

Municipality of Brockton Fire and Emergency Services



2020 – 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.”





March 23, 2021

Mayor Chris Peabody and Members of Council

I am pleased to present the Walkerton Fire Departments 2020 Year End report. As you will see in this report there were 98 calls for service in 2020, this is a decrease of 39 calls from the previous year.

Calls for service in Brockton under our agreements in 2020 were as follows, Hanover Fire 7, Paisley Fire 6 and Elmwood Fire 30. Calls for service in 2019 were 23, 17 and 23 respectively.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Wells". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris Wells

Director of Fire and Emergency Services

2020 Emergency Responses

Emergency responses for **2020** totaled **98**. Shown below are the percentages and nature of these calls.

Fires – 21 (21.4%)

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) – 25 (25.5%)

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 – 9 (9.2%)

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

False Alarms – 19 (19.4%)

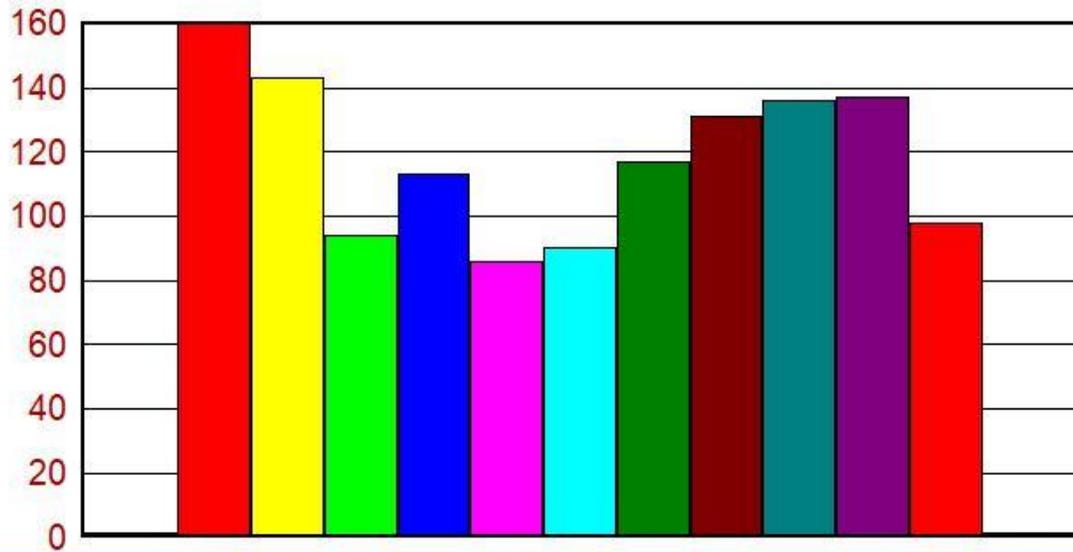
These include fire alarm activations, e.g. human accidental activations, alarm system malfunctions, human perceived emergency, call cancelled on route.

Other – 24 (24.5)

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 odour, rescue, public assistance as well as Mutual Aid assists as required by other fire departments.

10 Year history of responses

Totals by Year
From Jan 1 10 to Dec 31 20



■	2010 - 160	■	2011 - 143
■	2012 - 94	■	2013 - 113
■	2014 - 86	■	2015 - 90
■	2016 - 117	■	2017 - 131
■	2018 - 136	■	2019 - 137
■	2020 - 98		

2020 Fire Department Training Summary

2020 presented the Walkerton Fire Department with a whole new set of challenges with regards to firefighter training. With the decision to have the Fire hall closed to members other than for emergency response for almost 6 months firefighters still trained an average of 39 hours over the 2020 year. Training was adapted to take advantage of online learning and included but was 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. In addition, despite COVID-19 protocols several members were able to attend some off-site courses at various Regional Training Centre's.



2020 Fire Prevention Summary

The fire prevention department was dealt with a significant setback to its plans based on COVID-19 protocols. Most programs that Fire Prevention normally partnered with were cancelled and access to the schools for messaging was restricted. The prevention department has maintained relationships with event planners and did support programs that altered their delivery including messaging through drive by/pickup programs. Further the fire prevention department has supported requests for virtual hall tours and this year's fire prevention week messaging was done digitally by video from Sparky's apartment at the Saugeen Valley Children's Safety Village.

Inspections for much of the year were restricted to immediate threat to life, complaint and request for inspection. Required vulnerable occupancy inspections and visually observed fire drills were completed without incident.

Social Media

The Fire Department relied heavily on social media to not only raise public awareness of fire prevention but also to share the safety messaging regarding COVID-19, Public Health messaging and mental health awareness. This includes a variety of social media platforms, including Facebook and Instagram.

The focus in 2020 was to engage our audience in being prepared for emergency situations. This is a very important topic which can be difficult to convey. The COVID-19 has validated to our audience that large or long-lasting emergencies can happen in our community. In addition to the emergency preparedness messaging the Facebook page provided a platform where the user can find fire prevention information and has the ability to provide feedback or ask questions with respect to anything related to fire safety, fire code enforcement, emergency preparedness or Public education.

Our Audience has grown this past year as follows:

Walkerton 2291 followers - up from 1881 last year

Cargill 425 followers – up from 372 last year

Chepstow 158 followers – up from 98 last year

Brockton rural 127 followers – up from 105 last year

Areas outside Brockton 709 followers – up from 646 last year

Activity on the page during Fire Prevention Week was strong reaching 13.9 thousand viewers and activity during December messaging reached 19.8 thousand viewers with 12,052 people engaging in the post through commenting, sharing or liking the post.

