

SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



SUMMARY



Incident Volume

21,848



**Collected Discarded
Needles**

15,976



Hours of Training

2,088



**The Communications
Centre achieved a
call processing time
of 60 seconds 88.17%
of the time.**

Saskatoon Fire Department Serves an Estimated



282,900

residents



116K

residences



236

km²



Fire
Investigations

174



Fire and Property
Maintenance Inspections

6,552

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Message from the **FIRE CHIEF**

I am pleased to present our 2022 annual review, highlighting another incredible year. The Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) has persevered through an increasing volume of incidents, bringing exceptional service to residents and surrounding communities.

SFD is a respected leader amongst Canadian fire services. Through mitigation, prevention, collaboration and education, success has been proven with an all-hazard, multisectoral response model that is achieved through strong relationships with the International Association of Fire Fighters' Local No. 80 (L80) and all SFD employees who commit to serving the community 365, 24/7.

Homelessness, substance use disorders and mental health are contributing factors that continue to impact communities across Canada and we're seeing these trends increase. SFD works together with community partners for a coordinated response, but this work will take the efforts of many as we focus on Community Safety and Well-being (CSWB) as a

priority. SFD remains committed to building on these relationships and supporting the efforts of partners who prioritize issues, develop solutions, and bring people together to support the needs of those most vulnerable.

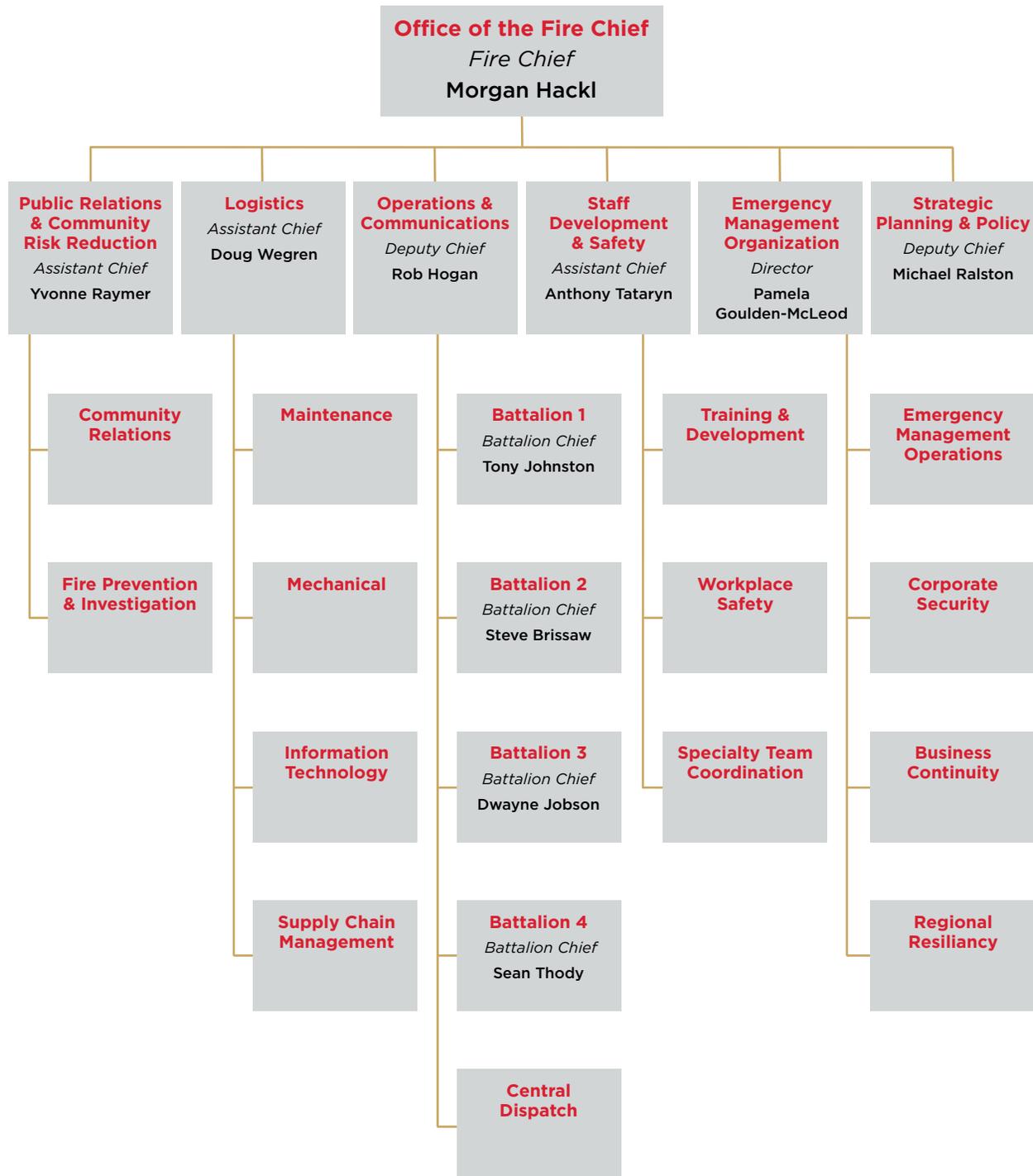
In November, I participated in the Sanctum Winter Challenge where eight individuals spent 36 hours learning and experiencing what many face in the community every day being unhoused. This experience in 2017 and again in 2022 has been beneficial in the work that SFD is involved in related to residents that do not have all the privileges that many do have. The experience has reaffirmed that collaboration between community partners, levels of government, business and the entire community is the best path to a better continuum of care model for all. SFD has been honoured to be part of this commitment to CSWB for the residents of Saskatoon.

Partners and relationships have been a priority for SFD over the past number of years. In 2022 there was a focus to reflect, redefine, and celebrate the valuable impact these relationships have for the community. Through information sharing, trust and support, SFD believes these partnerships are being strengthened. I am honoured to serve as Fire Chief and I am proud to work with a dedicated team who exemplify the courage and ambition to serve the residents and visitors of Saskatoon every day.

Stay safe,

Morgan Hackl
Fire Chief

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



THE SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

THE DEPARTMENT

SFD is an all-hazards emergency response provider ensuring the safety of the public. Emergency response services and fire dispatch agreements are also provided to surrounding communities. SFD protects the City's tax base and supports economic development through extensive inspection, education, prevention, and enforcement programs.

MISSION

To protect and enhance Saskatoon citizens' quality of life.

VISION

The Saskatoon Fire Department is a professional service focused on public safety and risk reduction.

FOCUS

To create a caring and committed community.

OUR PEOPLE

349 staff supporting six areas:

- › Public Relations & Community Risk Reduction
- › Logistics
- › Operations & Communications
- › Staff Development & Safety
- › Emergency Management
- › Strategic Planning & Policy

VALUES

- › People
- › Respect
- › Integrity
- › Safety
- › Trust
- › Courage

Working behind the scenes, but front and centre in the station, SFD's Administrative Support professionals are dedicated to providing support to each area of SFD.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Relations maintains positive working relationships with the educational, business, and institutional sectors of the City of Saskatoon through the presentation of fire and life safety information, media relations and ongoing community involvement.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Remembering When

Community Relations delivers NFPA's Remembering When program that focuses on fire and fall prevention for older adults. In 2022, SFD responded to 1496 lift assist requests and 706 individuals were referred to Client Patient Access Services (CPAS). Following a lift assist, 477 individuals were contacted by the Remembering When team (staff, volunteers and nursing students) either by phone or with an in-person visit. 68 of the contacts were followed-up with a three-month review.

Fire Safety Presentations & Station Tours

In 2022, SFD was excited to resume in-person presentations and station tours. Community Relations hosted a total of 112 fire and life safety presentations that reached approximately 2900 people.

CTASP/Firestop

As a vital member of the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol (CTASP), SFD works with school divisions and 22 other community partners. Firestop is a comprehensive program that addresses a child's fire setting behaviour and provides the child and their family with fire safety education and community resources. In 2022, Community Relations assisted CTASP with 17 referrals and met with 21 youth.



FIRE PREVENTION & INVESTIGATION

Fire Prevention & Investigation provides a proactive service to protect life and property. Fire Inspectors, Fire Investigators and Fire Bylaw Inspectors are assigned districts to provide inspections, fire investigations, education, technical support and enforcement.

SFD inspectors under the authority of the Fire Chief, close properties that are unsafe, inadequate, or inhabitable. Where occupants are requiring emergency housing access, supports, or transportation, Inspectors take the time to support and assist individuals. The same process followed during closures, after fires and unsafe conditions is utilized. A process was developed to support the inadequately housed living in temporary structures to align with our response and support after fires and closures.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



> Fire Bylaw Inspections

- 3017 complaints received; 2555 complaints inspected



> Enforcement

- 503 orders issued related to Property Maintenance and Fire Code deficiencies
- 90 tickets issued enforcing bylaws 8175 & 7790



> Fire Inspections & Plan Review

- 2460 fire inspections and plan reviews completed



> Demolitions and Property Remediation Process

- 12 completed demolitions
- 50 property remediations (yard/interior cleanups)



> Fire Investigations

- Top 3 causes of accidental fires in Saskatoon:
- Misuse of a material or product
 - Abandoned or discarded materials or products
 - Exposure fire



> Unsafe Outdoor Living Response

- 512 interactions with unhoused individuals
- 71 accepting supports
- 22 fires due to unsafe housing
- 173 clean-ups

Wellness Checks

As part of the Outreach Task Force under the Saskatoon Extreme Cold Weather Emergency Response Plan, Fire Bylaw and Fire Inspectors conduct wellness checks and offer support to anyone appearing in need, at risk or may be inadequately housed and also connect individuals to emergency shelter or access to warm up locations, through the Ministry of Social Services.

Fire/Primary Care Paramedic crews initiate wellness checks in extreme heat by handing out water and as the weather cooled, the fleet was stocked with cold weather essentials such as toques, mitts, jackets, and blankets.

100th Anniversary of Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the month of October in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage.

This year, SFD teamed up with The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Fire Prevention Week on October 9-15, 2022. The theme, “Fire won’t wait. Plan your escape.” focused on educating residents about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe from home fires.

Leading up to Fire Prevention Week, SFD hosted a series of four Open Houses in September to promote fire safety in the community. Approximately 1550 residents attended. Each open house included truck tours, an obstacle course and fire hose simulation for kids, fire safety presentations, fire swag and food from local community groups. Residents of all ages got the opportunity to explore SFD’s equipment firsthand and talk to crews from all areas of the fire service.

During the week of October 9-15, SFD’s Public Relations & Community Risk Reduction team also visited elementary schools across the city to talk about fire escape plans and fire safety with students. Over the course of five days, SFD presented fire safety information to 21 schools and reached approximately 1380 students.



Overdose Outreach Team

In December, SFD officially partnered with Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) to create an Overdose Outreach Team (OOT). The team is comprised of a SFD Fire Inspector/Paramedic and a SHA Mental Health and Addictions Support Worker. The purpose of the OOT is to connect with clients after an overdose event and help them access the supports and care they need to start on a path of recovery and healing. The OOT provides support, connection to follow-up care and services, as well as harm reduction education and supplies in hope of reducing the risk of overdose and other drug-related harms.



Property Maintenance

SFD continues to work with valuable partners to assist with Property Maintenance concerns such as property remediations, graffiti cover up and inadequate housing conditions:

Crocus Co-op

SFD partners with Crocus Co-op when there is a need for cleaning public spaces. In 2022, Crocus Co-op cleaned 74 spaces, including yards and encampments.

Youth Works

SFD partners with Youth Works when there is graffiti found in the community. Youth Works participants perform graffiti removal and cover-ups while gaining training and skills that help shape their future.

Urban Camp

SFD has partnered with Urban Camp since 2011. The Urban Camp program offers individuals an opportunity to give back to the community through meaningful service work. SFD partners with Urban Camp for smaller alley clean-ups.

Safe Communities Task Force

To support City Council's priority of Community Safety and Well-being, SFD struck a Safe Communities Task Force that works with partner organizations to oversee the management of property maintenance files. When appropriate, partners will work together to coordinate services and find strategic solutions for clients.

LOGISTICS

Logistics is responsible for the acquisition and maintenance of all SFD assets, including apparatus and fleet vehicles, equipment, and facilities, as well as the procurement and distribution of supplies and materials necessary for day-to-day functions and emergency response. This responsibility encompasses the entire lifecycle of each asset, beginning with research to determine suitability, all the way through to the disposal of the asset.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Maintenance and repair of **140** SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) and **37** SCUBA

Manage and supply **333** compressed air cylinders, **80** Medical O2 cylinders, **35** SCUBA (Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus) cylinders = **448** total



1,460 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) ordered, inspected and fitted for staff (turnout gear sets, boots, respirators, etc.)

Purchase, distribution & maintenance of **60** electric chainsaws, Positive Pressure Ventilation fans & rescue tools



Service maintenance and repair of **76** apparatus and fleet vehicles and four watercraft

SCBA Washer

When fighting a fire, protective gear absorbs hazardous contaminants and carcinogens that pose a health risk to the firefighter. In 2022, Maintenance improved its ability to reduce contaminants and carcinogens in SCBA backpacks by purchasing a SCBA washer. The washer holds up to four backpacks per wash and offers a safer method of cleaning protective gear in a sealed compartment. SFD is the second department in Canada to purchase this device.

Apparatus and Fleet Maintenance

The dedicated technicians on the mechanical side of Logistics remain busy maintaining SFD's active emergency response fleet. The rapid growth in call volume continues to decrease times between service intervals.



Life Saving Equipment

With support from the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon, SFD purchased 25 new AEDs and two AED trainers. The new AEDs allow users to download vital data from each AED use. The data collected supports a national study headed by the Canadian Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (CANROC) to improve patient survivability and is used internally for SFD training, quality assurance, and incident feedback.

New Ladder 1

SFD's newest aerial, Ladder 1 entered service in the summer of 2022. Ladder 1 is SFD's first ever midship aerial. The location of the aerial turntable in the middle of the apparatus creates a lower profile and a shorter overall vehicle length but still maintains the 30m extension capability of Ladders 2 and 8. Ladder 1 also has the most powerful pump in the SFD fleet and can distribute water at 8000 litres per minute.



OPERATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Answering the call for service, Operations & Communications mitigates a wide scope of emergencies and is responsible for the front-line response to the residents of Saskatoon. Services provided by the Operations & Communications team include:



Fire Suppression



Hazardous Materials



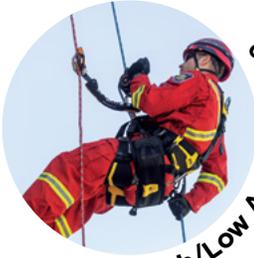
Confined Space Rescue



Vehicle Extrication



Emergency Medical Services



High/Low Angle Rescue



Public Hazards



Water Rescue



Public Assists



Heavy Urban Search & Rescue



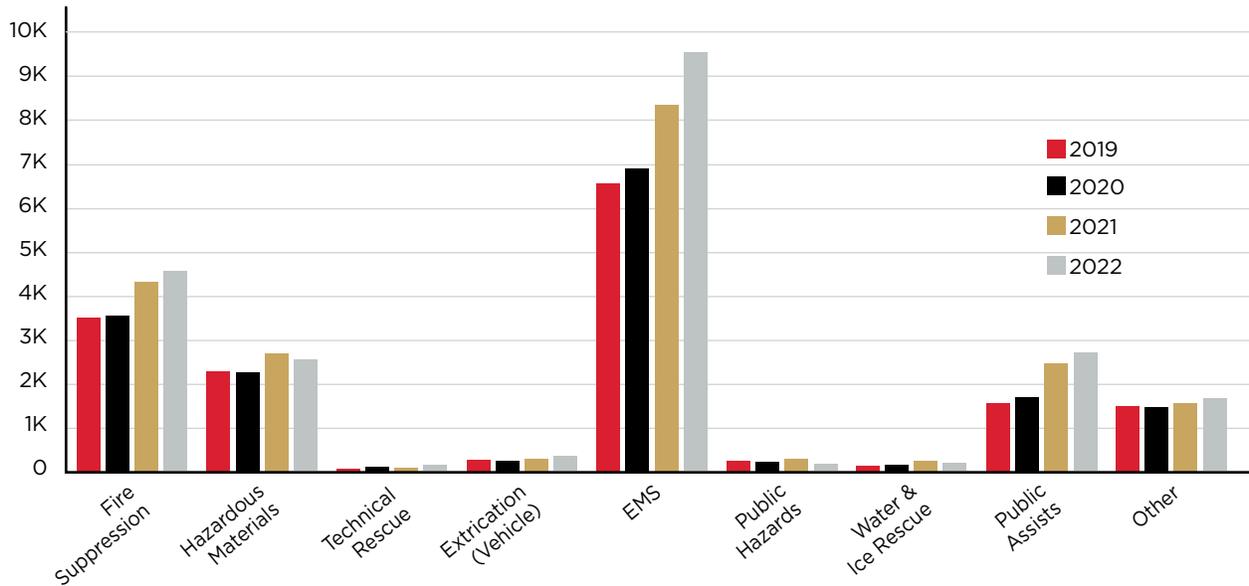
Regional Mutual Aid



Dispatch Communications

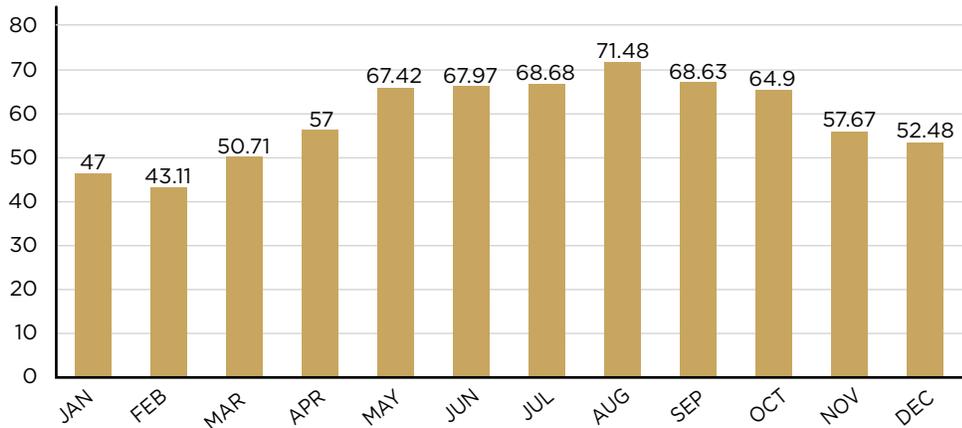
KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Types of Incidents

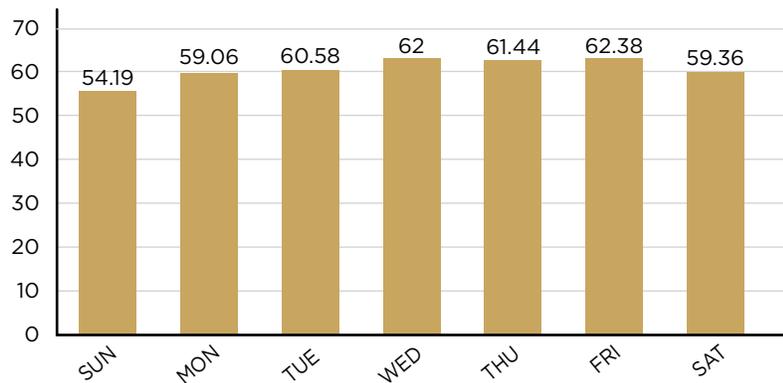


TOTALS: 2019-16,029 / 2020-16,471 / 2021-19,932 / 2022-21,848

Average # of incidents per day by month



Average # of incidents by day of week



Property Saved & Lost

 **\$47.74M** worth of property and infrastructure caught fire

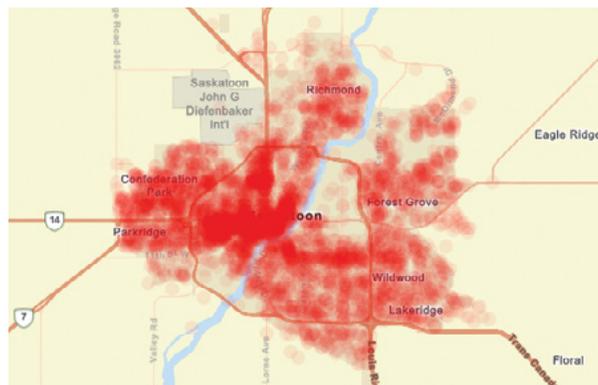
 **\$43.62M** was protected and saved by the Saskatoon Fire Department

 **\$4.12M** was lost as a result of fire

Operational Performance

	SFD*	NFPA 1710 Standard*
Call Processing Time The time interval from when the call is answered by Dispatch until response information is transmitted to the appropriate fire station.	64	64
Turnout Time for Fire Calls The time it takes for firefighters to travel to the appropriate fire apparatus, don PPE, board the apparatus and safely secure themselves for travel.	89	80
Travel Time The elapsed time from when an apparatus leaves the fire station until its arrival on the scene.	338	240
Total Response Time for Fire Calls The elapsed time from when the call is answered by Dispatch until the first crew arrives on scene.	444	384

*All time is calculated in seconds and based on the 90th percentile.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT & SAFETY

The role of Staff Development & Safety is to ensure all staff have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to fulfil their job responsibilities with safety in mind. The Staff Development and Safety team is responsible for new certifications, re-certifications, ongoing skills reviews, and the research and development of curriculums. The emphasis on safety protects the well-being of staff and ensures professional standards are followed in our services to residents.

Staff Development & Safety members are viewed as credible subject matter experts for departmental standard operating procedures which makes these members valuable Incident Safety Officers at major events in their respective fields. Staff Development & Safety members also provide support at long-duration incidents by responding with the departmental rehab unit and providing support to responders who may be jeopardized by the nature or duration of the incident.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Emergency Medical Services

Staff Development & Safety certifies 140 specialized Firefighter/ Paramedics and 90 Medical First Responders. Cross-trained in other specialty programs, these staff are able to provide specialized patient care in the most challenging of environments.



464 hrs of EMS
Training delivered

Hazardous Materials Response

All firefighters have basic training in HazMat response. In 2022, 16 firefighters achieved their Hazmat Technicians certification. The department staffs 40 firefighters to the Technician Level of certification to ensure that the city has the best possible outcomes when a HazMat release occurs.



143 hrs HazMat
Training and
Review delivered

Surface Water Rescue Program

SFD has a trained team of 26 Surface Water Rescue Technicians. These specialists train for the rescue of persons in distress in water and on ice. Additionally they operate an underwater Sonar Search device that can be used to locate items as small as a handgun.

Technical Rescue

42 firefighters are trained as Rescue Technicians. A Rescue Technician must become proficient in five main areas of discipline as they advance through the program:

1. Vehicle Extrication
2. Rope Rescue
3. Confined Space Rescue
4. Trench Collapse Rescue
5. Structural Collapse Rescue

In 2022, 20 firefighters achieved their Level 4 Rescue Technician internal accreditation. This included skills development for Trench Rescue, Structural Collapse shoring and searching as well as advanced vehicle extrication.



330 hrs of Rescue Training delivered



Dive Program

Firefighters that have completed the requirements of the Surface Rescue program can apply to enter the Dive Program. These staff log many additional hours to become certified as Public Safety Divers.

271 hrs of Surface Rescue, Dive Rescue and Sonar Training conducted



Other Training Hours



720 hrs of Operations Training delivered



160 hrs of Officer Training delivered

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Emergency Management Organization works with emergency response agencies, critical infrastructure partners and residents to ensure Saskatoon is a resilient community. When an emergency situation arises in our city – be it an extreme weather event, a dangerous goods incident, a pandemic, or a large community service disruption to a critical service – EMO collaborates with partner agencies to provide a coordinated response.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 Response

The City of Saskatoon concluded its COVID-19 response in the early months of 2022. The response brought together subject matter experts from across the organization to ensure the continuity of City services. Over the course of the response, Saskatoon EMO led the coordination of two staff vaccine clinics for City staff, the development of over 110 resources documents, 102 news releases and public service announcements, over 380 City of Saskatoon social media posts, the review and changes to City operations from 90 Public Health Orders, 112 Manager Alerts, and over 300 Emergency Coordination Centre meetings. This was the longest running Emergency Coordination Centre activation in Saskatoon EMO's history.



Extreme Cold Weather Emergency Response Plan

In September 2022, Saskatoon EMO assumed leadership of the Saskatoon Extreme Cold Weather Emergency Response Plan with over 30 partner organizations. The partners in this response believe that ensuring all residents in Saskatoon have access to a safe location during extreme cold is the responsibility of all members. Working together, Saskatoon can provide a whole community approach to enhance options for those who are experiencing homelessness. Saskatoon EMO provided daily Situational Reports during activations of the Extreme Cold Weather Emergency Response and after each activation an After-Action Review was conducted with corrective action steps implemented.

Crisis Communications

Saskatoon EMO works together with critical infrastructure partners to increase interoperability between all sectors involved in responding to major emergency events. As part of this work, Saskatoon EMO, together with City of Saskatoon Communications and Public Engagement, hosted a learning opportunity on Crisis Communications with over 90 participants from critical infrastructure partners in Saskatoon. This learning focused on the activation of a Joint Information Centre during Emergency Operations Centre Activations.

Regional Resiliency Program

The Regional Resiliency Program has worked with the municipal leaders in partner communities to draft regional EMO response planning. These joint Emergency Operations Centres will increase interoperability between communities and provide an ability for municipalities to support each other during emergency events.

The National Fire Protection Association defines Interoperability as: The ability of diverse personnel, systems and entities to work together seamlessly.

Municipal Corporate Security Program

The Municipal Corporate Security Program is based on the understanding that effective security in the City of Saskatoon is a shared responsibility to provide and maintain a safe and healthy work environment. Proper security is much more than protecting physical property, rather its greatest importance is in protecting the health and safety of employees, clients and the public who utilize City services. A safe City property also encourages public usage and civic engagement. In 2022, Corporate Security reviewed and updated the process for closed circuit television cameras use in City facilities and worked in partnership with City Departments to update the technology and standards related to security in City facilities.

Ukrainian Citizens Arrive in Saskatoon

In 2022, Saskatchewan welcomed displaced Ukrainians fleeing the war in Ukraine. Saskatoon EMO worked in partnership with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency and a variety of community partners and businesses to provide resources and supports in Saskatoon. The Saskatoon Fire Department assisted on the arrival of the fourth flight by helping to unload baggage and welcome those on the flight to Saskatoon. Two “one-stop-shops” were hosted in Saskatoon to provide all of the resources and job

opportunities in one location. This included the Saskatchewan Health Authority, City of Saskatoon Recreation and Community Development, Saskatoon Transit, Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Fire Department, Saskatoon Open Door Society, Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan, housing partners, and school divisions.



Roadways Emergency Response Tabletop Exercise

In November, Saskatoon EMO worked with Roadways, Fleet and Support to conduct a table top exercise with critical infrastructure partners using the “Roadways Emergency Response to Extreme Snow Events.” Partners included: Saskatoon Fire Department, Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Transit, Saskatoon Public Schools, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, Saskatoon Water, and the Saskatchewan Health Authority. This was a well-timed exercise as the Roadways Emergency Plan was implemented at the end of December.



STRATEGIC PLANNING & POLICY

In 2021, SFD began an inclusive process to re-examine all aspects of its Fire Services. A four-year strategic plan for 2023-2026 will be presented to City Council in Spring 2023. This planning will be used to:

- › Set priorities
- › Focus energy and resources
- › Strengthen operations
- › Ensure staff and stakeholders are working toward common goals
- › Measure intended outcomes and results
- › Assess and adjust SFD's direction in response to an evolving industry and municipality

OUR PEOPLE

Retirements

In 2022, SFD honoured 15 retirements. SFD extends sincere thanks and gratitude to those who have retired from a career of service to Saskatoon and the surrounding area.

New Hires

- 18 Firefighter Paramedics
- 1 Corporate Security Manager
- 1 Fire Bylaw Enforcement
- 1 Corporate Security Clerk

Promotions

- 13 Captains
- 16 Lieutenants
- 1 EMO Coordinator
- 2 Risk Reduction Coordinators



OUR PARTNERS

The fire service is one of many that works together to build resilience within the community. SFD recognizes that all community partners are essential, interconnected and must work together to support one another. The fire service prides itself on collaborating with community partners for the health, growth and safety of all in the community.



TESTIMONIALS



Just love our Saskatoon fire department. You guys rock always looking out for the community and always at the ready. Thanks so very much.

Facebook



What an incredible job that these men and women did that night. No fatalities and no firefighters seriously injured.

Facebook



This is a great initiative! Thanks for taking the time to remind our community about fire safety.

Facebook



Thank you @SaskatoonFire for your continued support of @CanadasLifeline and patients.

Twitter



Thank you for joining us today! You made the Summer Success Celebration BBQ even more special for so many students!

Twitter



What a horrific loss!! So thankful no one was hurt thanks to the Saskatoon fire department.

Twitter



Thank you for your work...all year long!

Instagram



Thank you to all the incredibly strong/brave women who work for the Saskatoon Fire Dept!

Instagram



Thank you for serving and protecting our city.

Instagram

LOOKING AHEAD

Station No. 5

In April, SFD broke ground on a new state-of-the-art fire station along Preston Avenue, near 108th Street. The new station will replace the 56-year-old Fire Station No. 5 currently located on Central Avenue in Sutherland.

The relocation comes as a result of a review of SFD's operations in 2014 that led to the development of a new service model to improve the fire service's travel times across the city. The model aims to ensure SFD's delivery of services is done in the most effective and efficient way possible as the City keeps an eye on the future and how to provide emergency response service to a city of half a million residents.

The new station will be operational by the summer of 2023, at which time the current station on Central Avenue will be decommissioned.



New Fire Stations to Serve Saskatoon's West End

With nearly 22,000 emergency responses reported in 2022, Station No. 1 on Idylwyld Drive and Station No. 2 on Diefenbaker Drive accounted for over half of those incidents. SFD is looking to build two new smaller stations on the west side of the city to alleviate the extra pressures put on Stations 1 and 2. The new stations are planned to be located in the northwest and southwest areas of Saskatoon. SFD's goal is to have the two stations operational by 2027.

Regional Training Facility

In September, SFD began construction of a new regional training facility; a 10-year vision that is now being realized through a commitment to partnerships and community safety.

The new facility will be located one kilometre north of Saskatoon in the RM of Corman Park on Range Road 3053 where SFD has acquired 40 acres of land. The new training grounds will provide dedicated indoor and outdoor spaces for consistent, controlled training 365 days a year. The new regional training facility will widen the range of training opportunities for SFD staff and other regional partners such as fire departments, public safety agencies and industrial responders.



The project will be executed in a phased approach. Phase 1 is currently in progress, which includes site grading, utility servicing, hard surfacing, installation of a pumphouse and hydrant distribution system, and the addition of accessory buildings. Work on the first phase is expected to be completed by spring of 2023. Upon completion of Phase 1, SFD will gradually transfer select training activities from its current outdoor training grounds at Station No. 6, located at 3309 Taylor Street East, to the new grounds in Corman Park.

Further phases will follow based on engagement with partners and stakeholders.

PROUD TO SERVE SASKATOON

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