

SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



SUMMARY



**Responded to
Calls for Service**

25,176



**Collected Discarded
Needles**

15,697



Hours of Training

4,681



**The Communications
Centre achieved a
call processing time
of 64 seconds 91.18%
of the time.**

Saskatoon Fire Department Serves an Estimated



290,750

residents



121,195

residences



236

km²



Fire
Investigations

229

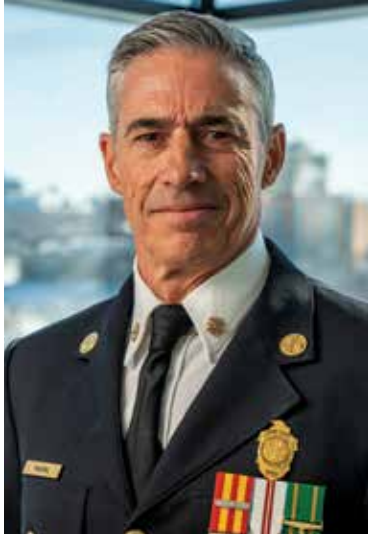


Fire and Property
Maintenance Inspections

6,815

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Message from the **FIRE CHIEF**

Reflecting on this past year, SFD has an amazing team of dedicated people who continue to serve the residents of Saskatoon and the ever-changing needs of the community. As a fire service, the continued response to emergencies, events, and social needs from a whole community approach continues to be the focus through coordination and support of everyone with respect and dignity.

With many sociodemographic impacts, including severe housing and homelessness challenges, addictions, and mental health, come new challenges in our service. The staff have continued to adapt and to serve in new ways, knowing that the complexities facing the community require partnerships. The path forward is together, and this is seen daily through the relationships we have with the Saskatoon Police Service, community-based organizations, other levels of government, and stakeholders. All come together in a proactive way to solution and provide better outcomes for those in need.

SFD is recognized nationally and provides the best possible fire and emergency services because of the dedication of each staff member. Whether the Maintenance/Mechanical, Training, Dispatch, or Operations Fire/Paramedics, the team at SFD is the best of the best in the industry. The priority of safety for all in the workplace and in the community is a signature of this team.

The focus on proactive support continues to be a priority. The Emergency Management team has evolved into a partner that coordinates events such as extreme weather which disproportionately impact those that are more vulnerable in the community. As well, the Community Risk Reduction team has adapted to best serve and support the unhoused which is now spread across the entire city. These industry-leading practices have evolved the fire service from a reactive to a proactive multifaceted model.

SFD is committed to Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI). The past year saw a renewed commitment to creating an inclusive and diverse workforce, and 2024 will see the advancement of this initiative across SFD. The new Regional Training Facility and future recruitment models will also be important pillars for success. To SFD and the community, thank you for your compassion, the one-team approach to social issues, and the courage to move forward together.

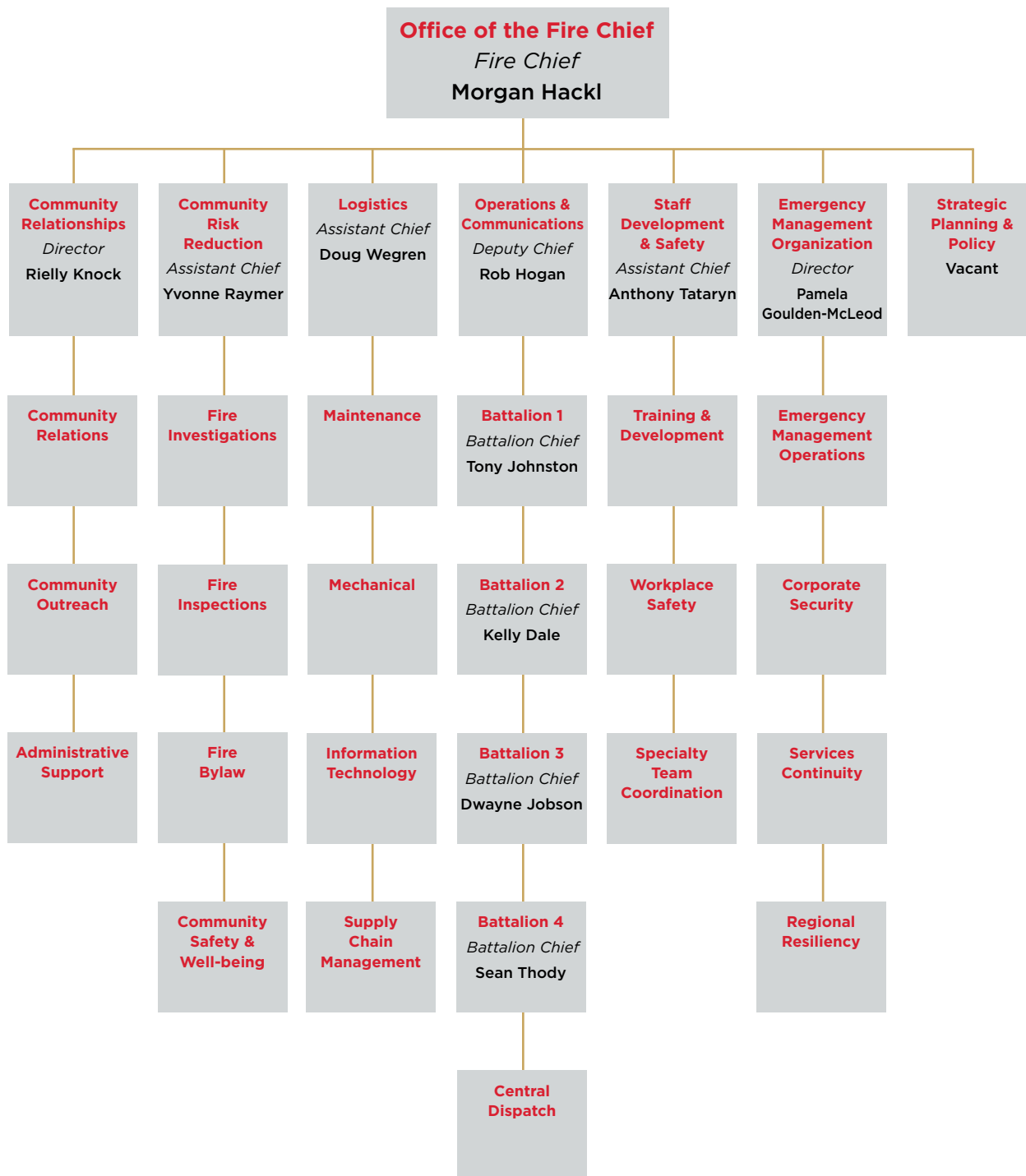
It has been an honour to serve the residents of Saskatoon over the past 36 years, with retirement pending in 2024. From Dispatcher to Firefighter/Medical Technician, Officer, Battalion Chief, Assistant Chief, and Fire Chief, I am indebted to the community for being supported as one of many at SFD serving and building for the future. The template of the Strategic Plan, the dedication of the staff, the commitment to partnerships within the community, the guidance of Council, and the collaboration of Local 80 Executive and SFD Executive Officer team will carry forward the incredible benchmark of SFD.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Morgan Hackl".

Morgan Hackl
Fire Chief

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



THE SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

THE DEPARTMENT

The Saskatoon Fire 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. The 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

340 staff supporting seven areas:

- › Community Relationships
- › 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.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

CHIEF HACKL NAMED FIRE CHIEF OF CANADA

On September 19, 2023, Chief Hackl was presented with the 2023 National Fire Chief of the Year Award by the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs.

Chief Hackl was recognized for reimagining and expanding the roles of SFD in non-traditional public safety initiatives through community collaboration and outreach partnerships. By embracing creative solutions and out-of-the-box thinking, SFD continually found new ways to support and provide leadership in community safety.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II's PLATINUM JUBILEE MEDAL

29 SFD employees were presented with the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal at a ceremony at Fire Station No. 1 on Thursday, April 6. The recipients were honoured for their efforts to build a strong, vibrant society and province through their service, contributions and achievements. Recipients were presented their awards by Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency President, Marlo Pritchard with Mike Kwasnica, President of Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs in attendance.



EXEMPLARY SERVICE

On September 26, 2023, over 50 SFD members were recognized with honours. In a small ceremony, Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty presented members with Saskatchewan Protective Services Medals. The Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal recognizes exemplary long service for individuals working in a direct capacity to protect people and/or property, and supervisory personnel in the public service sectors who ensure the safety, security and protection of Saskatchewan citizens.

Later the same evening, SFD hosted its annual Exemplary Service Ceremony. Exemplary service is characterized by good conduct, industry and efficiency that serves as a model for others. 20-year medals and 30-year bars were presented by His Honour The Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan.

AWARDS OF MERIT

On March 17, 2023, Aaron Lange and Mike Napper were presented with Awards of Merit for their actions that resulted in safely evacuating tenants of a burning home.

On June 23, 2023, Joe Madden was recognized for his role in in safely evacuating tenants of a burning home.

On December 18, 2023, high-school students, Avery Chubb, Georgia Vanderlinde and Quinn Hogan were presented with Awards of Merit for their actions that resulted in safely evacuating one occupant and five cats from a burning home.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Steps to Safety

SFD's Remembering When program received a new name in 2023, and was rebranded as Steps to Safety. Firefighters performed 1,713 lifts, ensuring that after a fall, patients were followed up with by Steps to Safety staff and volunteers. These follow-ups ensured that the patient and their families had access to programs and services that were designed to prevent future falls and help maintain the safety and independence of the residents of Saskatoon as they age.

44 fall prevention presentations were completed, targeted at older adults and caregivers to provide advice and guidance on how to examine their homes for fall and fire hazards. Over 900 phone calls and follow up visits were made by staff and volunteers to connect with patients.

Fire Safety Presentations and Tours of a Fire Station

SFD makes fire safety presentations in schools throughout the school year. In 2023, Community Relations made 70 fire safety presentations and provided 58 tours of the Fire Station. Requests for SFD to make presentations on fire safety and for tours of a Fire Station can be made through SFD's website.



F.I.R.E. Cadets

The F.I.R.E. (Firefighter Introduction Recruitment Experience) Cadets program gives high school students the opportunity to understand the firefighting career through a series of both classroom and hands-on learning. In 2023 the program celebrated its 6th Anniversary with 14 students from eight Saskatoon high schools participating, including Holy Cross, Oskayak, ED Feehan, Bethlehem, Mount Royal, Nutana Collegiate, Tommy Douglas, and Evan Hardy.

Over eight weeks, the F.I.R.E. Cadets met four times a week to build new and strengthen existing life skills. The students spent eight weeks at SFD, with approximately two hours in class learning followed by six hours of hands-on experience each week.

Each cadet was presented with opportunities to challenge their mental and physical wellness, a sense of self-responsibility, personal growth, leadership, teamwork, and fire prevention skills. These skills are intended to contribute to one's success in all aspects of life, including future career applications, putting what they learned into practice every week. A total of four firefighters lead the classroom and practical learning experiences with the entire department supporting the initiative. The program's goal is to expose students to the skills required to become a firefighter and to facilitate personal growth of participants in self-confidence, perseverance, and leadership.



From the program, four Cadets were chosen for our Temporary Project Worker Summer Program. The summer students were stationed out of our Fire Prevention Station and were able to assist the Community Risk Reduction's Unhoused Team by helping with encampment cleanups and/or other district concerns. The Community Relations Division invited the cadets to participate in their scheduled public events, and where able, the cadets assisted the Emergency Measure Organization and the Maintenance Division.

In 2023, two F.I.R.E. Cadet alumni from 2018 were hired as firefighters with SFD!



CTASP/Firestop

SFD is a vital member of the Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol and as such works with the schools and other community members to address the needs to children under the age of 17 who start fires. The program is comprehensive and addresses the fire setting behaviour while realizing that it is often a cry for help. We look to recognize and address the underlying needs with community resources while also educating participants and their families on the dangers of fire and its devastating effects on individuals and the community.

Take Your Kid To Work Day

On November 1st SFD held the annual “Take Your Kids to Work Day.” The department hosts members’ children in Grade 9 from across the city. Students engage in various job-specific activities including safety gear, ladder truck operations, fire streams, fire ground survival, confined space, vehicle extrication and rope rescue. Lunch is provided at one of the stations for the working crews, the children, and members of SFD accompanying them.



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 promote this year's FPW campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention." The campaign focused on educating residents about simple but important actions they can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

Leading up to Fire Prevention Week, SFD hosted a series of two Open Houses in September to promote fire safety in the community. Approximately 650 residents attended. Each open house included fire engine tours, presentations by the Fire Prevention team, delicious treats, fire swag and the opportunity to meet SFD members from across the department.



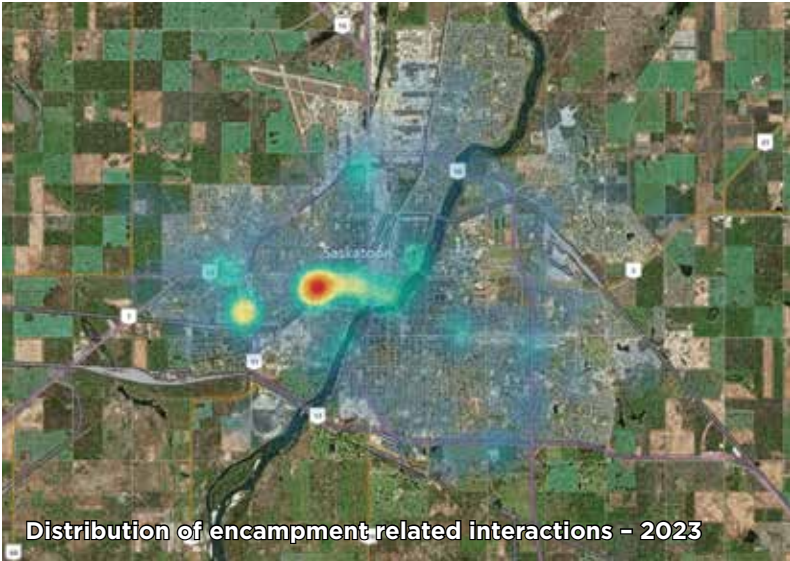
During the week of October 8-14, SFD's Community Relations team visited Grade 3 and 4 classes across the city, met with seniors and attended a community event to talk about fire escape plans and fire safety. Over the course of six days, SFD presented fire safety information to 42 schools and reached approximately 2,100 people city wide.



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Community Risk Reduction 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.

Some individuals that SFD Fire Inspectors interact with live in unsafe, inadequate, or uninhabitable conditions. Some properties may not have utility service for a variety of reasons. Where occupants require emergency housing access, supports, or transportation, Inspectors take the time to ensure individuals are connected to both short-term and long-term housing and income support services. This process is used regardless of the reason, whether it is after a closure, after a fire, because of unsafe conditions, or inadequately housed individuals living in temporary structures.



There is an increased risk of fire in temporary shelters. Fire Inspectors mitigate these fire risks by remediating unsafe conditions. Fire Inspectors had 1,020 interactions with people experiencing homelessness in 2023, and 366 individuals experiencing homelessness or living in temporary shelters were offered access to community supports. Encampments of unhoused individuals were found in 60 of 66 neighbourhoods in Saskatoon in 2023.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



- **Fire Bylaw Inspections**
 - 3,769 complaints received; 3282 complaints inspected



- **Fire Investigations**
 - Top three causes of accidental fires in Saskatoon:
 1. Equipment failure
 2. Smoking material
 3. Unattended items



- **Fire Inspections & Plan Review**
 - 2,544 fire inspections and plan reviews completed



- **Demolitions and Property Remediation Process**
 - 3 completed demolitions
 - 33 property remediations (yard/interior cleanups)



› Enforcement

- 644 orders issued related to Property Maintenance and Fire Code deficiencies
- 113 tickets issued enforcing Bylaws No. 8175 & 7790



› Unsafe Outdoor Living Response

- 1,020 interactions with unhoused individuals
- 366 offered supports
- 42 fires due to unsafe housing
- 382 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, socks, jackets, and blankets to hand out on an as-needed basis.



Property Maintenance

SFD continues to work with valuable partners such as Crocus Co-op, Youth Works and Urban camp to assist with Property Maintenance concerns such as property remediations, graffiti cover up and inadequate housing conditions. These programs offer individuals the opportunity to contribute to the community through meaningful service work.

Community Well-being Committee

To support City Council's priority of Community Safety and Well-being, SFD struck a Community Well-being Committee. Partners work together to coordinate services and find strategic solutions for individuals with mental health and addiction challenges.

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 **157** 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 and maintenance of **60** electric chainsaws, positive pressure ventilation fans and rescue tools



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

Station No. 5 moves to Preston Avenue

SFD celebrated the grand opening of the new Fire Station No. 5 at 1705 Preston Avenue North. The new station replaced the 56-year-old Fire Station No. 5 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 response 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 of Saskatoon looks to the future and how to provide emergency response service to a city of 500,000 residents.

The new fire station features 10,000 square feet on two storeys and is equipped with two bays that house one frontline engine and reserve apparatus. The station is staffed with four firefighter-paramedics and one officer, 24 hours per day. Fire Inspectors use the new station's office space during daytime hours.

A highlight of the building is the dedicated cultural space. The room's design intentionally includes a central tiled circle and is equipped with ventilation to accommodate smudging ceremonies. The perimeter of the room highlights artwork created by students from Oskāyak High School, which will be regularly updated throughout the year. The shared space is intended for use by SFD and the University of Saskatchewan. When available, the room will be open for public bookings by residents and community groups.



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



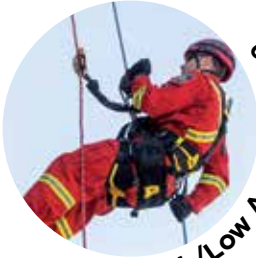
Confined Space Rescue



Vehicle Extrication



Emergency Medical Services



High/Low Angle Rescue



Public Hazards



Water Rescue



Public Assists



Heavy Urban Search & Rescue



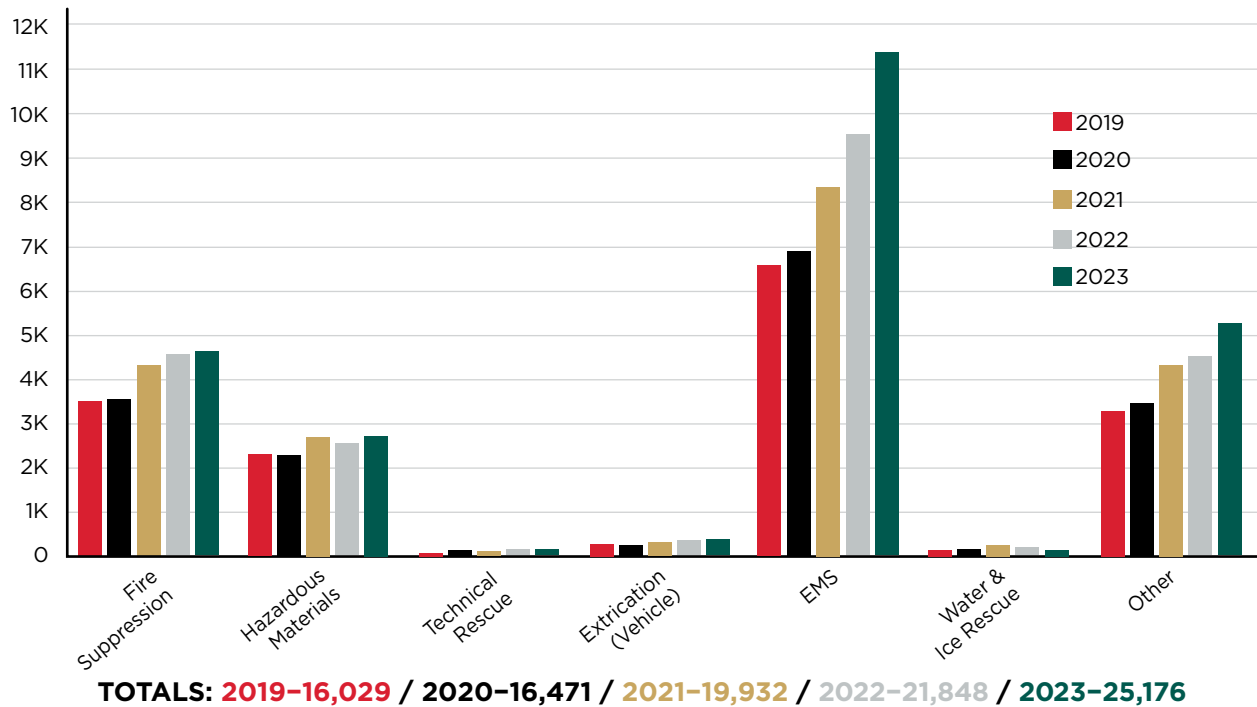
Regional Mutual Aid



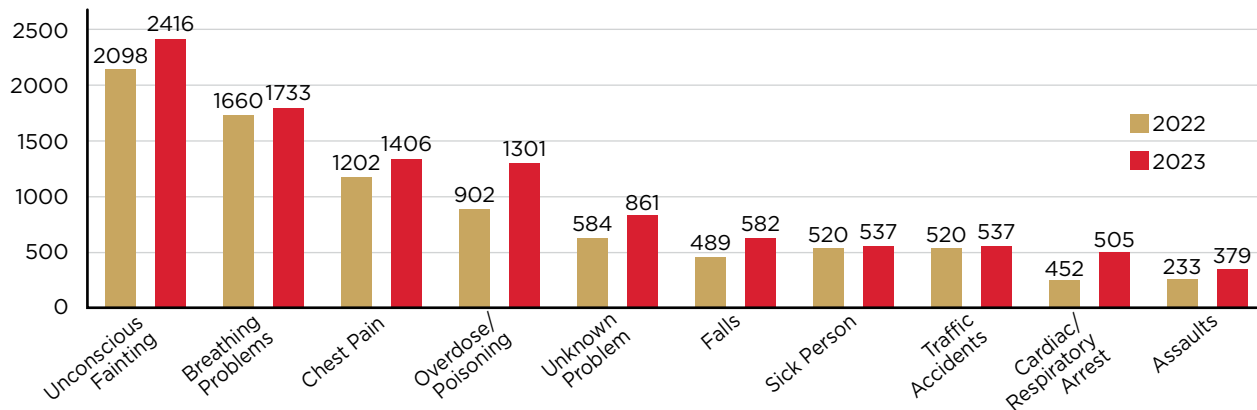
Dispatch Communications

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Types of Incidents



Top 10 Categories for EMS Response



In 2023:

 **\$80.48M** worth of property and infrastructure caught fire

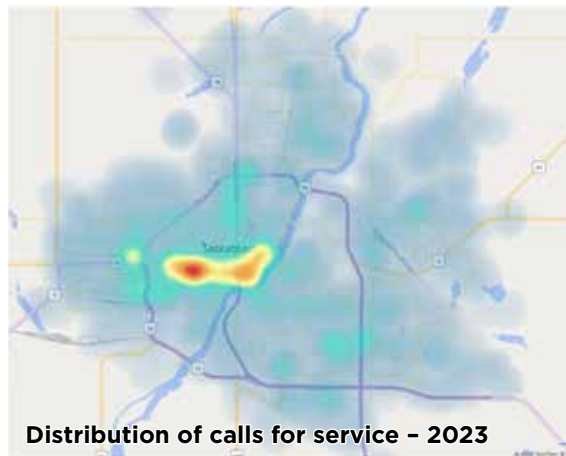
 **\$72.73M** was protected and saved by SFD

 **\$7.75M** was lost as a result of fire

Operational Performance

	NFPA 1710 standard	2022	2023
	64	64*	62*
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.	80	89*	89*
Travel Time The elapsed time from when an apparatus leaves the fire station until its arrival on scene.	240	338*	333*
Total Response Time for Fire Calls The elapsed time from when the call is answered by Dispatch until the first crew arrives on scene.	384	444*	435*

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



University Bridge Fire Response

The incident that occurred in the early morning hours of June 21, 2023, involving a fire under the main structure of the University Bridge, was a significant challenge for SFD. The fire originated on a mattress beneath the bridge, which rapidly spread to adjacent wooden forms and utility cavities.

The response involved a concerted effort from multiple agencies and departments across the city. 65 employees, including firefighters and various support personnel worked tirelessly over an 18-hour period to contain and extinguish the fire. The deployment of resources included five fire engines, a rescue vehicle, a tanker, a ladder truck, a water rescue unit, a support unit, Mobile Command 9, and the City of Saskatoon Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Given the challenging nature of the fire's location and its potential impact on the structural integrity of the bridge, innovative strategies were employed. Firefighters drilled holes into the bridge deck to access and combat the fire from above, while additional resources such as water rescue teams and the Saskatoon Police Service (SPS) Air One were utilized to pinpoint hot spots and direct firefighting efforts.

Through the Incident Command Structure coordinated through the incident command post and the EOC, this response showcased the effectiveness of a unified approach among various City departments and agencies. Transportation Department Engineers, Saskatoon Light & Power, Saskatoon Water, Waste Operations, and SPS all played crucial roles in supporting the firefighting efforts, highlighting the importance of interdepartmental coordination during emergencies.

Throughout the incident, traffic was rerouted away from the University Bridge, minimizing disruption and ensuring public safety while the fire was being brought under control and the bridge assessed for any structural damage.

Overall, this incident served as a testament to the effectiveness of a cohesive, multi-agency response in managing complex emergencies and illustrated the success of a one-city approach.



Overdose Outreach Team

The Overdose Outreach Team (OOT) is comprised of an SFD Fire Inspector/Paramedic and an SHA Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor. The OOT reaches out to individuals who have recently experienced an overdose to provide support and help connect individuals with follow-up care and services they need to increase their quality of living. OOT provide harm reduction education, risk assessments, safety planning and short-term counselling to bridge the gap while connecting individuals to other agencies for longer term support. OOT partnered with 40 community agencies to educate them about their mandate and how OOT can support their services and clients.



In 2023, OOT received 101 referrals for follow-up. Requests for services came from friends, family members, professionals and individuals who experienced the overdose. OOT provided short-term intervention to 134 individuals, had preliminary consultations with 40 people, referred 25 people to Mental Health and Addiction Services and 13 to housing services, and referred 37 people to other services. 25 were provided with Naloxone kits and taught how to use them appropriately. Proactively, the OOT completed 259 instances of community engagement or presentations and distributed 941 Naloxone kits across Saskatoon.

Efforts to Reduce Occupational Exposure to Cancer

As identified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), due to occupational exposure, firefighting is classified as a Group 1 carcinogen. In 2023, SFD took the following measures to help reduce occupational exposure to cancer-causing agents:

- SFD added a support vehicle to its fleet. Rather than firefighters wearing their contaminated PPE gear and/or storing it in the cab or compartment of the apparatus to return to the fire station, “Support 1” is utilized to return contaminated gear and fire hoses to the fire station from an incident scene. The contaminated gear is bagged and returned to the fire hall for cleaning, according to NFPA 1851 guidelines.
- To further efforts in reducing exposure, SFD purchased an 18’ trailer which will be retrofitted as a preliminary exposure reduction trailer so firefighters can doff their contaminated gear and wipe their skin in a controlled environment before leaving the incident to shower and complete the process. This will help to prevent contamination of the fire apparatus, adhering to SFD’s clean cab concept and help reduce contaminants of combustion in the fire stations.
- With support from the Workers’ Compensation Board, the City’s Occupational Health & Safety and SFD established the Fire Fighter Cancer Community of Practice. The Committee is comprised of a group of individuals who share a common interest with the goal to discuss and identify practices to prevent cancer in the fire services.

Fire Operations Day Shift

In fall 2023, SFD introduced a Fire Operations Day Shift to relieve overtime pressure and allow for a graduated approach to building up experienced staff levels.

The Day Shift is comprised of six firefighters who are assigned to two different shifts. Each shift works a 40-hour week of 8:00am-6:00pm, rotating Monday to Thursday and Tuesday to Friday.

These additional staff have facilitated access to ongoing training initiatives. The additional training helps SFD to provide the best service delivery possible in an emergency situation.

Due to implementation of the Day Staff Shift, the following achievements were realized from October to December:

- No planned training was affected due to staffing shortages; and
- 1,304 hours (163 equivalent days) were contributed to additional training.



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 & Safety team is responsible for new certifications, re-certifications, ongoing skills reviews, and the research and development of curriculum and best practices. 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

Training Hours:



1,524 hours of Operations Training delivered



619 hours of EMS Training delivered



386 hours HazMat Training delivered

662 hours of Water Response Training conducted



570 hours of Technical Rescue Training delivered



440 hours of Company Officer Training

480 hours of other courses

Specialty Programs

› EMS

- Staff Development & Safety certifies 145 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.

› Hazardous Materials Response

- All firefighters have basic training in HazMat response. In 2023, 16 firefighters achieved their Hazmat Technicians certification. The department staffs 48 firefighters to the Technician Level of certification to ensure that the city has the best possible outcomes when a HazMat release occurs.

› Surface Water Rescue

- To ensure the safety of citizens on the river or local water bodies, the SFD has a trained team of 52 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 pair of sunglasses.

› 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. In 2023, SFD deliberately focused this skillset on a smaller highly trained cadre of 15 divers due to the complexity and time commitment required to for each member to obtain and maintain certifications.

› 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 2023, 20 firefighters achieved their Level 2 Rescue Technician internal accreditation. This included skills development for Rope and Confined Space Rescue, as well as Advanced Vehicle Extrication.



Live Fire Training

Phase One of the Regional Training Facility was successfully completed in the fall of 2023, enabling the grounds to be utilized for live fire training. This marked a significant milestone as it was the first time in over a decade that SFD had the resources to conduct this type of realistic and repeatable hands-on experience for the Fire Service Instructors after decommissioning the training building that was located at Station No. 1.

From October 31 to November 3, 2023, future Live Fire Instructors from SFD, Warman Fire Rescue and Martensville Fire Department participated in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1403 Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions course. This course provides participants with the credentials needed to conduct live fire training. The program focused on recognizing the evolving state of a fire and understanding the water application techniques needed to ensure firefighter safety while successfully controlling the environment and extinguishing the fire.

The NFPA 1403 course was taught by four SFD Instructors who were sent to Alberta and Manitoba to obtain their credentials in 2022. SFD's Staff Development & Safety team has plans to have all firefighters complete the live fire training under the newly certified Fire Service Instructors by the end of 2024.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Emergency Management Organization (EMO) 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

Extreme Heat Emergency Response Plan

The Saskatoon Extreme Heat Emergency Response Plan is a coordinated response that provides residents at high-risk during extreme heat, with access to cooling locations, outreach services, wellness checks and water distribution during extreme heat. In 2023, Saskatoon EMO partnered with 27 community organizations to activate the Extreme Heat Emergency Response Plan and provide assistance to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. The City of Saskatoon Emergency Operations Centre was activated for Extreme Heat for 20 days in 2023.

Through funds accessed from a federal grant of \$41,776, EMO purchased additional cool-down resources. From June to September, EMO distributed available resources to community partners:

6,000 bottles of water **1,000** reuseable water bottles **13** misting tents



Corporate Security

Security is a shared responsibility aimed at establishing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment. It extends beyond safeguarding physical property; its greatest importance lies in protecting the health and safety of employees, clients and the public utilizing City services.

Corporate Security advocates for proactive and reactive safeguard measures through stakeholder involvement, audits, evaluations, security programs and strategies, and clear communication to support and enhance the safety and security of employees, city assets, critical infrastructure, and the public.

To achieve this, Corporate Security oversees:

- Access controls for over 55 facilities
- 500 access control points
- 283 cameras
- 107 alarm systems
- Security personnel provided for over 85 public meetings held in City Council Chambers

In 2023, supporting access control functions Corporate Security processed:

- 19,799 requests for card upgrades
- Added 4,121 new cards
- Deleted 3,381 cards

As Corporate Security progresses with new technologies, the incorporation of privacy controls stands at the forefront of its service model. Numerous new technological tools continue to advance Corporate Security's use of technology and reinforce the corporation's commitment to safety and privacy protection. Examples of this include video surveillance motion detection and LoRaWAN¹ which provides network connectivity for distances surpassing those of WiFi or Bluetooth, making it valuable in remote areas.

¹ LoRaWAN is an abbreviation for Long Range Wide Area Network. It's a type of Low Power Wide Area Network (LPWAN) provided by Sask Tel. Designed for the Internet of Things (IoT), LoRaWAN technology provides a far longer range than WiFi or Bluetooth connections, works well indoors, and is especially valuable for applications in remote areas where no COS network is available.

Incident Command System Training

Incident Command System (ICS) is an internationally known and proven coordination and command structure. Applied to both emergency situations and pre-planned events, ICS can integrate multiple jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations into a shared operating structure while ensuring various mandates can be achieved based on prioritization and objectives.

In Saskatoon, ICS has been used to support everything from COVID-19 response, to SFD major incidents and Extreme Cold and Hot Weather Response. For the first time in 2020, ICS was used to support the Municipal Election process. SFD and EMO have qualified ICS (Canada) instructors at the 100, 200, 300, and 402 levels.

In 2023, several ICS 200 and 300 courses were hosted by the City of Saskatoon with SFD. Individuals receiving ICS (Canada) certificates represented:

- City of Saskatoon
 - Communications and Public Engagement
 - Human Resources
 - Information Technology
 - Roadways, Fleet and Support
 - Saskatoon Water
 - Saskatoon Light and Power
 - Saskatoon Fire Department
 - Technical Services
 - Water and Waste Operations
- Ministry of Environment
- Prairie Harm Reduction
- Saskatchewan First Nations Emergency Management
- Saskatchewan Health Authority
- Saskatoon Airport Authority
- Saskatoon Police Service
- Saskatoon Public Schools
- Village of Borden

Cyber Security Exercise

In October, the City of Saskatoon was among over 50 critical infrastructure participants from across Canada that took part in a Public Safety Canada national cyber security exercise. The exercise, which took 18 months of planning with national partners, simulated a highly realistic cyber-emergency to allow participants to execute plans and perform their duties in a simulated operational environment. The primary focus of this exercise was to test the interoperability of the City of Saskatoon Municipal Emergency Response Plan, the Cyber-Incident Response Plan, and the Crisis Communication Response Plan. A full-scale test physical activation of the City of Saskatoon Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) was completed as part of this exercise. In addition, Communication and Public Engagement, Information Technology, and Facilities activated their physical Tactical Operation Centres (TOCs) to support the EOC activation. The After-Action Review for this exercise will be used to review and update plans to increase inter-operability and resiliency for City services.



Emergency Operations Centre Activations

The City of Saskatoon Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is both the location and the processes that support larger impact emergency events in Saskatoon. Members in an EOC activation include both City of Saskatoon Critical Infrastructure and other organizations and partners within Saskatoon. Activations are part of a planned process to respond to and recover from emergency events.

The Saskatoon EOC was activated for 108 days in 2023. The EOC activated for events including protests, the University Bridge Fire, to support people evacuated due to forest fires in Northern Saskatchewan and as part of Saskatoon Extreme Heat and Extreme Cold Emergency Response Plans. The City of Saskatoon Mobile Command Unit and the EOC were both activated for the University Bridge fire. The Mobile Command Unit was the onsite incident command post and the EOC coordinated the response for the impact and potential impact for Saskatoon.

Regional Resiliency

Since 2020, Saskatoon EMO works in partnership with 10 neighbouring communities on local emergency management programs. These communities include: Village of Borden, RM of Great Bend, City of Warman, Town of Osler, Town of Hague, RM of Rosthern, Town of Rosthern, Town of Duck Lake, Town of Waldheim, and Town of Hepburn. Duties include updating local emergency plans, establishing EMO committees, and responding to community emergencies as needed.

In 2023, various ICS training courses at the 100, 200, and 402 levels were conducted in the region. Seven communities worked their respective programs into a regional EMO committee, and two others began discussion to establish another regional EMO committee.

OUR PEOPLE

Retirements

In 2023, SFD honoured 12 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

- 16 Firefighter Paramedics
- 2 Risk Reduction Coordinators
- 1 Director of Community Relationships
- 1 Security Operations Specialist
- 1 Inventory and Parts Coordinator
- 1 Community Relations Coordinator
- 1 Mechanic

Promotions

- 1 Battalion Chief
- 4 Captains (permanent); 3 Captains (temporary)
- 3 Lieutenants (permanent); 3 Lieutenants (temporary)
- 2 Risk Reduction Officers
- 1 Fire Service Instructor

The Honour Guard

The Local 80 Honour Guard has 16 members that range from Firefighters, Dispatchers, and Company Officers. In 2023 there were ten training sessions and 12 activities that we were proudly able to support. Some of these events included the Long Service Awards, the Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in Colorado Springs, and Remembrance Day services at SaskTel Center.



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

★★★★★

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Way to go SFD. Always supporting our students and community.

Lori Carter, Facebook

★★★★★

“

Thank you for risking your lives for us. I appreciate your dedication and hard work to keep all of us safe!

Audrey Enns, Facebook

★★★★★

“

Thank you for looking out for our most vulnerable!

Kerrie Rutherford, Facebook

★★★★★

“

Tremendous group of Firefighters at SFD.

Lloyd Zwack, Facebook

★★★★★

“

Thank you all for your dedication. keep up the amazing work. Stay safe.

Christine Thomas, Facebook

★★★★★

“

Thank you for everything you do for our community!

Kevin Waugh, MP, Facebook

STRATEGIC PLAN

In May, SFD made public its 2023-2026 Strategic Plan (“Plan”). The Plan articulates SFD’s individual work plans, program development, business planning and annual budgeting to support divisional and corporate priorities. The Plan focuses on four strategic goals and 12 corresponding initiatives:

- 1. Advance Community Resiliency
 - Community Safety & Well-being
 - Risk Assessment
 - Partnerships & Relationships
- 2. Maximize Service Excellence
 - SFD Master Plan
 - Asset Planning & Management
 - Organizational Performance
 - Data & Technology
- 3. Be Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
 - Truth & Reconciliation
 - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
- 4. Synergize Training & Development
 - Employee Safety & Wellness
 - Professional Development
 - Interdisciplinary Training Model

By the end of 2023, progress was made on addressing action items under each of the strategic goals.

LOOKING AHEAD

Fire Stations No. 10 & 11 to Serve Saskatoon’s West End

With over 25,000 emergency responses reported in 2023, 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.

Community Risk Assessment

A Community Risk Assessment will help provide a holistic view of Saskatoon’s needs and circumstances through a comprehensive analysis of nine profiles:


- Geographic
- Building Stock
- Critical Infrastructure
- Demographic
- Hazard
- Public Safety Response
- Community Services
- Economic
- Past Loss and Event History

In 2024, SFD will look to engage with external partners and community groups to identify and prioritize risks, needs, and hazards that will help build the foundation for a Community Risk Reduction Plan, Disaster Risk Report, SFD Master Plan and other initiatives for the well-being of residents of Saskatoon.



PROUD TO SERVE SASKATOON

CONNECT WITH US

 306-975-2520

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