

Municipality of Brockton Fire & Emergency Services



2019 – Year End Report





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.”





February 14, 2020

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 137 calls for service in 2019, this is an increase of 1 call from the previous year.

Calls for service in Brockton under our fire service agreements in 2019 were as follows, Hanover Fire 23, Paisley Fire 17 and Elmwood Fire 23. Calls for service in 2018 were 21, 9 and 22 respectively.

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

2019 Emergency Responses

Emergency responses for **2019** totaled **137** accounting for over 1300 response hours. Shown below are the percentages and nature of these calls.

Fire– 24 (17.53 %)

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.

No Loss Outdoor Fire– 8 (5.84 %)

These are calls for outdoor fires and burn complaints.

Motor Vehicle Collisions (MVC's) – 26 (18.99 %)

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 – 23 (16.79 %)

The department attends these calls as they are usually life threatening conditions, e.g. trouble breathing, possible heart attack, lift assists and when EMS has a delayed response.

Mutual Aid – 11 (8 %)

These are calls for service from other fire departments under our mutual aid agreements.

False Alarms – 24 (17.52 %)

These include fire alarm activations, e.g. human accidental activations, alarm system malfunctions, human perceived emergency, call cancelled on route or not required by EMS services on arrival.

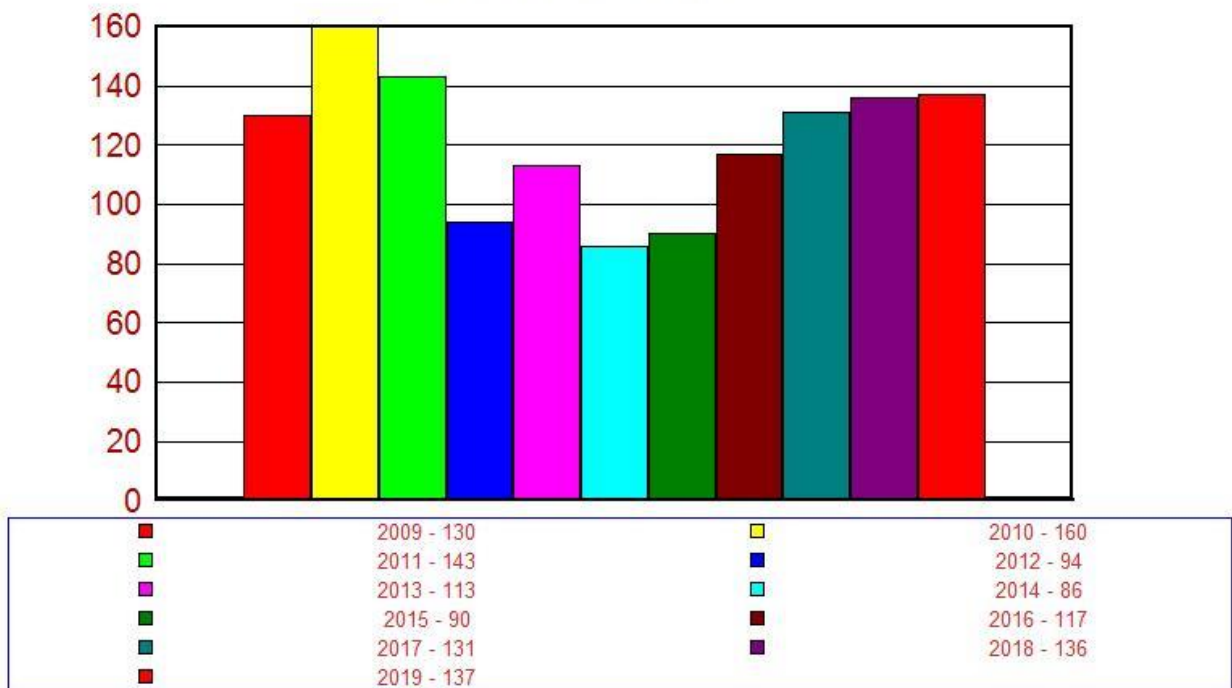
Other – 21 (15.33 %)

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, gas leaks, unknown odour and public assistance calls.



10 Year history of responses

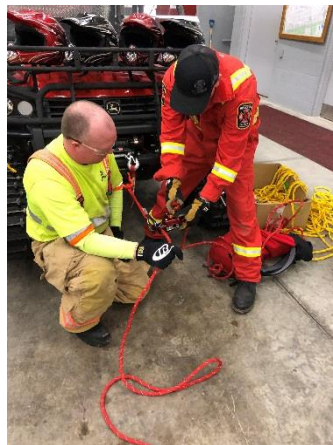
Totals by Year
From Jan 1 09 to Dec 31 19



2019 Fire Department Training Summary

The training division continued to provide and facilitate firefighter training in a wide variety of subjects totaling over 1800 hours in 2019, including fire suppression, search & rescue, firefighter rescue, risk management, incident command, auto extrication, patient care, driver training, mental health, slope rescue, WHMIS/GHS, Haz-mat awareness and radio operations.

Last year several of members continued to work towards certification attending courses at the Bruce County School, Southwest Fire Academy and the Ontario Fire College. These included NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II, NFPA 1002 Fire Apparatus Driver Pump/Operator, NFPA 1033 Fire Investigator, NFPA 1072 Hazardous Materials, NFPA 1035 Fire & Life Safety Educator, NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I and NFPA 1041 Fire Instructor I



2019 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 of the Walkerton Fire Department bring life-saving messages to the community through many public fire safety education programs and activities.

These programs and activities target fire risks identified through a community risk assessment that considers previous fire losses, building stock and the demographic profile of the municipality. The Walkerton Fire Department also partners with a variety of community groups and organizations to provide leadership in public fire safety education within the community.

During 2019, the Walkerton fire prevention division initiated the following public education activities:

Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Program

Our in-service smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program continued throughout 2019. The Walkerton Fire Department responded to multiple calls within the Municipality of Brockton where it was appropriate to discuss the importance of installing and maintaining working smoke, carbon monoxide alarms, and fire prevention. The loaner program for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were utilized in 4 homes to ensure smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were working before the fire department left the property.

In addition to the loaner program it was recognized that a high percentage of the

houses reviewed, for either routine calls or random drop in's, were not in compliance with regards to having working smoke alarms properly located and maintained within the home. Information packages were mailed out to all address's within the boundaries of Brockton. These packages included an explanation of the legislated requirements for smoke alarms ("Install smoke alarms – IT'S THE LAW") as well as direction on where to install and how to test and maintain the alarms. There was also a reference to the municipal website for further information.

A door to door "Alarmed For Life" program was undertaken in the communities of Riversdale and Pinkerton.

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 Walkerton Fire Department visited Mother Teresa School in Walkerton, Walkerton District Community School in Walkerton, and Mary Immaculate School in Chepstow. Classes were visited at each school for children from kindergarten to grade 3 which in 2019 accounted for 415 children. This year's program was developed based on the fire prevention week theme of "Not Every Hero Wears a Cape, Plan and Practice Your Escape" and emphasized the importance of not only having a plan prior to the emergency but to also practice it to ensure everyone understands what to do. Other key points of the presentation included the importance of testing the smoke alarm with their parent or guardian so they can learn to recognize the sound of their own alarm at home.

This was also the second year for our "Take Sparky Home for a Day" program. Grade one students are each given the opportunity to take the Sparky Backpack home for an evening and show Sparky how their home is fire safe. This program includes A "Fire Inspection Checklist" and instructions on how to make a "Home Fire Escape Plan. Both activities are designed to help the children understand fire safety with regards to their own home and to work with their parents through the process.

In addition “Fire Safety – Cooking with Teens” was presented to 11 classes over 2 semesters including grades 10 – 12 at both Walkerton District and Sacred Heart High School.

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 one 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 they are used. In 2019 station tours were booked for groups from the Walkerton Recreation Departments Summer Camp, as well as individual families from the area on request.

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.

Social Media

The Walkerton 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 portion of the municipal website, and Facebook. The Facebook page is used to provide fire prevention and emergency preparedness information to the public, with the ability for the viewers to provide feedback or ask questions regarding fire safety or fire code enforcement, emergency preparedness and public education. Our page has an audience of 3454 followers 80% of which are Brockton residents.

In 2019, there was strong engagement all through fire prevention week with our message reaching 1.9k posts. In addition we ran our annual 12 Days of Christmas contest through Facebook inviting people to like and share prevention messages in order to win a gift pack of fire prevention prizes including a smoke alarm. On this one 12 day contest alone the Walkerton Fire Department Facebook page reached approximately of 16.8K people with 12 different holiday fire safety messages.

Two digital ad campaigns were also run in partnership with the Grey Bruce Fire Prevention Officers Association which spanned twitter and facebook with attention to homeowner audiences between the age of 19 and 60. These campaigns combined resulted in 26, 865 impressions with a click through (engagement) rate 72% higher than the national average.

Fire Prevention Week



“Not Every Hero Wears a Cape – Plan and Practice Your Escape” was the theme for Fire Prevention Week in 2019. During Fire Prevention Week, members of the Walkerton Fire Department held an open house at the Fire Hall on Saturday October

12th. The open house included a variety of events such as: tours of the hall, trucks, activities for the kids 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 Walkerton 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, who is our fire safety mascot, attended many community, organization and social events, such as:

Walk for Health

River Clean Up Day

Meals on Wheels Outreach

Touch-A-Truck/firefighters Breakfast

Santa Claus Parade & Food Drive

Fill the Truck Food Drive

Tim Horton's Camp Day

Trade Show for Mutual Aid



Community Partnerships

The Walkerton Fire Department works closely with community organizations to broaden our outreach within the community. In 2019 The Walkerton Fire Department partnered with Meals on Wheels and the Walkerton Food Bank to reach out to vulnerable residents from our community with the focus on helping to test, install, or help maintain smoke alarms ensuring that people who may have difficulty with these tasks are protected.

Our partnership with the Grey Bruce Fire Prevention Officers Association allowed us to participate in an 8 month long media campaign that ran radio ads every week of those 8 months advertising smoke alarm safety, seasonal residence fire safety, changing batteries in smoke alarms when the time changes and more.

Inspections

Inspections again this year focused on downtown core buildings and on buildings that have multi residential occupancies. Inspection numbers have dropped this year due to increased time commitments in other departments however requested real estate inspections held steady from previous years. It has been noted that the prevention department does not have a way to identify when buildings have changed hands and a new owner is responsible for the property which can sometimes lead to a drop in compliance. Steps will be taken in 2020 to address this so that buildings that have been brought up to code can be maintained at an acceptable level. Annual inspections and fire drills were conducted at all 3 schools and all vulnerable occupancies within the municipality.
