



# Staff Report

## Fire Services

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**Report To:** Committee of the Whole  
**Meeting Date:** May 5, 2020  
**Report Number:** FAF.20.078  
**Subject:** 2019 Annual Fire Department Report  
**Prepared by:** Steve Conn, Fire Chief

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.20.78, entitled "2019 Annual Fire Department Report" for information.

### B. Overview

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This report presents the Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department 2019 Annual Report.

### C. Background

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The Fire Chief provides regular update reporting of Fire Service activities to Council. As per Section 7.3(k) of the Fire Dept. Establishing and Regulating By-Law 2012-65

### D. Analysis

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The 2019 Blue Mountains Fire Department Annual Report is attached. The report contains statistics and analysis of key fire service performance indicators. Highlights include

- A slight increase in emergency calls for service, and a total fire loss of \$20,000 between 3 fire events.
- Fire Prevention worked diligently on commercial property inspections and added inspecting the Short Term Accommodations for fire safety compliance with the municipal bylaws requirements.
- A new response kit for suppressions crews was implemented for smoke and carbon monoxide calls resulting in shorter times spent on-scene for firefighters.
- The Training Division was able to focus on NFPA 1001 fire ground specific skills; also we were able to provide six focused weekend training days, where members focused on specialized skills such as fire ground drills, fire truck driver and pump operations and high angle rope rescue.
- Emergency Management Program achieved certified compliance through Emergency Management Ontario, as required by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

- The Fire Department participated in an OH&S audit conducted by Public Services Health and Safety Association; this audit of the Fire Department was the first ever conducted for TBMFD and the department achieved a score of 72.3%.

## **E. The Blue Mountains Strategic Plan**

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Goal #4: Promote a Culture of Organizational & Operational Excellence  
Objective #2 Improve Internal Communications Across our Organization  
Objective #3 To Consistently Deliver Excellent Customer Service

## **F. Environmental Impacts**

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The Blue Mountains Fire Department implements best practices to ensure limiting environmental impacts as much as possible.

## **G. Financial Impact**

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None at this time

## **H. In Consultation With**

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CAO

Fire Department Staff, all divisions

## **I. Public Engagement**

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The topic of this Staff Report has not been subject to a Public Meeting and/or a Public Information Centre as neither a Public Meeting nor a Public Information Centre are required. Comments regarding this report should be submitted to Steve Conn, [firechief@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:firechief@thebluemountains.ca)

## **J. Attached**

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1. The Blue Mountains Fire Department 2019 Annual Report

Respectfully submitted,

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Steve Conn  
Fire Chief

For more information, please contact:

Steve Conn  
[firechief@thebluemountains.ca](mailto:firechief@thebluemountains.ca)  
519-599-3131 extension 103



# The Blue Mountains Fire Department 2019 Annual Report

## **The Vision of The Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department is:**

To provide the citizens of The Blue Mountains with pro-active, effective and efficient delivery of fire, rescue, public education and fire prevention services through a unified, forward thinking organization with good morale and with the highest standards of safety, fairness and professionalism for personnel.



# Contents

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Highlights .....	3
Response Type Comparison Chart .....	6
Dollar Loss Comparison Chart.....	7
Response Volume Comparison Chart .....	8
Call Volume by Season .....	8
Call Volume by Day/Time.....	9
Response Statistics.....	10
Times of Day: Station #1 .....	10
Times of Responses to Fires: Station #1 .....	11
Times of Day: Station #2 .....	12
Times of Responses to Fires: Station #2 .....	13
Fire Prevention.....	14
Inspections .....	14
Fire and Life Safety Education .....	15
Fire Safety Plans .....	15
Smoke Alarm Program .....	15
Fire Code Enforcement .....	15
Inspection Orders.....	16
Prevention Highlights.....	16
Training .....	17
General Level Firefighter Training Topics .....	17
Ontario Fire College Courses .....	17
Grey County Training Association Courses .....	18
Training Highlights .....	18
Emergency Management.....	19
2019 Significant Events .....	19

# Highlights

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2019 was another eventful year for the Town of The Blue Mountains Fire Department. Our program continues to operate in a innovative and effective way. The Fire Department is structured as a composite service with a full-time staff compliment of seven primarily operating a robust Fire Prevention program while supporting an excellent Suppression program staffed by paid-on-call Volunteer Firefighters. This model has proven to be effective, in terms of both operational excellence and cost-efficiency.

The department continues to see an issue in retention of paid on call volunteer firefighters. For three years we have advertised and completed recruitment classes to refill these firefighter positions. Many other fire services struggle with the same issue, retention of paid on call volunteer firefighters. This turn over in firefighters may well be the reality of running a composite fire service that is continually advertising and training recruit firefighters annually.

In terms of emergency call volume, 2019 saw a slight increase in total emergency calls from;

- 249 calls for service in 2018
- 264 call for 2019
- The total of fire loss for the Town was at total of \$20,000 between 3 fire events.

False alarm calls continue to account for almost half of all calls, a situation which has always been an issue here due to the unusually high number of both commercial and residential occupancies with fire alarm systems. We continue to enforce responsible use of these systems through our false alarm billing program which generated a total of \$4,100 in 2019.

Fire Prevention in 2019 worked diligently on commercial property inspections and added inspections of Short Term Rental Accommodations for fire safety compliance with the municipal by law requirements.

A new response kit for suppression crews was implemented for smoke and carbon monoxide calls resulting in shorter times spent on-scene for firefighters. The wireless system kits were left at the residence and fire inspectors would troubleshoot the homeowner's devices on the next business day. This provided the homeowner with a reliable system and the fire inspectors could help the homeowner select the appropriate devices to ensure the home was in compliance with the smoke and CO regulations. Many public education events occurred within the Municipality and we continue to provide smoke alarm home visits upon request.

Training is another key part of the Fire Department's program. In 2019 the Training Division was able to focus on NFPA 1001 fire ground specific skills. With the current allotted training hours annually, the department was unable to complete the more technical NFPA 1006 training required to prove competency in those skills. With the current Monday night training schedule, only 88 hours of training annually are available to complete both general firefighting along with

specialized training skills for the 40 plus members to be competent in all skills. In 2019 we were able to provide six focused weekend training days, where members focused on specialized skills such as fire ground drills, fire truck driver and pump operations and high angle rope rescue. The feedback from the members was extremely positive and beneficial for confidence in building those skills.

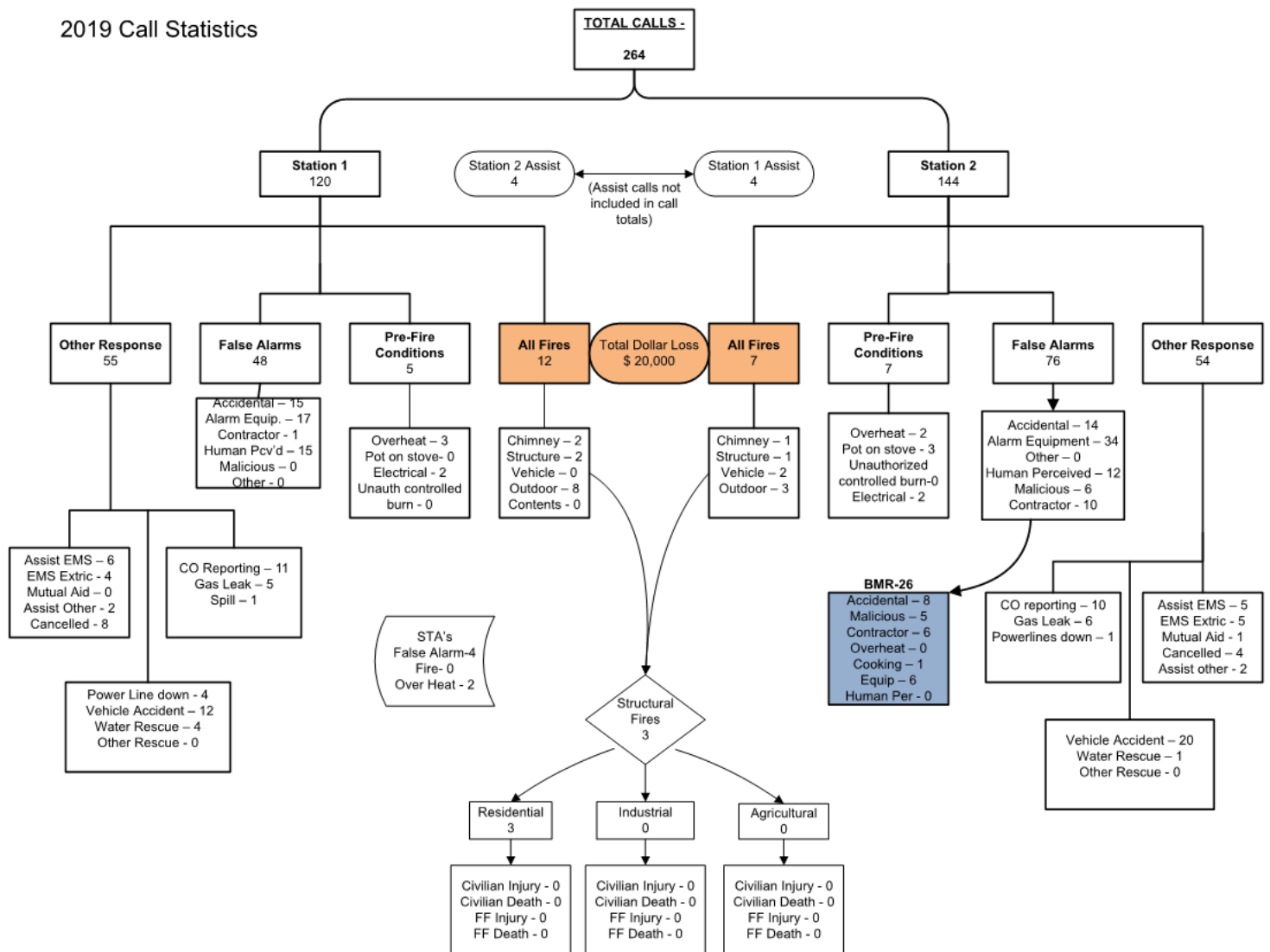
The Emergency Management program included training programs and an emergency exercise, in accordance with Provincial requirements, as well as some new requirements introduced under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. The Town was once again certified to the Essential Level Program requirements and all elements of compliance were successfully completed.

The Fire Department participated in an Ontario Health & Safety audit conducted by Public Services Health and Safety Association. This audit of the Fire Department was the first ever conducted for The Blue Mountains Fire Department. The department achieved a score of 72.3%. As a follow up to the audit report, we do have additional documents to produce and expect to improve the score. Overall, we were pleased with the audit results.

The balance of this report contains detailed statistics and program details for 2019.

# Call Statistics

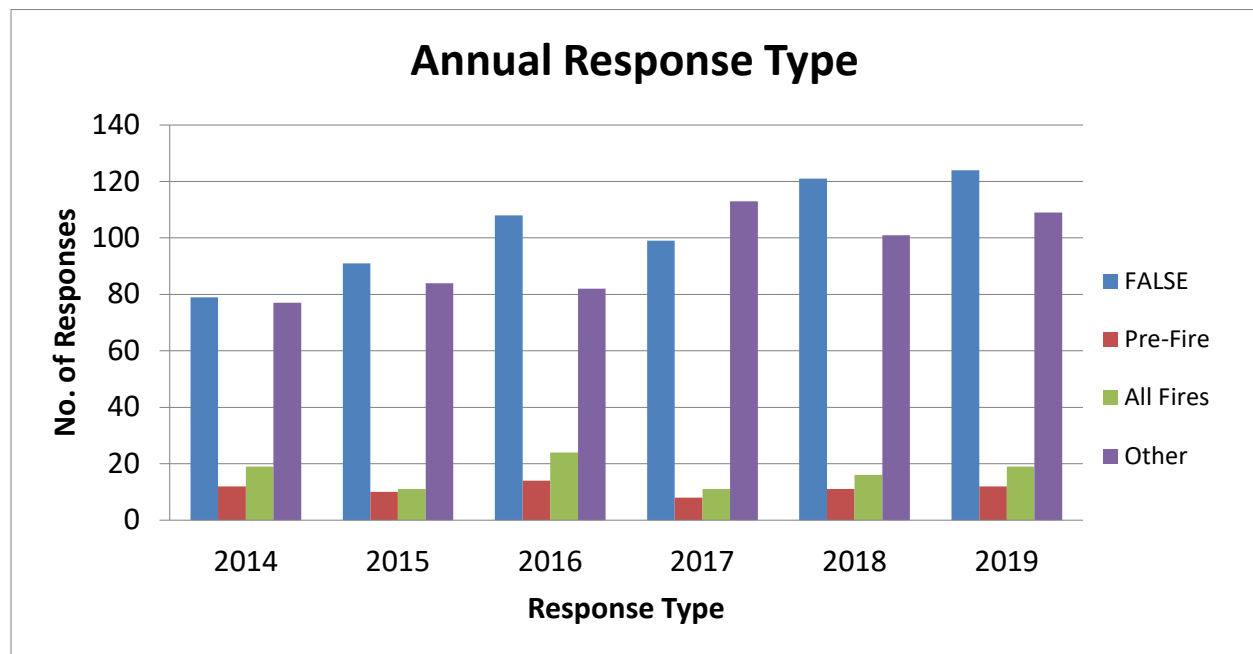
## 2019 Call Statistics





# Response Type Comparison Chart

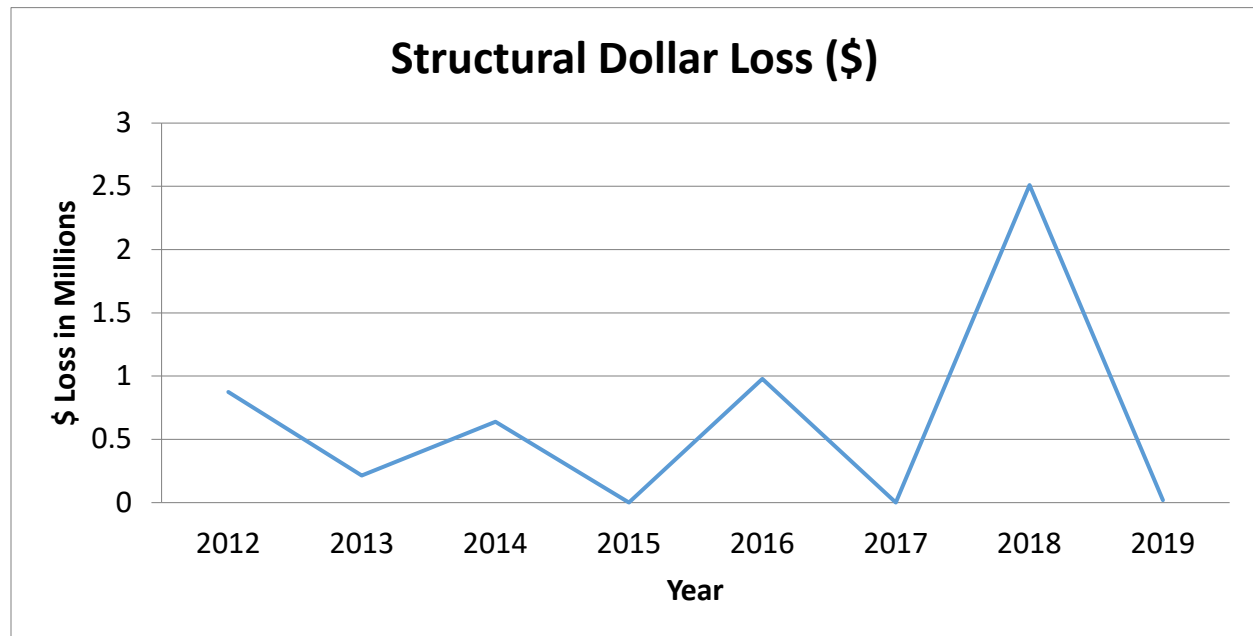
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Responses to the 4 types/categories of incidents, continue to remain proportionally similar. A proportional increase in all 4 categories represented the overall increase in call volume which was seen in the station 1 coverage area.

# Dollar Loss Comparison Chart

The following chart demonstrates quarterly dollar loss comparisons in million dollars.

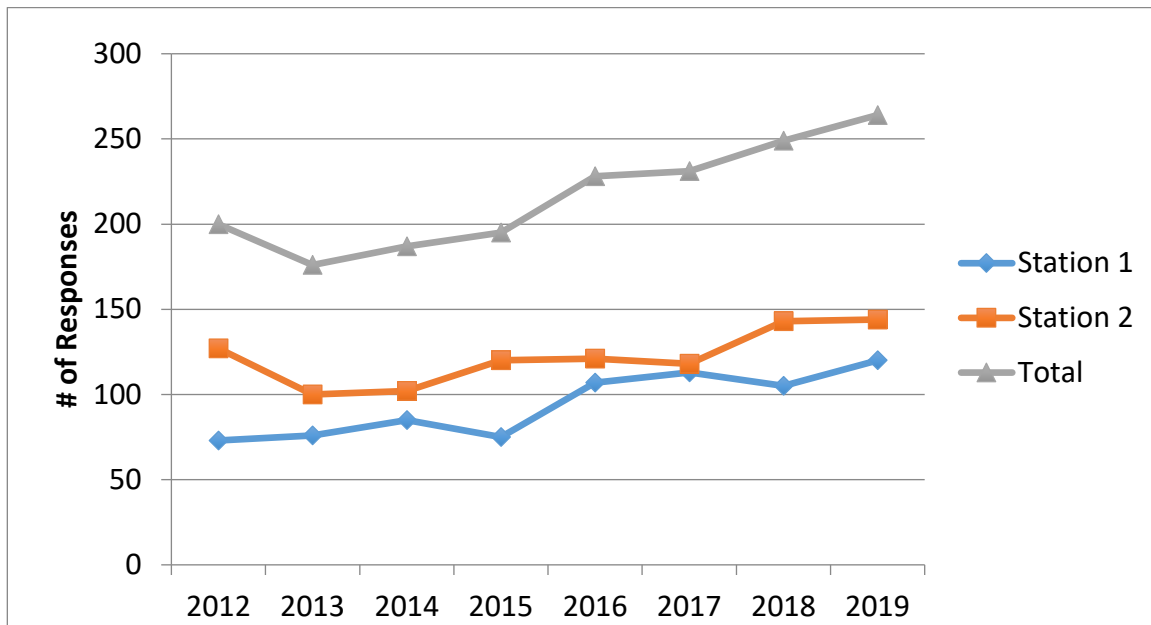


A total of \$20,000 in dollar loss was reported in 2019.

Structure Type	Loss Type	Possible Cause	Dollar Loss
Single Family Dwelling	Exposure	Improperly discarded smokers' materials	\$5,000
Restaurant Patio/Deck	Partial deck, substructure and bar	Improperly discarded smokers' materials	\$5,000
Single Family Dwelling	Fireplace mantle	Improperly installed wood burning appliance	\$10,000

# Response Volume Comparison Chart

The following chart demonstrates total annual responses.



Both stations continue to respond to a proportionally similar number of calls per year.

## Call Volume by Season

The frequency of responses remains relatively consistent throughout the year and also seasonally proportional when compared to previous years:

Season	Response Frequency (%)
Spring	17
Summer	33
Fall	25
Winter	25

## Call Volume by Day/Time

The occurrence times remain consistent with previous years:

Day/Time	Occurrence Frequency (%)
Monday - Friday	72
Saturday/Sunday/Holidays	28
0000 – 0800 hours	18
0800 – 1600 hours	43
1600 – 2400 hours	39

# Response Statistics

## Times of Day: Station #1

Total Calls =120

Month	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat-Sun	% Volume
January	2	6	0	5	3	7
February	2	6	3	6	5	9
March	3	4	3	6	4	8
April	2	5	1	6	2	7
May	1	5	3	7	2	8
June	2	2	2	3	3	5
July	1	1	5	5	2	6
August	1	7	4	6	6	10
September	1	8	4	11	2	11
October	0	4	6	8	2	8
November	1	6	4	8	3	9
December	1	10	2	9	4	11
<b>Total Calls 0:00-08:00</b>	<b>17</b>					<b>14</b>
<b>Total Calls 08:00-16:00</b>		<b>64</b>				<b>53</b>
<b>Total Calls 16:00-24:00</b>			<b>37</b>			<b>31</b>
<b>Total Calls Mon-Fri</b>				<b>80</b>		<b>67</b>
<b>Total Calls Sat-Sun</b>					<b>38</b>	<b>32</b>

## Times of Responses to Fires: Station #1

Fires =11

Type	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat-Sun	% Volume
CHIMNEY	1		1	1	1	18
STRUCTURE		1		1		9
VEHICLE						0
OUTDOOR		5	3	6	2	73
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	1					9
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		6				55
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			4			36
Total Calls Mon-Fri				8		73
Total Calls Sat-Sun					3	27

## Times of Day: Station #2

Total Calls =144

Month	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat-Sun	% Volume
January	6	4	5	12	3	10
February	3	4	6	7	6	9
March	1	4	6	6	5	8
April	0	2	4	2	4	4
May	1	2	2	5	0	3
June	0	3	7	7	3	7
July	7	3	10	12	8	14
August	6	7	7	12	8	14
September	3	3	6	8	4	8
October	3	2	7	7	5	9
November	1	7	3	7	4	8
December	1	4	4	6	3	6
<b>Total Calls 0:00-08:00</b>	<b>32</b>					<b>22</b>
<b>Total Calls 08:00-16:00</b>		<b>45</b>				<b>31</b>
<b>Total Calls 16:00-24:00</b>			<b>67</b>			<b>47</b>
<b>Total Calls Mon-Fri</b>				<b>91</b>		<b>63</b>
<b>Total Calls Sat-Sun</b>					<b>53</b>	<b>37</b>

## Times of Responses to Fires: Station #2

Fires =7

Type	Time of Day 0:00-08:00	Time of Day 08:00-16:00	Time of Day 16:00-24:00	Day of Week Mon-Fri	Day of Week Sat-Sun	% Volume
CHIMNEY			1	1		14
STRUCTURE	1			1		14
VEHICLE						0
OUTDOOR		1	4	3	2	72
Total Calls 0:00-08:00	1					14
Total Calls 08:00-16:00		1				14
Total Calls 16:00-24:00			5			72
Total Calls Mon-Fri				5		72
Total Calls Sat-Sun					2	28



# Fire Prevention

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## Inspections

Inspection Type	Number of Requests
Request	14
Complaint	0
Institutional	0
Re - Inspections	317
Commercial	131
Commercial Residential	93
Industrial	48
Assembly	72
Residential	46
Tents	0
Display Fireworks	18
Public Amusement Area Fireworks	7
Outdoor Public Amusement Area Approved	0
Electrical Orders Issued	0
Bunk house Inspections	47
Short Term Accommodations	90
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>883</b>

## Fire and Life Safety Education

Focus Group	Topic	# of persons
Village Weekends	General Fire Safety	100-150 X 8 Weekends
Open House at Station 1	General Fire Safety	250
Staff Training at Rusty's	Assembly Fire Safety	200
Canada Day	Fire Safety	100-150
Fall Fair	Fire Safety	100
		<b>Total: 1550</b>

## Fire Safety Plans

Plans Under Review	Buildings Inspected as Part of Review	Plans Approved	Plans Rejected
86	86	86	0

## Smoke Alarm Program

Dwellings Inspected	Deficiencies Identified
46	Yes/Corrected

## Fire Code Enforcement

Smoke alarm tickets issued – Part 1	Smoke alarm Infractions Issued – Part 3	Part 3 – Fire Code Violations Registered	Results
0	0	0	0

- Please note we did not issue smoke alarm or code related court prosecutions. This section is just for enforcement action at Provincial court.

## Inspection Orders

Bunkhouse	7
Condominium Corporations	15
Boarding Rooming Lodging	0
Commercial	55
Industrial	19
Assembly	29
Residential	9

## Prevention Highlights

- Ongoing annual inspections and re inspections completed by Fire Fighter Keeling & Fire Fighter Johnston.
- Village re-inspections are re-curing and billing is going out
- Chief Fire Prevention Officer doing Short Term Accommodations inspections, Short Term Accommodations license renewals and reviewing Fire Safety Plans for Short Term Accommodations

# Training

Fire Station	October 2019	November 2019	December 2019
Station # 1	106	137	124
Station #2	94	106.50	138.5
Total Hours 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter: 706			

- In House training takes place every Monday nights (minus statutory holidays) throughout the year.

## General Level Firefighter Training Topics

- Fire Ground Skill Drills
- NFPA 1001 Rope, Knots and Hoisting Equipment
- Remote Rescue
- First Aid Skill Stations
- Apparatus and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Monthly Checks
- Low Angle Rescue Performance Training
- Motor Vehicle Collision Scenarios
- Ice Rescue Practical Scenarios

**General Level Training Hours (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter): 706 Hours**

## Ontario Fire College Courses

Firefighters	Ontario Fire College Course	Number of Days
1	Courtroom Procedures	3
2	NFPA 1001 Firefighter 1 Part "A"	10
2	NFPA 1072 HAZMAT Core Operations	10
Total Days 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter: 23		

**Ontario Fire College Courses (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter): 23 days**

## Grey County Training Association Courses

Firefighters	Grey County TOA	Number of Days
4	NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II Challenge	20
<b>Total Days 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: 20</b>		

**Grey County Training Association Courses (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter): 20 days**

## Training Highlights

- The Blue Mountains Fire Department Rope Rescue Program re-certification was conducted.
- Weekend 2019 recruit training was conducted. Focusing on fire ground operations
- One technical rope rescue practical training evolution were conducted at Scenic Caves with Grey County EMS.
- Promotional testing was conducted for both the 2018 and 2019 recruit classes.
- 4 The Blue Mountains Fire Department members attended challenge testing for NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II at the Grey Highlands Fire Department. All members completed 1 or 2 written exams and completed practical fire ground testing. All members that attend were successful and received there NFPA and ProBoard certifications for their level(s) challenged.
- Training Coordinator delivered an 8-hour First Aid course to 6 town staff members.
- Training Coordinator completed 12 chapters of The Blue Mountains Fire Department specific skills checklist based on the NFPA 1001 2019 Standards. Approximately 114 individual skill signoff checklists.

# Emergency Management

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We have completed the Annual Community “Essential” Level Program. This consists of 15 elements to be completed and sent into Emergency Management Ontario. These items are to fulfill compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and its associated Regulation 380/04.

The following are the 15 elements which are required to be completed annually:

1. Community Emergency Management Coordinator designated
2. Community Emergency Management Coordinator training completed
3. Community Emergency Management Program Committee established
4. Emergency Management Program Bylaw current
5. Hazard identification and risk assessment current
6. Emergency Response Plan reviewed and submitted to Emergency Management Ontario
7. Emergency Response Plan Bylaw current
8. Designated Emergency Operations Center
9. Emergency Operations Center communications equipment
10. Critical Infrastructure Inventory current
11. Required annual training for Community Control Group
12. Required annual emergency management exercise for Community Control Group
13. Designated Emergency Information Officer available
14. Public Education / Awareness Program delivered to residents
15. Review elements and submitted to Emergency Management Ontario

## 2019 Significant Events

- Budget was passed for generators to be installed at The Blue Mountains Public Library and the Beaver Valley Community Centre. These generators are fixed natural gas powered units that will automatically start up and supply power to the building in a power outage. The Blue Mountains Public Library is designated as the media information location within the Emergency Plan and the Beaver Valley Community Centre is an evacuation center if needed.
- Program Committee updated and reviewed Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) into new template as per EMO
- Reviewed Emergency Management By-law
- Provided information to the public with 72-hour preparedness message. Provided information on the provincial roll out of the alert ready notification tests.
- The Fire Department was restructured in August, the position of Community Emergency Management Coordinator was integrated into the new position of Fire Administrative Assistant/Community Emergency Management Coordinator