



SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



SUMMARY



**Responded to
Calls for Service**

25,366



**The Emergency
Communications Centre
achieved the National Fire
Protection Association
(NFPA) Call Processing Time
standard of 64 seconds
88.63% of the time**



24 **Command 9
Activations for 135
Operational Hours**



**Encampment
Reports Received**

1,255



**Collected Discarded
Needles**

6,294



Hours of Training

19,469

Saskatoon Fire Department Serves an Estimated



308,626

residents



123,771

residences



236

km²



1,899

Calls to Fire Community
Support for service from
July 1 to December 31, 2024



Fire
Investigations

223



Fire and Property
Maintenance Inspections

5,809



97

Activation Days of the
Emergency Operation
Centre

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Message from the **FIRE CHIEF**

As 2024 is now concluded, I am deeply honoured to reflect on the remarkable achievements of the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD). This year is another demonstration of our “one team approach” of dedicated people in each division working together with the common goal of serving our growing community.

There were two major changes to the SFD in 2024: the launch of the 24-hour shift pilot for Operations in April and the new Fire Community Support (FCS) program began in July. The 24-hour shift model was a negotiated agreement of a three-year pilot with International Association of Fire Fighters’ (IAFF) Local 80 and the City of Saskatoon. The FCS program (formerly the Community Support Officer Program) combines support offerings to the Business and Improvement Districts and is a uniformed presence to improve safety on Saskatoon Transit routes and terminals.

The SFD saw another yearly high in responses to incidents and calls for service. The 2024 municipal election noted the top two drivers of concern for the voters were safety and homelessness. These complex issues have influenced the SFD and the City of Saskatoon. Our versatility and willingness to adapt allows us to support those in need and to mitigate safe outcomes. SFD Operations has been at the forefront of this effort, responding to Fires and Emergency Medical Services emergencies with unwavering courage and professionalism. Their dedication and quick response have been vital in ensuring the safety of our community.

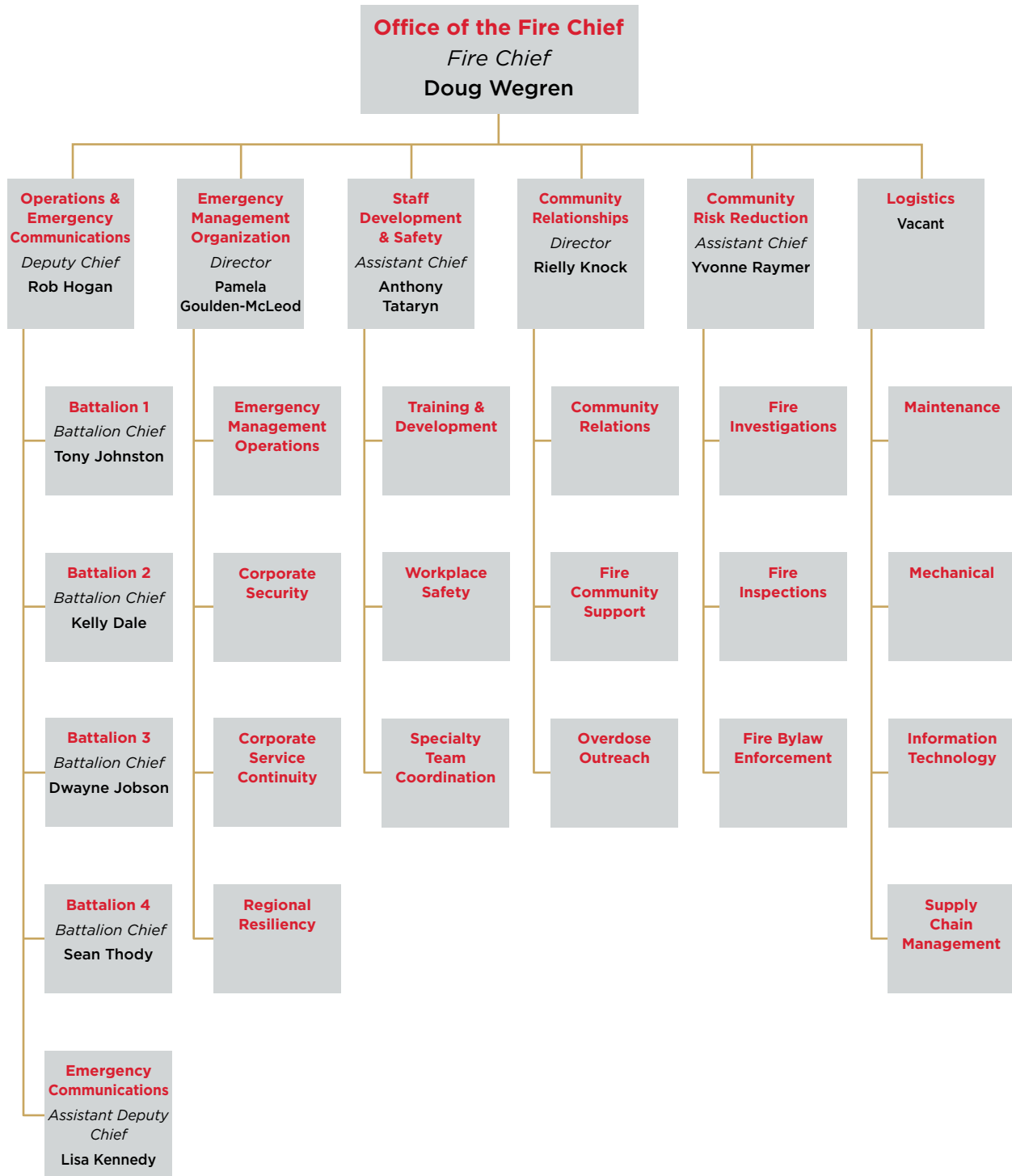
The mission of our Community Risk Reduction team is to educate and protect residents. Through proactive comprehensive fire safety programs, inspections, and community support, they strive to reduce the risk of fire-related incidents. Their proactive efforts have made an impact on our community’s safety and well-being.

The Emergency Management Organization has been instrumental in coordinating responses to complex emergencies, ensuring that the City of Saskatoon is always prepared and ready to act. Their strategic planning and swift action have allowed for the effective management of crises to minimize their impact. Additionally, our Staff Development and Safety team has provided essential training and support, equipping our personnel with the skills and knowledge needed to perform their duties safely and effectively.

Logistics and Emergency Communications (Dispatch) are the backbone of our operations, ensuring that every call is answered promptly, equipment is ready, and every resource and asset is functional and deployed efficiently. Their dedication and hard work is crucial to maintaining the SFD. I am immensely proud of the collaborative efforts of all our divisions within the SFD and it is their teamwork and dedication that make our fire department truly exceptional.

Doug Wegren
Fire Chief

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



THE SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

THE DEPARTMENT

As an all-hazards emergency response provider, the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) ensures public safety through its emergency services in Saskatoon and surrounding communities. The SFD protects the city's tax base and supports economic development through inspection, education, prevention, and enforcement programs. Established in 1905, focused solely on fire suppression, the SFD has evolved into an emergency service provider offering a variety of multi-sector services to protect and support residents. Frontline operations perform their duties with the support of divisions that ensure residents are educated, training is up-to-date, buildings comply with codes and equipment is operational.

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.

OUR PEOPLE

368 staff supporting seven areas:

- › Operations & Emergency Communications
- › Emergency Management Organization
- › Staff Development & Safety
- › Community Relationships
- › Community Risk Reduction
- › Logistics
- › Executive Office and Administration

CORPORATE VALUES

- › **People** Matter
- › **Respect** One Another
- › Act and Communicate with **Integrity**
- › **Safety** In All We Do
- › **Trust** Makes Us Stronger
- › **Courage** To Move Forward

SFD provides the following core emergency services:



Fire Suppression



Hazardous Materials



Confined Space Rescue



Vehicle Extrication



Emergency Medical Services



High/Low Angle Rescue



Public Hazards



Water Rescue



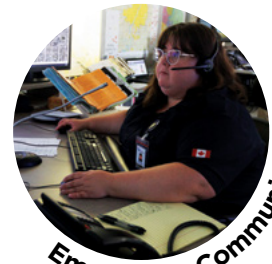
Public Assists



Urban Search & Rescue



Fire Service Agreements



Emergency Communications

The SFD also provides services in the areas of:



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Saskatchewan Human Right Commission

On March 20, 2024, representatives from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission honoured Fire Chief (Ret.) Morgan Hackl and Assistant Chief Yvonne Raymer as Human Rights Community Champions. They were recognized for developing a human rights-based approach to supporting unhoused and inadequately housed individuals living in encampments. The strategy focuses on creating better outcomes for the most vulnerable by working with community partners to prioritize shelter needs

and access to resources such as social assistance, mental health and addiction supports, food, cooling and warming locations, transportation, and connections to family, friends, and community. Enforcement is not the primary approach; instead, inspectors build relationships with individuals and support organizations to create plans and timelines for accessing other housing options if initial offers of support are refused.

Exemplary Service

In 2024, The Honourable Russ Mirasty, S.O.M., M.S.M Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan presented SFD recipients with the Fire Service Exemplary Service Medal and the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal. Medals represent long and commendable service in fields of endeavour involving potential risk; protecting people and/or property.



In the Community

Throughout the year, the SFD has engaged with the community, fostering strong relationships and promoting safety awareness. By forming and nurturing community partnerships, the SFD has demonstrated its commitment to public service, education and inclusivity. Notable events such as Reconciliation Flag Raising, National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S), Indigenous Peoples Day, Sanctum Survivor Challenge, Métis Cultural Days, Rock Your Roots and Pride Parade highlight these collaborations.

These activities helped to strengthen the bonds between SFD and the residents we serve. Together with our community partners, the SFD works

every day to ensure a safer, more inclusive and connected community where everyone feels a sense of belonging.



The Honour Guard

The International Association of Fire Fighters' (IAFF) Local 80 Honour Guard are ambassadors of the fire service displaying honour, integrity, pride and professionalism. In 2024, members honoured the fallen of three Line of Duty Deaths at services across the prairie provinces. Seventeen members participated in ceremonies that included the Inauguration of Her Worship Cynthia Block, Mayor of Saskatoon, Exemplary Fire Service Medals, September 11th Firefighters' Memorial, Saskatoon's 93rd Remembrance Day Event, City of Saskatoon Long Service Awards, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Monument and the annual charitable event for the IAFF Burn Fund-Fire in the Kitchen.



2024 Sanctum 36 Hour Challenge

On May 30 and 31, community leaders in Saskatoon experienced the challenges related to homelessness and chronic disease in Saskatoon as part of the Sanctum 36 Hour Challenge through the Sanctum Care Group. Along with eight other participants, Director of EMO, Pamela Goulden-McLeod, completed tasks aimed at demonstrating the challenges that society is often unaware of, but which are the everyday reality for people who experience homelessness and chronic disease in Saskatoon. Participants wear donated clothes and shoes and are not allowed any personal belongings other than a phone to update the public on their journey. The SFD has supported this challenge and the work of Sanctum through previous years' participation by Fire Chief (Ret.) Morgan Hackl and Local 80 Executive Officer Jared Benson. The event has a profound impact on all participants. No challenge could ever accurately depict the numerous barriers and complex issues faced by people experiencing homelessness each and every day.



OPERATIONS & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Operations & Emergency Communications is the frontline response for the residents of Saskatoon and surrounding municipalities with Fire Service Agreements. The team covers a wide scope of non-emergent and emergent responses, including:

- Fire Rescue and Suppression
- Paramedic Services
- Emergency Communications
- Hazardous Materials
- Confined Space Rescue
- Vehicle Extrication
- High/low Angle Rescue
- Public Hazards
- Water Rescue
- Lift Assists
- Urban Search and Rescue

Operations

Operations consists of nine stations strategically located throughout Saskatoon: four operational battalions with approximately 70 staff on each Battalion.

On April 1, 2024, the City of Saskatoon and IAFF Local 80 entered into a 3-year, 24-hour shift schedule pilot for Operations (captains, lieutenants and firefighters). During the pilot, meetings are held to assess the operational viability of the 24-hour shift.

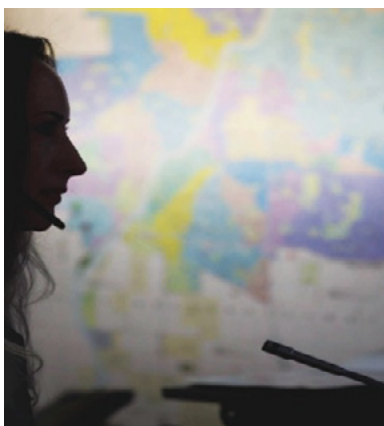
Fire Operations Day Shift

The SFD also implemented a Fire Operations Day Shift comprised of five firefighters separated into two shifts (four on/four off). This assignment increases capacity to allow for additional on-shift training. In 2024, the Day Shift eliminated 1,180 hours of overtime and allowed for 3,770 additional training hours to be completed.

Emergency Communications

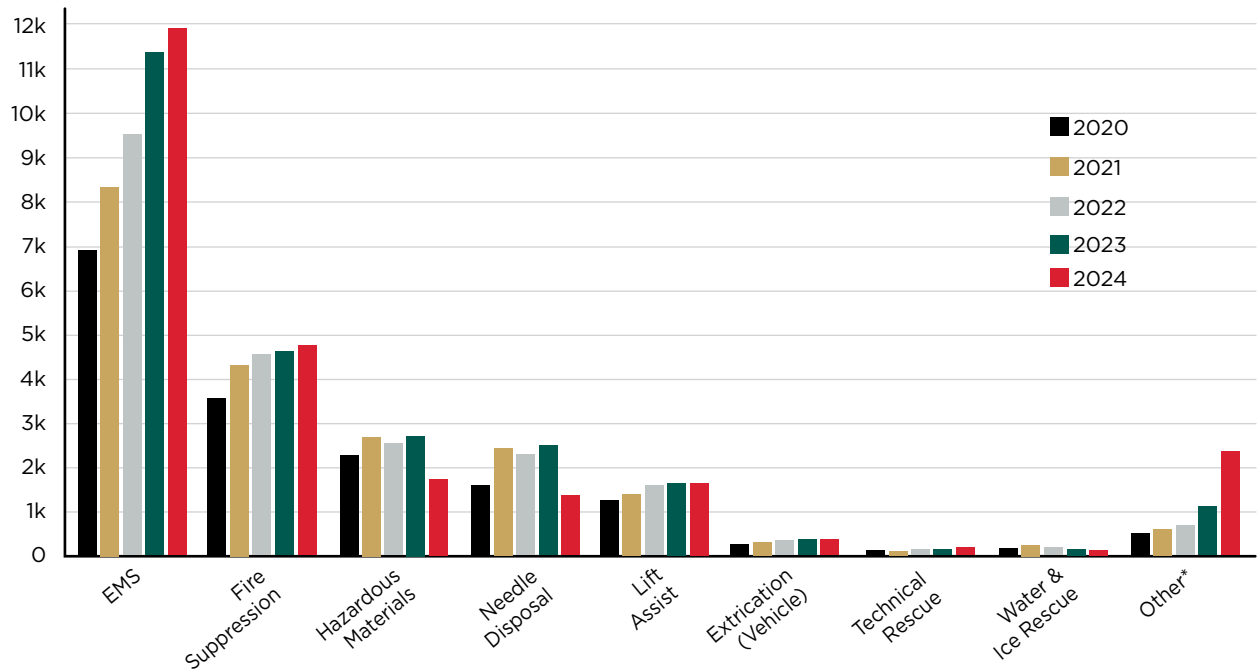
Emergency Communications is the first point of contact with the public and has the primary role of taking 9-1-1 and non-emergent calls.

Emergency Communications is responsible for dispatching and communicating with all SFD apparatus and co-responding external agencies, while simultaneously documenting the incident events in real time.



In 2024, the newly established assistant deputy chief of Emergency Communications was realized. The assistant deputy chief oversees day-to-day operations and is the lead on modernizing the SFD's emergency communications to Next-generation 9-1-1 (NG-9-1-1) requirements as mandated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

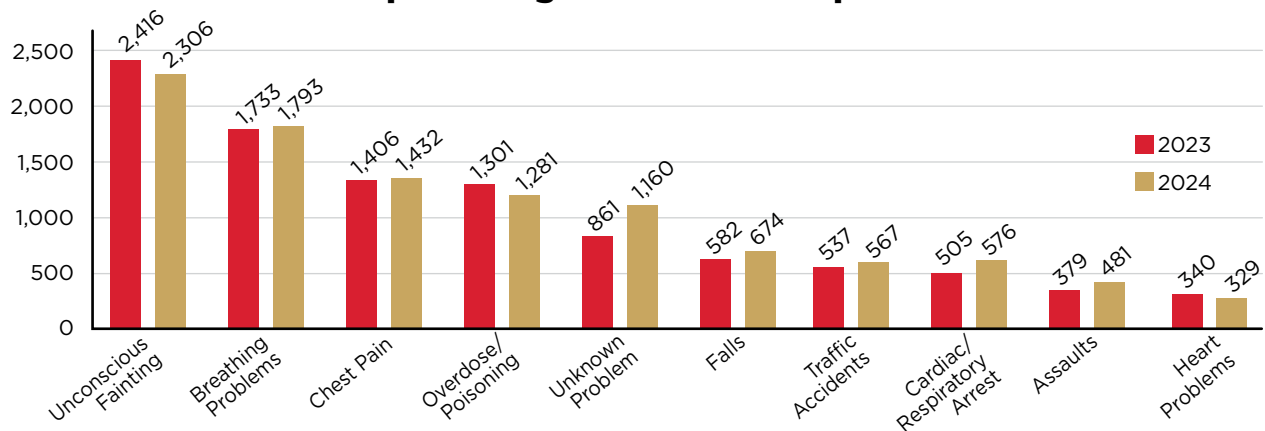
Types of Incidents



TOTALS: 2020-16,471 / 2021-19,932 / 2022-21,848 / 2023-25,176 / 2024-25,366

*Other includes public assistance, such as lock box assistance/installation, fire burning complaints, water problems, unsafe conditions, public hazards, and mutual aide to partner agencies.

Top 10 Categories for EMS Response



In 2024:



\$60.78M

worth of property and infrastructure caught fire



\$54.57M

was protected and saved by SFD

Operational Performance

	NFPA 1710 Standard	2023	2024
Call Processing Time	64 sec.	62*	68*
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 sec.	89*	94*
Travel Time The elapsed time from when an apparatus leaves the fire station until its arrival on the scene.	240 sec.	333*	345*
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 sec.	435*	507*

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

Call Processing Time: The SFD has seen a significant increase in both the number and severity of calls. In 2024, three temporary dispatchers were hired to help alleviate the call load. Additionally, in late 2025 or early 2026, the SFD will be moving to emergency call processing software, which will improve call-taking accuracy.

Turnout Time for Fire Calls: The current Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system cannot analyze or identify patterns in slower turnout times by station or battalion. However, the upgraded CAD system, scheduled to become operational in 2026, will address this limitation by providing comprehensive and detailed data. This enhanced data will empower the SFD to pinpoint trends and underlying causes contributing to slower turnout times, such as specific stations, battalions or even time-of-day factors. These insights will play a vital role in quality assurance, enabling the identification and resolution of barriers that hinder faster turnout times.

Travel Time: Saskatoon's expanding boundaries and growing population have increased travel times. To address this, two new stations (Nos. 10 and 11) are being added to the West side. However, the East side, with rapid neighborhood growth in areas like Brighton, Holmwood, and Aspen Ridge, also requires new stations to improve travel times and emergency response.

Noteworthy Incidents

P&H Milling

On January 12, 2024, SFD crews responded to a second-alarm fire at P&H Milling on 33rd Street E. Flour mills pose a unique hazard due to the fine dust generated during the milling process, which creates a significant risk of explosion. Recognizing this danger, SFD crews implemented additional safety measures during the response. Fortunately, all P&H Milling staff had evacuated the premises before the SFD arrived, mitigating risks to P&H Milling personnel.

The response involved over 40 SFD members, five engines, two ladder trucks and Command 9. The operation lasted eight hours before being handed over to the Fire Investigator for further examination. The extreme cold of -39°C presented additional challenges, including frozen equipment such as apparatus, hose lines and fire nozzles. To ensure efficiency and safety, crews were frequently rotated throughout the incident.



Prestige Flooring and Hardwood

On July 24, 2024, SFD crews responded to a second-alarm fire at 2612 Jasper Avenue, involving plastics and petrochemical materials. These substances produced thick, toxic smoke and a pungent odour.

The incident lasted six hours and presented several challenges. Crews contended with warm weather conditions of 36°C and 71% humidity, which added to the difficulty of their efforts. Additionally, the site contained a heavy fire load, including carpet, underlay, hardwood flooring, glue and other chemicals, all of which intensified the fire and raised concerns about the structural integrity of the building.

Approximately 40 SFD personnel were involved in the response, utilizing seven engines, two ladder trucks and Command 9. Their coordinated efforts ensured the incident was managed effectively despite the adverse conditions.



Corman Park Grass Fires

On August 20, 2024, SFD crews were dispatched to a grass fire at Victor Road and Township Road 352. On this day, extreme wildfire conditions—33°C temperature, winds over 30km/h gusting to 50km/h, and 17% humidity—met the 30-30-30 Crossover Rule, (30°C or higher, 30km/h winds and less than 30% humidity) creating extreme fire risk. Despite firefighters' efforts, the crop fire destroyed a house, detached garage, semi-truck, trailer, outbuildings, vehicles and industrial equipment.

During the 11-hour response, 48 firefighters and eight Clavet Fire Department members worked to combat the blaze. Command 9 coordinated efforts, while Corman Park used a grader for firebreaks, and neighbouring farmers supported by plowing and supplying water. SaskPower and SaskEnergy de-energized power and gas lines.

On September 1, 2024, a grassfire at Clarence Avenue and Victor Road spread rapidly due to strong winds. Two engines, two brush trucks, two tankers, a battalion chief and 28 firefighters managed the nine-hour response, evacuating residents and preventing further damage. While one acreage was lost, another was saved.

Reducing Occupational Exposure to Cancer

Firefighting is classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a Group 1 carcinogen. To ensure the long-term health and safety of SFD staff, efforts to reduce firefighters' exposure to harmful chemicals is a priority for the SFD.

Preliminary Exposure Reduction

In 2023, the SFD purchased a trailer to be retrofitted as a Preliminary Exposure Reduction Trailer (PERT). By fall 2024, the PERT trailer was completed, Standard Operating Procedures were formalized, staff were trained and the PERT trailer was put into service November of 2024.

In the first two months of use, the PERT trailer was dispatched to eight significant incidents. The PERT trailer allowed approximately 100 firefighters to perform on-scene decontamination in a sheltered environment away from the elements. The goal is to reduce firefighter exposure to contaminants associated with fire incidents as quickly as possible.

Joint Research Efforts

In partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, two \$5,000 applications for seed grants were approved. The first partnership with the College of Chemistry involves a literature review related to firefighter health risks from PFAS (forever chemicals). The results from this study will support the development of a full proposal for a larger grant application in the third quarter of 2025, with the long-term goal of identifying the risk and exposure of PFAS resulting from fighting fire.

The second project involving the College of Medicine, is a literature review of presumptive cancers and the types of carcinogens that affect firefighters' health. Results from this project will be used to apply for an additional grant in the fourth quarter of 2026, with the long-term goal of improving the health and well-being of SFD staff.

Vector Scheduling

A workforce management software program (Vector Scheduling) was rolled out to Operations and Emergency Communications in April 2024. This versatile software organizes day-to-day staffing and allows for mass communication for call backs and overtime to maintain staffing levels, resulting in fewer manual processes (calling individuals one person at a time). The implementation for the rest of the SFD is anticipated to be completed in 2025.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Introduction

Saskatoon Emergency Management Organization (EMO) provides an all-hazard, whole-community approach to strengthen resiliency in Saskatoon. The EMO believes there is strength and capacity of all sectors of Saskatoon to prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant emergency events. Central to efficient and effective emergency management are planning, readiness, response and partnerships, allowing for the coordination of a multi-agency response in unusual or large-scale emergencies or events.

In the last five years, the role of the EMO has expanded beyond the traditional emergency response coordination. Examples of service expansion include:

- Elevated or escalating emergencies in partnership with Saskatoon Police Service, SFD and other city departments.
- Leading the Saskatoon Extreme Cold and Extreme Heat Emergency Response for those experiencing homelessness.
- Transition of the City's Corporate Security section to the EMO umbrella.
- Providing Emergency Management Services through a Coordinator to 10 communities around Saskatoon.
- Coordinating the City's internal partners in the response to homelessness.



Community Safety & Well-being Emergency Operations Centre

In May, an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated for City departments involved in Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB) initiatives such as homelessness, shelters and public washrooms. The CSWB EOC prepared and planned for incidents which could impact civic operations or services. This effort included collaboration, coordination and communication across these departments:

- Saskatoon Fire Department
- Saskatoon Police Service
- Facilities Management
- Parks
- Recreation and Community Development
- Planning and Development
- Roadways, Fleet and Support
- Saskatoon Transit
- Communications and Public Engagement
- Mayor's Office

Washroom Trailer Pilot

EMO identified a gap in the availability of public washrooms in the evening and overnight in the Riversdale and Pleasant Hill neighbourhoods. The piloted washroom trailer was opened on August 27, 2024, at the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI). During its operations, the 24/7 facility was accessed by 14,300 residents of all ages until the end of October – each visit a testament to the value of this safe space. People had access not just bathrooms but vital resources nearby: hygiene products, food, mental health and addiction support, emergency shelter referrals and a warm seat around a fire pit. This project was built on a partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council Sawēyihotān Program, CUMFI, and the City's Facilities Management and Roadways, Fleet and Support staff.

The project was a powerful example of what can be achieved through compassion, resilience, and teamwork. This project demonstrates that when we prioritize people, we create real change.



Incident Command System Development

Incident Command System (ICS) is an internationally recognized and proven coordination for a command structure. Applied to both emergency situations and pre-planned events, ICS integrates multiple jurisdictions, agencies and organizations into a shared operating structure while ensuring various mandates can be achieved based on prioritization and objectives. The SFD and EMO have qualified ICS (Canada) instructors at the 100, 200, 300 and 402 levels.

In Saskatoon, ICS has been used to support a wide variety of events; from SFD major incidents to Extreme Cold and Hot Weather Response, Winter Storm Events Response and wildfire evacuations to Saskatoon. ICS

was also used to support the 2024 Municipal Election process.

In 2024, EMO provided two ICS 200 courses and one ICS 300 course to 59 individuals representing 13 City departments and 10 critical infrastructure partners.

The EMO Regional Resiliency Specialist improved response capability of surrounding communities outside the city by instructing four ICS 100 courses and three ICS 402 courses provided to 107 individuals representing 47 different organizations within the surrounding service area.

Special Events

EMO is part of the City's Outdoor Special Events and Festivals Interdepartmental Committee. For large events, Command 9 is mobilized and an ICS structure is implemented. In addition to this, EMO creates contingency plans for each event to guide the actions of responders in the event of an emergency or unplanned issue. EMO also reviews and provides guidance on the emergency response plans that event organizers are responsible for. In 2024, EMO was activated for the following events with a

combined attendance of 350,000 people:

- Sikh Day Parade
- Saskatchewan Marathon
- National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Canada Day
- Saskatoon EX Kick-Off Parade
- YXE Urban Games
- Fireworks Festival
- Step Up for Mental Health
- Santa Clause Parade

Emergency Operations Centre Activations

The Municipal Emergency Management Plan is led by the EMO and provides direction for the activation of the City's Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The EOC was activated in 2024 for:

- Extreme Cold Weather – 22 days
- Extreme Heat – 9 days
- Evacuation Support – 45 days
- Critical Infrastructure Potential Impact – 10 days
- Major Winter Storm – 11 days

The EOC can be activated either virtually or physically. However, there is currently no permanent physical EOC in the City.

Point in Time Count

In 2024, the EMO developed and fully implemented an ICS structure for the Point-in-Time (PIT) count undertaken by the City. EMO staff were on scene at Station 20 West, deployed with Command 9 for the duration of the PIT count and filled several command staff positions including Safety Officer, Operations Section Chief and Planning Section Chief. In addition, notifynow internal notifications were used to provide updates and information to all volunteers.

The PIT count is a community-level measurement of sheltered and unsheltered homelessness within the city and provides a broader picture of homelessness across Canada. With the 2024 PIT count, the EMO assisted the City, community organizations, volunteers and partner organizations such as Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership, the Reaching Home Community Entity and the Community-University Institute for Social Research at the University of Saskatchewan.



Municipal Election 2024

During the municipal election in the fall of 2024, the EMO assisted the election's Returning Officer with the ICS command and control structure. An organizational chart was created for the election to help staff and volunteers understand and follow the chain of command and stay within ICS-

recommended span of control. There were over 500 people involved. Radios, provided by EMO, were used throughout the day of the election by the election runners, some of whom also included EMO staff. EMO assisted the Returning Officer in creating the safety message for the entire election staff.

Development of a Coordinated Community Trauma Response Plan

As part of the SFD Strategic Plan, EMO is leading the development of a Coordinated Trauma Response Plan for large-scale emergency events in Saskatoon. As an initial step towards this plan, the EMO co-hosted (with the city's Occupational Health and Safety) Kevin Cameron from the Center for Trauma Informed Practices (CTIP) to facilitate trauma response training courses for internal city staff and external partners. CTIP Traumatic Event System Response and Trauma Informed Leadership training helps organizations understand the human systems response to trauma. It is a model

that is applied to traumatic events meant to support an organizational or community response.

The multi-disciplinary and multi-organization engagement in this training assists to increase the resiliency of Saskatoon in the case of traumatic events impacting residents, organizations and the whole of Saskatoon.

Individuals that attended the 3-day training represented 10 of the City's departments and 16 partner organizations.

Corporate Security

Corporate Security is responsible for leading physical security within the City. This unit supports by helping to prevent incidents and reduce risk, balancing protection with accessibility through a risk-based approach to countermeasures and root cause analysis.

As Corporate Security evolves, the section leverages innovative tools and data to enhance operations across other City departments. Technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML) and Internet of Things (IoT) enable automation, predictive maintenance, real-time monitoring and data-driven decision-making. These security solutions not only protect but also enable innovation by supporting new

technologies and business processes, fostering an environment where the City can confidently explore new ideas.

A key philosophy in introducing new security technology is that it should support a higher return on investment by enhancing the effectiveness of operations in City business lines. This focus began in 2024 with the development of the City of Saskatoon Enterprise Security policy, a collaboration between Corporate Security and Cyber Security. The policy establishes a comprehensive framework that safeguards the confidentiality, integrity and availability of organizational assets, encompassing both physical and cyber security protocols.

2024 was a busy year for the Corporate Security team, as they developed new administrative standards and procedures to modernize service delivery and corporate practices. In addition to increased internal focus, Corporate Security assisted several boards in developing and implementing modern security solutions as they upgraded their security programs.

To keep pace with fast moving changes in security technology and products, Corporate Security has embarked on developing a ten-year technology roadmap focused on implementing “single pane of glass” enterprise security solutions into City security service delivery.

In 2024, the testing of wireless cameras deployed to City infrastructure and vulnerable facilities was completed and the program was formally adopted as a security solution for the City. These cameras, using motion detection, monitored alerts and a quick response protocol, have significantly reduced illegal entry and theft at City facilities.

In partnership with Saskatoon Transit, a temporary Transit Security Advisor is being

piloted. This position supports Saskatoon Transit by providing a coordinated approach to security measures. Cameras were added to the Downtown Transit Terminal in late 2024 and the testing of behavioral analytics was initiated in preparation for the new LINK system’s development and growth in 2025.

New technology, such as security radar, standdown network speaker and perimeter detection edge analytics, was introduced. These technologies, combined with analytics at the perimeter of City facilities, allow for the early detection and intervention of intruders. Corporate Security has engaged a Smart City team and is testing innovative security solutions using new technology, such as Low Range Wide Area Network solutions and automated vehicle remote entry solutions.

Corporate Security is also evaluating and testing new technology such as Bi-spectrum cameras, thermal imaging and advanced analytics to detect and deter unauthorized entry and theft at city facilities. New security technology has been installed at several new City facilities in 2024, including the new NE Reservoir, the Waste Material Handling Site and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT & SAFETY

Introduction

Staff Development & Safety (SD&S) functions to ensure SFD frontline staff provide skilled and professional service to residents of the city. Safety is a fundamental priority in all training delivery, focusing on the inherent risk association with emergency response. SD&S is responsible for research and development, training delivery and coordination of specialty programs within Operations. Specialty programs include EMS, Water Rescue and Dive, HazMat and Technical Rescue.



Multi-Casualty Exercise

SD&S conducted a mass-casualty exercise in 2024 designed to simulate a complex vehicle collision with a school bus filled with passengers needing a wide variety of medical attention. The passengers were volunteers from a local high school drama club. The use of realistic makeup and their acting skills provided convincing patients for the paramedics and rescuers participating in the simulated response.

Interoperability

The SFD Technical Rescue Team participates in regular interoperability exercises with the Saskatoon Police Service Tactical Response Team that include a wide variety of rescue and tactical response scenarios.

Live Fire Training

After more than two decades, live fire training is returning to the SFD. Live fire training provides realistic, hands-on experience to improve the understanding of fire behaviour and hone essential skills in a controlled environment. SD&S trained a group of firefighters in 2024 to become Live Fire Instructors. Live Fire Instructors are necessary to provide safe and effective instruction for the upcoming training expected to commence in 2025. This training initiative is the result of incredible teamwork and coordination from SD&S Fire Service Instructors, on-shift instructors, and SFD firefighters.



Airport Multi-Agency Exercise

A large-scale multi-agency training exercise was conducted at the Saskatoon International Airport. SFD instructors were tasked as evaluators for this important public safety initiative. The exercise was a success with many valuable lessons learned to ensure the safety of Saskatoon's airport.

SD&S Support for Internal Partners

Members of the Technical Rescue & Water Rescue programs routinely provide support and training for other City divisions, such as confined space education and emergency planning, civic facility pool repair and other special requests.

TRANSCAER Training

In partnership with the Railway Association of Canada, the SFD hosted a Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER) training event in May. The training, held at the Regional Training Facility, focused on road and railway response. Over three days, emergency responders received valuable information and hands-on learning opportunities. The training aimed to inform emergency responders about the different features of railway tank cars and evaluate teams' emergency response plans by working through scenarios, assessing available equipment and identifying ways to quickly communicate with residents.



Regional Training Facility

The SFD completed Phase 1 of the Regional Training Facility with partnership commitments from the cities of Martinsville and Warman. This facility will allow the SFD and its regional partners to train and maintain competencies of firefighters in a purpose built, realistic, but safe engineered environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

2,174 hours of Operations training delivered

1,949 hours of EMS training delivered

225 hours of HAZMAT training delivered

558 hours of water response training conducted

1,500+ hours of research and program development were devoted to the development of a NFPA 1021 Fire Officer training program for SFD

596 Transit-related occurrences

591 hours of Community Risk Reduction and Fire Community Support training delivered

80 hours of other courses - Two NFPA 1041 Fire Service Level I courses delivered

SPECIALTY PROGRAMS



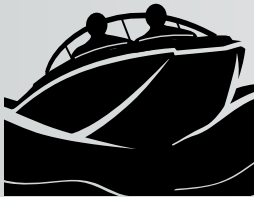
EMS

SD&S recertifies 148 firefighter/paramedics and 85 medical first responders. Cross-trained in other specialty programs, these staff provide patient care in the most challenging of environments.



Hazardous Materials Response

All firefighters have basic training in HazMat response. In 2024, 10 firefighters achieved their HazMat technician certification. The SFD staffs 43 HazMat technicians to ensure that the city has a skilled team to respond when a HazMat release occurs.



Surface Water Rescue

The SFD has a trained team of 49 surface water rescue technicians to respond to the river, and local bodies of water, including ice rescue. Additionally, they operate underwater sonar 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. Staff log many additional hours of training to become certified as public safety divers. In 2024, the SFD dive team consisted of 15 individuals.



Technical Rescue

The SFD has trained a team of 39 rescue technicians. A rescue technician is proficient in five main disciplines.

- Rescue Technician Level I - Low and High Angle Rope Rescue
- Rescue Technician Level II - Confined Space Rescue
- Rescue Technician Level III - Trench Rescue
- Rescue Technician Level IV - HUSAR (Heavy Urban Search & Rescue), and
- Rescue Technician Level V - Advanced Vehicle Extrication

In 2024, 11 firefighters achieved their Level 4 rescue technician certification. Their skills include lifting and moving of heavy objects, shoring open trenches and structures, concrete cutting and breaking, and metal cutting.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

Introduction

Community Relationships, established in late 2023, connects the SFD to the community through proactive engagement, inspired by Saskatoon's "One City" approach. Community Relationships develops and maintains connections with individuals, organizations and institutions, focusing on engagement and stakeholder management to foster positive outcomes and enhance the SFD's role in improving community wellbeing.

Programs under the Community Relationships umbrella include:

- Community Relations
- Overdose Outreach Team
- Fire Community Support

Community Relations

The Coordinators of Community Relations (CR) build and maintain a positive working relationship with schools, businesses and community organizations. The purpose of CR is to provide fire and life safety education, promote and maintain the Steps to Safety program, and provide an SFD presence and support to community-based events.

F.I.R.E. Cadets

Through partnerships with the Saskatoon Public School Division and the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division's respective work education programs, the F.I.R.E. (Firefighter Introduction Recruitment Experience) Cadets program provides senior high school students the opportunity to work with SFD staff.

In 2024, 16 F.I.R.E. Cadets participated in the eight-week program to build new and strengthen existing life skills. Each week, the students spent approximately two hours in the classroom followed by six hours of hands-on experience. Cadets participated in vehicle extrication, high angle rappelling, fire hose deployment, CPR certification, public education and fire operations self-rescue. These experiences help to foster skills and strategies in leadership, teamwork and confidence building.

We are proud to showcase SFD's commitment to the students involved in this program. Four former cadets are now employed at SFD; two firefighters and two bylaw enforcement inspectors.



Steps to Safety

The internationally recognized Steps to Safety program, developed by SFD and used by the National Fire Protection Association as a best practice, supports individuals who have received lift assistance after a fall. Through partnerships with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), the program aims to help individuals remain in their homes by providing access to education on preventing falls and fires, thereby maintaining the safety and independence of Saskatoon residents. In 2024, 730 referrals were made to the SHA's Client Patient Access Services for further support.



Firefighter/paramedics performed 1,723 lifts, ensuring that after a fall, patients were followed up with by Steps to Safety staff and volunteers. These follow-ups ensured that the patients 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. There were 23 fall prevention presentations completed to approximately 700 attendees, targeted at older adults and caregivers to provide guidance on how to examine their homes to prevent future fall and fire hazards.

CTASP/Firestop

SFD is a member of the Saskatoon and Area Community Threat Assessment and Support Protocol. The SFD works with the Saskatoon Public School Division, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, and other community partners to address the needs of children and youths who have demonstrated fire starting behaviours. The Fire Stop program

is comprehensive and addresses fire setting behaviour. The SFD coordinator works collaboratively with community partners to address the underlying causes of the behaviour while also educating participants and their families on the dangers of fire and its devastating effects on individuals and the community.

Explore Emergency Services

On May 11, 2024, the SFD and Saskatoon Police Service hosted Explore Emergency Services, a one-day event for women. This showcase offered participants hands-on learning opportunities alongside female

professionals from both services, aiming to inspire women to consider careers in the SFD and the SPS.

Take Your Kid to Work Day

On November 5, the SFD hosted “Take Your Kids to Work Day”. SFD staff members participated with their Grade 9 children and engaged in various job-specific activities including safety gear, ladder truck operations, fire streams, fire ground survival, confined space, vehicle extrication and rope rescue.



Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is a nationally recognized event commemorating the Great Chicago Fire that started on October 8, 1871. Each year, the SFD and other fire departments across Canada and the United States team up with the NFPA to promote the annual Fire Prevention Week campaign. The 2024 campaign was *“Smoke Alarms: Make Them Work for You!”*

Leading up to Fire Prevention Week, the SFD hosted two open houses in September to promote fire safety in the community. Approximately 800 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 Fire Prevention Week, from October 6-12, the Community Relations team visited Grade 3 and 4 classes across the city, to talk about fire escape plans and fire safety. Over the course of six days, the SFD presented fire safety information to 80 classrooms at 42 schools and reached approximately 2,100 people.

Overdose Outreach

In partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the SFD operates the Overdose Outreach Team (OOT). Funded by the Ministry of Health, the objective of OOT is to provide support and education to Saskatoon residents to reduce the number and severity of overdoses. This is achieved by reaching out to individuals who have experienced a recent overdose. In many cases, the team connects with an individual as soon as one day after the initial referral is received. In 2024, the OOT received 91 referrals, completed 209 wellness checks on individuals, completed 140 community partner presentations, and over 1,640 Take Home Naloxone kits were distributed.



Fire Community Support

The SFD Fire Community Support (FCS) program became operational in July 2024. FCS provides proactive support to Saskatoon Transit and three Business Improvement Districts. There are 12 FCS personnel separated into two battalions providing seven days a week coverage. They support the community through foot patrols, rides on transit, vehicle patrols of identified areas, and respond to calls for service that are not criminal in nature, including:

- Mental health wellness checks
- Assistance to individuals in distress
- Mediation
- Minor disturbances
- Public intoxication
- Reported suspicious activity

FCS focuses on building relationships with individuals, community partners and other public safety agencies such as the Saskatoon Police Service. The goal of FCS is to improve safety and reduce the need for attendance by police, fire and ambulance in non-criminal or non-emergent situations.



HIGHLIGHTS

From July 1 to December 31, 2024:

1,899 occurrences involving
2,604 individuals

966 agency referrals
made

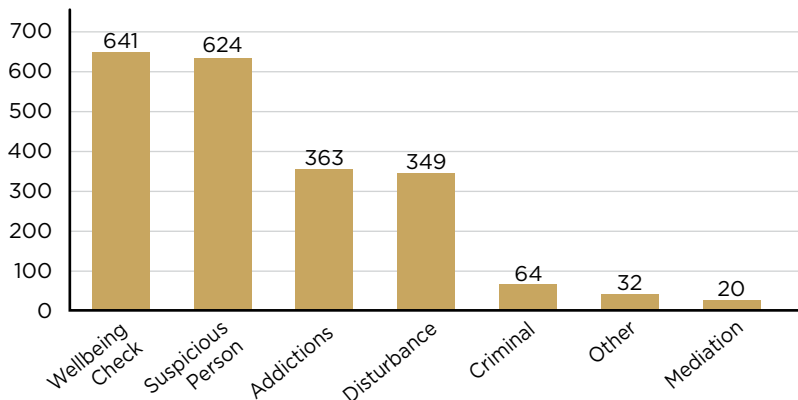
339 Transit-related
occurrences

591 Transit terminal
patrols completed

7.1 minutes average
call response time

The SFD is excited about the future possibilities of this support program. The FCS members fill a valuable niche role within the complexities of homelessness and safety for Saskatoon. As the FCS program gains maturity, the positive impact for the community will be apparent.

Call Types



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Introduction

The Community Risk Reduction (CRR) team works to educate, enforce and inspect property for the enhancement of community safety, health and well-being, and prevent life and property loss. Fire inspectors, fire investigators, and fire bylaw inspectors are assigned districts to provide inspections, fire investigations, education, technical support and enforcement. Under the authority of the Saskatchewan Fire Safety Act and the Cities Act, SFD's inspectors and investigators enforce City bylaws and the National Fire Code of Canada.

SFD enforces the following bylaws:

- Bylaw No. 8175; Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement
- Bylaw No. 7990; Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services
- Bylaw No. 7981; The Swimming Pool Bylaw
- Bylaw No. 8153; Transportation of Dangerous Goods

Fire Bylaw Inspections

CRR enforces Bylaw 8175, which has been in effect for nearly 30 years. This bylaw establishes minimum standards for living conditions and addresses nuisances that may affect the health, safety and amenity of residents and properties.

A total of 4,502 bylaw concerns were received. 3,660 Bylaw inspections were completed with 95,631 deficiencies identified. There is a backlog of concerns waiting to be addressed; therefore, the utilization of a priority system continues to be the focus when addressing concerns.

The SFD's Fire Bylaw Inspection's response to complaints is based on the priority level and the in which they are received.

There were 25 unsafe structures closed by SFD.

At the end of 2024, there were 74 vacant/boarded properties. The list fluctuates as properties are either demolished or restored back to a habitable condition.



Priority 1 Complaints are those that present a direct risk exposing the public to an unacceptable risk of injury.

Priority 2 Complaints are those that present a limited risk of injury to persons or related to a building exposed to an unacceptable risk to cause damage.

Priority 3 Complaints are those that present a negligible risk to injury to persons or causing damage to a building, but otherwise create a nuisance.

Fire Inspections & Plan Review

Fire inspectors identify compliance or deficiencies such as failure to maintain fire extinguishers, fire alarm systems, sprinkler and standpipe systems, annual service of private fire hydrants, commercial cooking equipment, special extinguishment systems, and many more. Fire inspectors can prosecute and issue orders or tickets for non-compliance. In 2024, 2,149 fire inspections were conducted, with 36,884 deficiencies identified.

Fire Investigations

Fire investigations focus on determining the cause and origin of fires. In 2024, six dedicated fire investigators were on staff, ensuring thorough and timely investigations. The investigators also collaborate with the Saskatoon Police Service when arson is suspected. All findings from these investigations are reported to the Fire Commissioner of Saskatchewan. The data and insights gathered from these investigations are used to develop public education and safety messages. These messages aim to address identified risks, safety concerns and emerging trends, with the goal of enhancing community safety.

In 2024, a total of 223 fire investigations were conducted.



Fire Prevention Themes

The CRR team focuses on Fire Prevention in Saskatoon. Fire Investigations provide opportunities for public education on prevention of fires. In 2024, the top causes of accidental fires were:

1. Unattended cooking
2. Improper disposal of smoking materials
3. Excessive combustibles stored improperly

Enforcement

465 orders issued related to Property Maintenance and Fire Code deficiencies

113 tickets issued enforcing Bylaws No. 8175 & 7790

Unsafe Outdoor Living Response

1,255 encampment reports received

1,044 interactions with unhoused individuals where supports were offered

50 fires due to unsafe and inadequate housing

275 encampment clean-ups completed

18,910 kg's of garbage removed from abandoned encampments



The SFD Encampment strategy addresses unsafe and inadequate forms of housing such as living in accessory buildings, unlawfully living in vacant/boarded structures, and makeshift structures often called encampments. In 2024, a total of 1,255 encampments were identified.

Demolitions and Property Remediation Process

2 completed demolitions

57 property remediations (yard/interior cleanups)

Safe Community Task Force

The Safe Community Task Force is a partnership between the SFD, Saskatoon Police Service and other community organizations. This task force addresses properties of concern affecting the health, safety and amenity of neighborhoods. This is an information-sharing task force that may conduct joint inspections and work together as partners to restore properties while addressing concerns within Saskatoon.

Community Well-being Committee

The Community Well-being Committee includes partners that identify properties, locations, and individuals in Saskatoon where mental health, such as hoarding, addiction, or those experiencing homelessness, is or may be a concern. Partners from the Saskatoon Police Service include the Community Mobilization Unit, Community Liaison Officers, Alternative Response Officers, Patrol Officers, and various agencies in the Saskatoon HUB. Information sharing is key for this committee to work together for better outcomes for individuals in need of support through collaborative solutions.

LOGISTICS

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



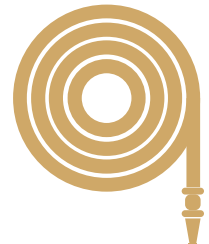
Maintenance and repair of **170** SCBA
(Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus)

Manage and supply **395** compressed air cylinders
(SCBA and Medical O2)



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

Service maintenance and repair of **30**
fire/emergency apparatus, 70 fleet
vehicles and 4 watercraft



Logistics

Logistics is responsible for long range planning for the SFD to meet the emergency service needs of Saskatoon, including the new proposed Fire Stations Nos. 10 and 11. Logistics encompasses four essential support functions:

- Maintenance
- Mechanical
- Supply Chain
- Information Technology

The team supports the SFD through the acquisition and maintenance of fire stations, apparatus and fleet vehicles, and all equipment. Logistics' primary focus is that all staff are equipped and outfitted with safe and reliable vehicles, equipment and protective gear.

Maintenance

Maintenance plays a key role in the preventive maintenance and repair of equipment, tools, and protective gear. The SFD has over 170 Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with 395 breathing air bottles, over 800 sets of turnout gear for structural firefighting that are maintained, tracked and inspected annually to ensure proper fit and protection for staff.

There are thousands of items and pieces of equipment that maintenance staff procure, maintain, repair and replace to support SFD staff in mitigating emergency and non-emergency incidents.

Examples include:

- Specialized medical equipment for primary care paramedics such as SpO2 monitors
- Hazmat detectors for atmospheric monitoring
- Specialized tools for vehicle extrication and structural collapse

Specialized training is required for breathing air compressor service/repairs, SCBA service/repairs, and maintenance of water rescue and dive equipment.

Mechanical

Mechanical keeps apparatus and fleet vehicles inspected and maintained to NFPA 1911 standards. Staff are tasked with diagnosing, maintaining and repairing all SFD vehicles, including 30 fire/emergency apparatus, four boats and 70 fleet vehicles. Their efforts ensure all fire apparatus and fleet vehicles are always in safe operating condition and ready for day-to-day response. Ticketed heavy-duty technicians require additional specialized training in pressurized water pumps and technology to keep up with a constantly evolving firefighting industry.



Information Technology

Fire Data Management (FDM) Records Management System records incident information, examines data, discovers trends and produces reliable reporting. The SFD is currently in transitioning to Next-generation 9-1-1 and the Hexagon platform. Information technology requirements range from technical support for all fire stations, Fire Prevention/Community Risk Reduction and Central Dispatch, which is the SFD 9-1-1 call centre, to specialized technology in hazardous materials equipment and water rescue response.

Supply Chain Management

Supply Chain Management ensures all areas of SFD are equipped with the necessary tools, parts, medical supplies, and equipment required to perform emergency response and day-to-day tasks such as:

- Medications from the Saskatchewan Health Authority and other vendors
- EMS supplies
- Tools and equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Mechanical parts supply for more rapid apparatus repair
- Uniform and specialized clothing for all staff



OUR PEOPLE

Retirements

In 2024, the SFD honoured nine retirements.

New hires

- 1 Assistant Deputy Chief, Emergency Communications
- 3 Fire Dispatchers (Temporary)
- 1 Paramedic (Overdose Outreach) Temporary
- 2 Fire Community Support Supervisors
- 10 Fire Community Support Workers
- 1 Transit Security Advisor (Temporary)
- 2 Risk Reduction Coordinators
- 2 Mechanics

Promotions

- 1 Fire Chief
- 1 Fire Marshal
- 6 Captains
- 6 Lieutenants
- 1 Mechanical Supervisor
- 1 Maintenance Supervisor
- 2 Fire Inspectors

TESTIMONIALS



“

Was amazing. My little man wants to be a firefighter now! Great event.

Carolyn McLeary,
Facebook



“

Amazing work Chief Morgan and Chief Yvonne. Thanks for making Saskatoon & the world, a better place.

jrbrayshaw, Instagram



“

Thank you for brightening the day of those supported by Elmwood Residences.

Maggie Stevenson,
Facebook



“

Congrats to all the students! Thank you to the firefighters who taught the course and providing a great learning experience for all!

Kathy Nesbitt, Facebook



“

You guys are amazing! Thanks for coming and brightening the day!

Rachael Llorente,
Facebook

LOOKING AHEAD

Relocation and Modernization of Emergency Communications

This project includes the renovation of Station No. 9 and a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. The CAD will enhance SFD's ability to manage incidents and allows for software integration of call taking protocols. These protocols will enhance dispatcher efficiency through call taking and dispatching resources. This new system also improves the use of geographical information system (GIS) times allowing for a more efficient allocation of resources and assets. The relocation of Emergency Communications to Station No. 9 is expected in March of 2025.

New Fire Stations

In the spirit of continuous improvement, the SFD maps response times to determine if station locations are appropriate. Through this process, Stations Nos. 10 and 11 were identified as immediate priorities to support the west side of the city. Land has been obtained in the Southwest Industrial neighborhood for Station No. 11. The SFD has also identified a suitable location in the northwest area to cover Dundonald, Elk Point and Kensington neighbourhoods. Community consultation is expected to begin the second quarter of 2025 for Station No. 10, with the hopes that both stations will begin construction in 2026 and open in early 2027.



City of
Saskatoon

**MOBILE
COMMAND**

PROUD TO SERVE SASKATOON

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