

# Municipality of Brockton Fire and Emergency Services



## 2018 – Year End Report





## **Our Mission Statement**

“The primary mission of the Walkerton Fire Department is to provide a range of programs to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants of the Municipality from the adverse effects of fire or exposure to dangerous conditions created by man or nature. These programs include, but are not limited to, fire prevention, public fire safety education, rescue, emergency medical aid and fire suppression services.”



January 14, 2019

**Mayor Chris Peabody and Members of Council**

I am pleased to present the Walkerton Fire Departments Year End report. As you will see in this report there were 136 calls for service in 2018, this is an increase of 4 calls from the previous year.

Calls for service in Brockton under our agreements in 2018 were as follows, Hanover Fire 21, Paisley Fire 9 and Elmwood Fire 22. Calls for service in 2017 were 19, 14 and 22 respectively.

Payments under the fire agreements with the Town of Hanover and Arran Elderslie totaled \$119,905, a decrease of \$617 from 2017. The Brockton portion of the Elmwood Fire Department Operations Budget was \$100,614, an increase of \$2,693 from 2017.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this report, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted

**Michael Murphy**  
**Fire Chief**

## **2018 Emergency Responses**

Emergency responses for **2018** totaled **136**. Shown below are the percentages and nature of these calls.

### **Fires – 19 (14 %)**

These responses are for fires that require the Fire Department to be called out to extinguish fires that resulted in property damage (Structural, vehicle, agricultural) or other pre fire conditions.

### **Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC's) – 28 (20.6 %)**

These responses as indicated are motor vehicle accidents where our assistance is required to extricate occupants from motor vehicles, assist ambulance in stabilizing patients and removing them from the vehicles, assisting the police in securing the scene, traffic control and the cleanup of hazardous materials such as gasoline, oil etc.

### **Medical Responses – 22 (16.1 %)**

The department attends these calls as they are usually life threatening conditions, e.g. trouble breathing, possible heart attack, lift assists.

### **False Alarms – 29 (21.3 %)**

These include fire alarm activations, e.g. human accidental activations, alarm system malfunctions, human perceived emergency, call cancelled on route.

### **Other – 38 (28 %)**

In this area we cover all the calls that are not specifically listed above. These could include anything from carbon monoxide activations, natural gas leaks, hazardous spills, burning complaints, no loss outdoor fires, unknown odor, public assistance as well as Mutual Aid assists as required by other fire departments.

# 10 Year History of Responses

| Year | Responses |
|------|-----------|
| 2009 | 128       |
| 2010 | 160       |
| 2011 | 143       |
| 2012 | 94        |
| 2013 | 113       |
| 2014 | 86        |
| 2015 | 90        |
| 2016 | 117       |
| 2017 | 132       |
| 2018 | 136       |





## 2018 Fire Department Training Summary

2018 marked the beginning of major changes with the introduction of Mandatory Firefighter Certification in Ontario. Although the legislation was repealed by the current government the department remains committed to firefighter safety and all new members wanting to move into the suppression division are required to be certified.

In 2018 firefighters trained an average of 60 hours including but not limited to, Fire Suppression, Search & Rescue, Firefighter Rescue, Risk Management, Incident Command, Auto Extrication, Patient Care, Driver Training, Mental Health Readiness, Slope Rescue, WHMIS/GHS, Haz-mat Awareness and Radio Operations. Members also attended numerous off site courses at the Bruce County School, Bruce Power and the Ontario Fire College.

Within our department, this was our first full year implementing our new policy review platform and paperless reporting solution. This allowed our firefighters to review a great majority of the required policy documents at their leisure and streamline reports and apparatus inspections reducing the in station time commitment. This also provides more quality time for hands on practical learning.



## **2018 Fire Prevention Summary**

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA) requires all municipalities in Ontario to establish a program which must include public education with respect to fire safety. Public fire and life safety education aims to increase awareness about fire prevention and safety to reduce the loss of life and property within the municipality.

The Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Officer and firefighters bring life-saving messages to the community through many public fire safety education programs and activities.

This year a focus was placed on incorporating emergency preparedness messages into our fire prevention and public education program. It is recognized that emergency preparedness is specifically a difficult topic to get buy in for unless an emergency has taken place close to home. It is our hope to raise awareness about being prepared in advance of emergencies.

During 2018, the Brockton Fire Prevention Officer initiated the following public education activities:

### **Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Program**

This program has been continued in 2018 through alarm checks at all fire calls and through random door to door visits. In addition, any requests by residents to visit a property are followed up with by the prevention department. A mail out program was also completed in 2018 providing every home within Brockton with information regarding smoke and carbon monoxide alarms as well as emergency preparedness messaging.

### **School Program**

Fire safety education programs delivered at schools are one of the most effective ways to create future fire safe generations. This year the Fire Department visited St.

Teresa of Calcutta School, Walkerton District Community School and Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow. Classes were visited at each school for children from kindergarten to grade 3 which in 2018 accounted for 356 children. This year's program was developed based on the fire prevention week theme of "Look, Listen and Learn, Be aware fire can happen anywhere" and emphasized that students should be looking to identify hazards in the home, listening for the smoke alarms and learning two ways out of every room in their home. In addition to the regular visits to each classroom 2018 marked the beginning of the "Take Sparky Home" project. All grade 1 classes were supplied with a backpack containing a Sparky doll, and a package of activities. Each day the backpack along with Sparky would travel to a new student's home for a sleepover. While Sparky was visiting the activities package was filled out with the parents help including a checklist for checking their smoke alarms, choosing a meeting place and creating an escape plan with 2 ways out of each room. This program was very well received with Sparky visiting 57 homes and the program is expected to grow next year with 165 kindergarten kids moving to grade 1 in 2019. Grab bags were distributed to each child containing fire safety information as well as emergency preparedness information.

The education program "Fire Safety Cooking with Teens" was presented to multiple classes in both semesters at both Sacred Heart High school and Walkerton District Community School educating over 84 students.

In addition, 2018 was the start of the "Senior Students of Grade 12" program at Walkerton District Community School. This is a presentation on fire safety as students move on to college or work and live apartments, residences or dorms. This program will be ongoing and is scheduled to be presented at Sacred Heart High School in the spring semester of 2019.

### **Fire Station Tours (Schools, Daycares, Community Groups)**

The Walkerton Fire Department provides fire station tours to school children,



families and a number of diverse community groups, providing the fire department with an invaluable opportunity to educate the citizens of the Municipality of Brockton. During these tours an emphasis is put on children recognizing what a firefighter looks like in his fire gear so if they encounter us in an emergency they are not frightened or driven into hiding. During all station tours, participants are taught important fire safety information and they get a closer look at the fire trucks, the equipment and how it is used. In 2018 station tours were booked for groups from the Brockton Recreation Departments Summer Camp, as well as several individual families from the area. In addition to in-house station tours the Fire Department does site visits on request and 2018 was no exception with the trucks requested at the Walkerton Daycare and Walkerton District Community School specifically to allow the children to see the equipment and trucks giving us the opportunity to provide fire safety information and help build relationships with the youth of our Municipality.

### **Child Welfare Professionals/Children's Aid Society**

The Fire Department recognizes the importance of working with child welfare professionals to help educate these families about fire prevention and safety and continues to contribute educational material such as crayons and fire safety coloring and activity books to CAS as well as the South Bruce Grey Health Centre. In addition Fire Safety presentations were booked with the areas Foster Parent Association reaching approximately 60 foster homes in Brockton and the surrounding area

### **Social Media**

The Fire Department also uses social media to raise public awareness of fire prevention and safety, and to post information about community events. This includes a variety of social media platforms, including the fire department page on the municipal website, and Facebook.

In 2018, 2 contests were run through the Departments Facebook page. Both

contests invited people to like and share prevention messages in order to win a fire safety/emergency preparedness gift pack. The first contest was in May and the grand prize winner was provided with a Red Cross 72 hour emergency preparedness kit. The second contest was the 12 days of Christmas Fire Safety. One person each day received a bag with fire prevention information also including a carbon monoxide or smoke alarm. Walkerton's Facebook page currently has 3,102 followers between the age of 18 and 72. Audience by location is made up as follows: Walkerton 1881, Cargill 372, Chepstow 98, Brockton rural 105, areas outside Brockton 646.

Activity on the page during Dec 2018 reached 22,800 looks, with 7,052 people engaging in the post by comment, share or like.

2018's largest page activity post reached an audience of 6.7 Million and 94,432 page engagements.

Our average audience reached is 24,000.



Facebook was also used in a similar manner to drive advertising for the Touch-A-Truck and Firefighters Breakfast by giving away alarms for people who liked and shared carbon monoxide safety tips for the week leading up to the event.

The fire prevention department is also a member of the Grey Bruce Fire Prevention Officers Association (GBFPOA) through which we procure radio messaging which runs weekly from May until December with messaging focused on relevant times of the year i.e. campfire safety during summer months.

In addition to social media the Fire Department provides monthly safety messages to the public through the Brockton Buzz, and provided fire safety messaging as well

as fire safety recalls on the municipal website.

## **Fire Prevention Week**

“Look, Listen and Learn. Be aware fire can happen anywhere” was the theme for Fire Prevention Week in 2018. During Fire Prevention Week, members of the Walkerton Fire Department held an open house at the Fire Hall on Saturday October 13th. The open house included a variety of events such as: Tours of the hall and trucks, activities for the kids, a live fire demonstration and a BBQ.

These events allowed fire department personnel to speak to a wide range of people living in our community about fire safety.

## **Community Events**

The Fire Department is always prepared to provide resources when a community group or organization needs assistance or requires our help. Each event offers a unique and proactive opportunity to educate more of our citizens about how to prevent fires. During the year our public educator/fire prevention officer, firefighters and ‘Sparky’® the Fire Safety Dog, our fire safety mascot, attended many community, organization and social events, such as:

Walk for Health

Touch-A-Truck/firefighters Breakfast

Santa Claus Parade

Tim Horton’s Camp Day

Mutual Aid Trade Show

Doors Open

Saugeen River clean up



## **Inspections**

Inspections this year focused on downtown core buildings with an emphasis on buildings that have commercial cooking systems with residential occupancies. Annual inspections of all schools and vulnerable occupancies including the hospital, retirement homes and all Community Living homes were inspected and an approved fire drill was carried out as required under Ontario's legislation. The secondary focus for inspections in 2018 was rental occupancies in buildings with multiple dwelling units.