scene was left with NRP for investigation.

November 8, 2024 – WF24-247 – Vehicle Fire

Station # 3 was the primary responding station with a department response of 2 apparatus and 18 personnel from 2 stations.

The Fire Department arrived on scene to a fully involved vehicle fire. Fire was brought under control within 10 minutes of department arrival. Occupants could not be located and the scene was left with NRP for investigation.

December 6, 2024 – WF24-262 - Structure Fire – Outbuilding

Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 7 apparatus and 13 personnel from all 3 stations.

Fire Department responded to a fully involved outbuilding. Crews brought the fire under control within 10 minutes of department arrival, with no extension to nearby structure or exposures.

The property owner indicated that their brother was staying in the building and could not be located. A search of the property was conducted and NRP located the occupant unharmed.



December 13, 2024 – WF24-267 – Vehicle Fire

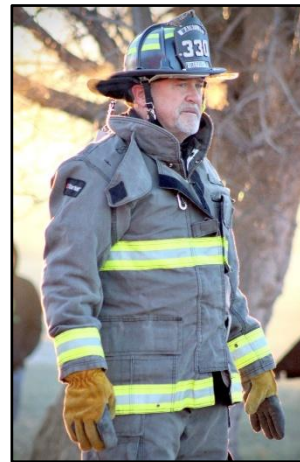
Central Station was the primary responding station with a department response of 7 apparatus and 21 personnel from all 3 stations.

Fire Department responded to a reported barn fire that was updated to a vehicle fire (pickup truck) was parked beside a barn. Crews arrived to the pickup truck fully involved next to the barn with flames impinging on the building.

Engine 2 arrived and stretched the bumper line for fire attack and exposure protection, while a second crew pulled another line and entered the 2nd floor of the barn to check for extension into the hay loft. During suppression efforts, the fuel tank on the truck ruptured resulting in extended suppression time and requiring oil booms to be placed in a nearby swale to capture any run off of fire water.

Due to suspicious circumstances surrounding the events leading up to the fire, the scene was left with NRP for investigation.

Other Incident Scene Photos



Photos by Matthew Ettore

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
- Mayors Cup
- “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. A new collective agreement was negotiated and ratified in Q2 of 2024. This new agreement is in effect from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2027.



MOVING FORWARD

2024 proved to be another incredibly busy year, with firefighters investing over 9,600 (5.27 FTE) staff hours for public education events, emergency responses, training, meetings and maintenance. Without dedicated and professional firefighters, WFES's ability to provide effective and efficient emergency response would not be possible.

OPERATIONS

In 2025, WFES will once again deliver its Recruit Training Program in-house, providing new recruits with NFPA 1001 Firefighter Levels I & II certification. This approach helps reduce both training costs and travel time while maintaining high-quality instruction. WFES will also continue to pursue joint training opportunities with neighbouring fire departments to promote cost-sharing and ensure consistent, standardized training across mutual aid partners.

The Automatic Aid Agreement with Port Colborne, which ensures additional resources are dispatched to all fire incidents in the southeast portion of the Township, has proven highly effective in delivering timely fire protection services. Building on this success, staff will engage with other neighbouring departments to explore similar agreements aimed at enhancing fire service coverage across additional areas of the Township.

FACILITIES (STATIONS & TRAINING)

Fire stations 3 & 4 will continue to require routine maintenance and capital upgrades in accordance with the long-term building assessment plan completed in 2016. A new building assessment should be completed in 2025 to identify and forecast facility needs for the next 10-15 years.

To support the ongoing delivery of firefighter training, staff are actively evaluating safe, practical, and cost-effective alternatives. While the original plan involved repurposing the barn at the Central Fire Station site, its removal has prompted the exploration of new options. Current proposals include the use of multiple shipping containers and the integration of specialized simulation props to create realistic and effective training environments.

Staff have identified the "Skills Development Fund" through the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, as a funding source for the development and construction of the training facility.

APPARATUS & EQUIPMENT

Car 2 (2014 GMC Sierra), originally scheduled for replacement in 2024, was deferred to prioritize the purchase of Engine 2. Currently rated in fair condition, it should be replaced soon to avoid escalating maintenance and operational costs.

Tanker 4 (2005 Freightliner) is scheduled for replacement in 2025. Acquired as a repurposed rental vehicle, it has accumulated higher mileage than typical apparatus and was not designed for the sustained weight loads it now carries. With a condition rating of fair to poor, timely replacement is essential to prevent further costly repairs.

In 2025, WFES will also continue investing in the replacement and standardization of essential firefighting equipment, including saws, ventilation fans, fire hose, cordless tools, rescue equipment, ladders, and scene lighting.



FIREFIGHTERS

Beginning January 2025, seven new recruits will begin their firefighter training. Upon successful completion, they are expected to begin actively responding with the crews by July 1st. The Township of Wainfleet continues to be served by a dedicated team of volunteer firefighters who respond to emergencies without notice and outside of any fixed schedule. WFES members 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 dedication of these volunteers and the ongoing support of their employers. Their strong sense of community and commitment to service inspires them to respond whenever their specialized skills are needed most.

Rooted in integrity and compassion, WFES remains committed to operational excellence. We continuously work to enhance our efficiency, training, and resource management. This forward-thinking approach ensures that the Township of Wainfleet is protected by a highly trained and capable team, always ready to serve.

PLANNING

In 2018, the Province of Ontario enacted Ontario Regulation 378/18, *Community Risk Assessments*, mandating that all municipalities complete a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) based on nine required community profiles. The purpose of the CRA is to identify, analyze, evaluate, and prioritize public safety risks, and to guide decisions regarding the delivery of fire protection services within the municipality.

Although the CRA was required to be completed and submitted to the Province by July 1, 2024, staff were unable to meet this deadline due to the complexities introduced by shared service arrangements.

In addition, the Township's current Master Fire Plan (2012) and the accompanying Operational Review (2015–2016) are now outdated and require a comprehensive update. Pending Council approval, staff intend to engage a consultant to complete both the Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and a new Master Fire Plan, with the CRA forming the foundation of the planning process.

Informed by the findings of the CRA, the new Master Fire Plan will serve as a strategic roadmap for the delivery of fire protection services over the next ten (10) to fifteen (15) years. It will offer both short- and long-term guidance for the future direction of Wainfleet Fire & Emergency Services (WFES). The analysis will encompass a thorough review of WFES's core functions, including—though not limited to—fire prevention, public education, training, fire suppression, apparatus, facilities, station locations, and coordination with other emergency services.





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