



# SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



# 2025 SUMMARY



Responded to  
Calls for Service  
**28,717**



**1,859**  
Encampment  
Reports Received



NFPA Call Processing  
Time of 64 seconds  
was achieved 84.28%  
of the time



**3,854**  
Discarded needles  
collected



**29**  
Command 9  
Activations



**7,386**  
Hours of Training



**3,308**  
Fire Community  
Support calls



**5,690**  
Fire and Property  
Maintenance Inspections



**202**  
Fire Investigations



The Emergency Operations  
Centre was activated for  
**246** days

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## Message from the **FIRE CHIEF**

As Fire Chief, I am proud to reflect on 2025, a year defined by professionalism, compassion and the unwavering dedication of our Saskatoon Fire Department members. Our frontline and support staff continue to demonstrate what it means to serve with integrity, empathy and excellence. The SFD's commitment to the residents of Saskatoon remains the foundation of everything we accomplished in 2025.

This year brought both progress and significant challenges. City Council approved two new fire stations, with design and construction beginning in 2026, an important investment in our growing city. At the same time, the overdose crisis, rising homelessness and increasing encampments placed significant demands on our teams. These situations were complex and often emotionally difficult, and our members responded with professionalism and care, reinforcing the essential role we play in community safety and well-being.

The SFD supported large-scale events that required sustained coordination. Northern evacuations brought unprecedented number of evacuees and significantly longer stays than in previous years. Our Emergency Management Organization played a vital role in coordinating planning efforts with many civic departments and a range of provincial, local and private partners to support the northern communities affected. EMO also contributed to the City's Point-in-Time Count, helping identify individuals experiencing homelessness and documenting information essential to community planning.

Operationally, advancements were made to improve service to the community. The launch of Next-generation 9-1-1 modernized our emergency communications with faster, more accurate technology. Our Emergency Communications team is now operating in the renovated facility at Station No. 9 and has expanded its scope of responsibilities to support additional SFD divisions. Also, Live Fire training at the Regional Training Facility has continued to support our firefighters. This program advances our firefighter's skills, knowledge and understanding of the modern fire environment.

Behind the scenes, the Logistics and Fire Service Technology team ensured operational readiness for our Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses, Personal Protective Equipment, fleet, apparatus and watercraft, while community engagement programs, Fire and Life Safety education and the Firefighter Introduction Recruitment Experience Cadets initiative continued to build trust and inspire future careers. Looking ahead, our focus is the development of our officers and supervisors to support our staff to be even better prepared to serve Saskatoon.

I am profoundly proud of the work our members carry out every day. The SFD's professionalism, compassion and dedication reflect the very best of public service and together we remain committed to protecting the well-being of all who call Saskatoon home .

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Wegren".

**Doug Wegren**  
Fire Chief

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



# THE SASKATOON FIRE DEPARTMENT

As an all-hazards emergency response provider, the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) is dedicated to protecting and supporting the residents of Saskatoon and surrounding communities. Established in 1905 as a fire suppression service, the SFD has evolved into a modern emergency organization that responds to a wide range of incidents and community needs. This evolution reflects both the changing risks faced by residents and the SFD's ongoing commitment to meeting the community's needs. By integrating emergency response with prevention and public education, the SFD plays a vital role in building a safer, more resilient community for all.

## THE SFD SERVES



**318,067**  
**Residents**



**126,685**  
**Residences**



**226.5**  
**km<sup>2</sup>**

## MISSION

Serving Saskatoon with exceptional fire and emergency response by championing collaboration and innovation for safety and risk reduction to build community resilience.

## VISION

To give you our best every day.

## 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**

# OPERATIONS & EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Operations & Emergency Communications serves as the frontline response for residents of Saskatoon and partner municipalities. This dedicated team provides a comprehensive range of emergency and non-emergency services to protect lives and property and to support community safety.

Areas of responsibility within Operations & Emergency Communications include:



**Emergency Communications**



**Fire Rescue & Suppression**



**Emergency Medical Services**



**Hazardous Materials Response**



**Confined Space Rescue**



**Vehicle Extrication**



**High/Low Angle Rescue**



**Urban Search & Rescue**



**Water Rescue**



**Lift Assists**



**Public Hazards**



**Fire Service Agreements**

# HIGHLIGHTS

## Next-generation 9-1-1

In May, the SFD modernized its emergency communications with the successful launch of Next - Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1). The nationwide initiative replaced traditional 9-1-1 infrastructure with a modern, IP-based system designed to deliver faster, more accurate and more reliable service for residents.

While callers will continue to dial 9-1-1, the new NG9-1-1 system introduces several key improvements:

- Enhanced location accuracy for quicker, more precise response.
- Faster call routing to the right emergency resources.
- Greater system resilience with robust backup and fail-safe measures.
- Future-ready features, including the ability to send text, photos and video directly to 9-1-1 in upcoming phases.

This upgrade positions Saskatoon at the forefront of emergency communications, providing residents with reliable service today and building capacity for the future.

## Emergency Communications Relocation & Expanded Services

Emergency Communications serves as the public's first point of contact, managing both 9-1-1 and non emergent calls. The team dispatches and maintains continuous communication with all SFD apparatus and coordinates closely with co responding agencies such as the Saskatoon Police Service. Emergency Communications also provides call taking and dispatch services for surrounding municipalities under the Fire Response Dispatch Services Agreement. Throughout each incident, dispatchers document events in real time to provide accurate and timely information to responders.

In fall 2025, Emergency Communications expanded its role by providing call taking and dispatch services for both Fire Community Support and the Overdose Outreach Team. This enhanced safety for these teams through reliable radio communication, GPS location, real time wellness check ins, and direct radio contact.

To meet NFPA requirements and support the infrastructure needs of NG9-1-1, Emergency Communications relocated from Station No. 1 to a newly renovated, modernized space at Station No. 9. Completed in March 2025, this transition strengthened technological capacity and improved operational resiliency.

## Overdose Outreach Team

The SFD operates the Overdose Outreach Team (OOT), established as a Ministry of Health-funded pilot in late 2022 and delivered in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Authority. Through this program, SFD continues to provide essential support to individuals at risk of overdose. The team helps people connect with health, social and harm-reduction services, offering education and compassionate outreach to reduce the frequency and severity of overdoses and support individuals on a path toward recovery. In late 2025, the Ministry of Health confirmed ongoing annual funding beginning in 2026.

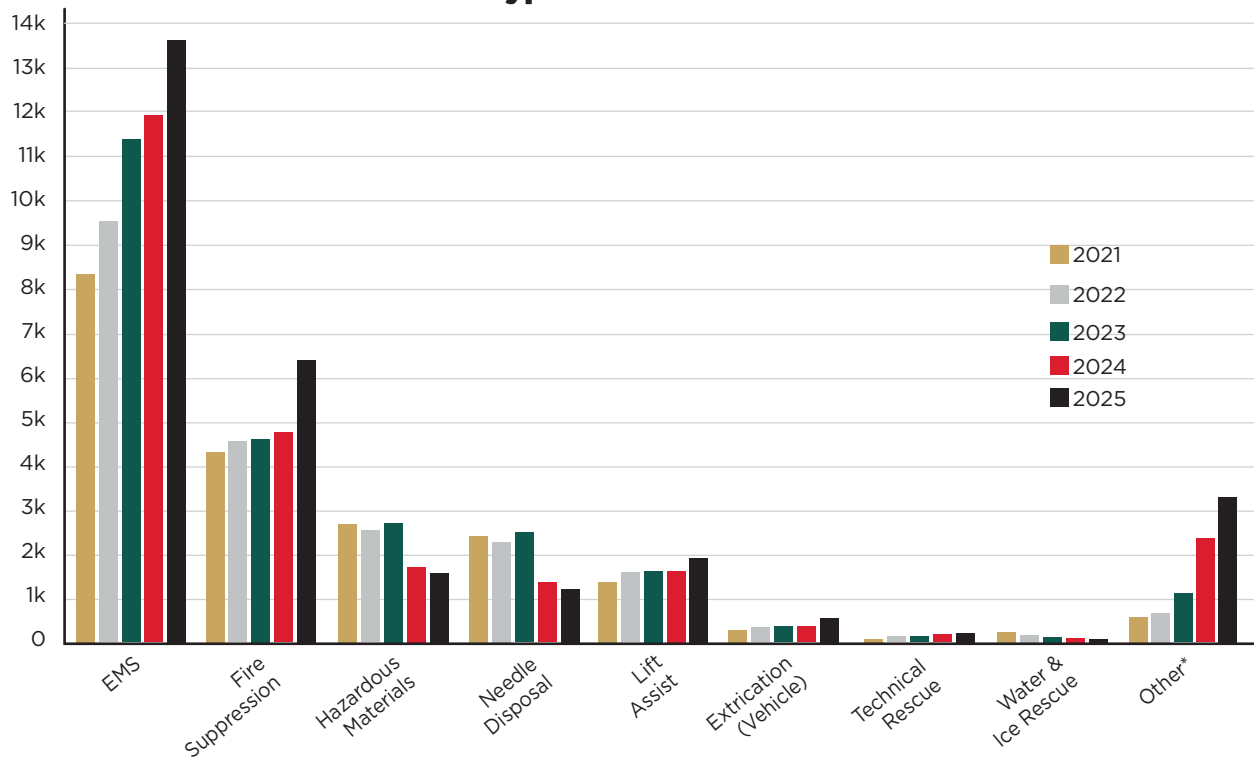
## Reducing Occupational Exposure to Cancer

The SFD advanced its efforts to reduce occupational cancer risks through two major research collaborations. In partnership with the Department of Health and Epidemiology, work began on identifying firefighter health research priorities through surveys and a multi-stakeholder workshop, with the goal of informing future policy changes, cancer-screening improvements, and enhanced hygiene and training practices. In addition, a Research Junction partnership with USask’s College of Chemistry completed a comprehensive literature review on PFAS exposure in firefighting, identifying key health risks and outlining priority areas and strategies for future research. Together, these initiatives lay important groundwork for long-term improvements in firefighter health and support future funding opportunities.

## Mental Health Research

Through the support of USask’s Research Junction program, the City of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Fire Department and IAFF Local 80 partnered with university researchers to assess the effectiveness of existing mental-health supports for staff who routinely respond to people in crisis situations. The initiative will continue into 2026, with the goal of advancing evidence-informed strategies that enhance the long-term mental health and well-being of SFD personnel.

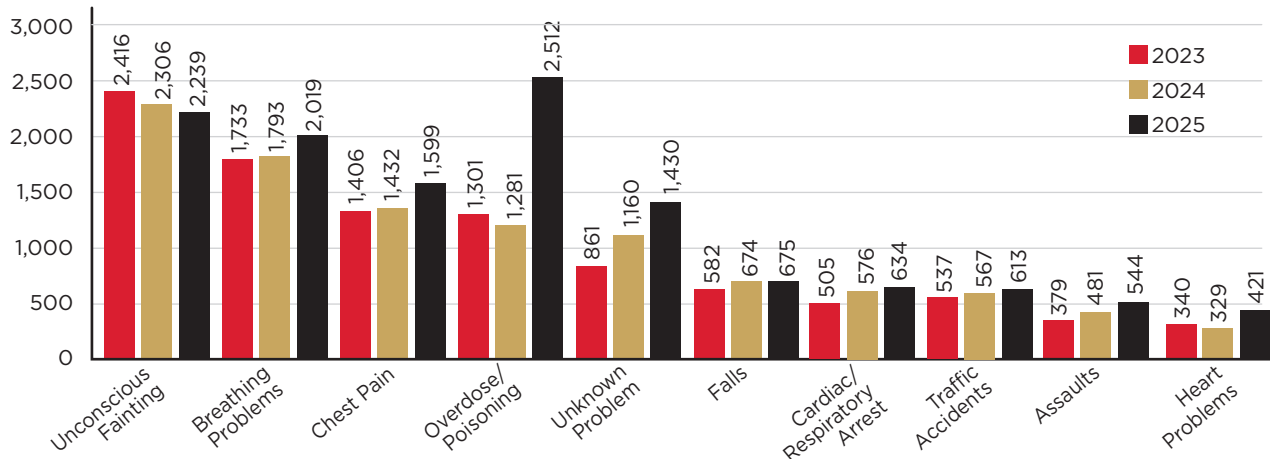
### Types of Incidents



\*Other includes public assistance, such as lock box assistance/installation, fire burning complaints, water problem, unsafe conditions, public hazards, and response agreements with partner agencies.

**TOTALS:** 2021-19,932 / 2022-21,848 / 2023-25,176 / 2024-25,366 / 2025-28,717

## Top 10 Categories for EMS Response



## Operational Performance

	NFPA 1710 Standard	2023	2024	2025
<b>Call Processing Time</b>	<b>64 sec.</b>	<b>62*</b>	<b>68*</b>	<b>76*</b>
<b>Turnout Time for Fire Calls</b> The time it takes for firefighters to travel to the appropriate fire apparatus, don PPE, board the apparatus and safely secure themselves for travel.	<b>80 sec.</b>	<b>89*</b>	<b>94*</b>	<b>99*</b>
<b>Travel Time</b> The elapsed time from when an apparatus leaves the fire station until its arrival on the scene.	<b>240 sec.</b>	<b>333*</b>	<b>345*</b>	<b>354*</b>
<b>Total Response Time for Fire Calls</b> The elapsed time from when the call is answered by Dispatch until the first crew arrives on scene.	<b>384 sec.</b>	<b>484*</b>	<b>507*</b>	<b>529*</b>

\*Time is calculated in seconds and based on the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.

## NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

### Commercial Fire on 56<sup>th</sup> Street East

In the early morning hours of May 7, crews responded to a major fire at a manufacturing facility on 56<sup>th</sup> Street East. Heavy black smoke and intense flames prevented firefighters from entering the structure. The building's size, construction and large quantities of flammable plastic created significant operational challenges. More than 80 SFD personnel were deployed over the nearly 17-hour response, supported by 9 engines, two ladder trucks, two rescue trucks, Command 9, the Preliminary Exposure Reduction Trailer (PERT) and additional SFD vehicles.



## Opioid Crisis

In late February 2025, the Saskatoon Fire Department observed a sharp escalation in overdose incidents, marking the beginning of an unprecedented surge. The SFD was the first to alert the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) that a significant situation was unfolding in Saskatoon. Between February 25–28 alone, crews responded to more than 60 overdoses and call volumes continued to climb into March, peaking at 34 overdoses in a single day. March ended with 509 overdose responses, which was more than double the monthly average from 2024.

While Stations No. 1 and 2 handled the majority of these calls, every neighbourhood in Saskatoon was impacted. The scale and pace of incidents placed significant strain on first responders and community partners, prompting activation of both the City's and the Province's Emergency Operations Centres. Minimum staffing was increased to accommodate two paramedics on every apparatus and Station No. 1 operated with expanded staffing for six weeks to meet demand. This was the first activation of the Provincial Emergency Operation Centre for a Saskatoon emergency event.

Saskatoon EMO activated the City Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and led EOC meetings that identified critical issues and resource needs for responding partner organizations. This information was then shared with the Provincial EOC. Partners involved included: Prairie Harm Reduction, Westside Community Clinic, Saskatoon Crisis and Intervention Services, Saskatoon Tribal Council, Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Station 20 West, Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Fire Department and Medavie Health Services West.

Supply needs became a major concern as crews used large quantities of Narcan, bag valve masks, intravenous infusion equipment, needles, syringes and other medical equipment. Through ongoing coordination with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, resources remained available. The SFD's paramedics frequently moved from one overdose call directly to the next, often encountering multiple patients at a single scene. To support community safety, the SFD also partnered with the Saskatchewan Health Authority to distribute Narcan to community organizations during evenings and weekends.

By the end of the year, the SFD had responded to 2,512 overdose incidents – often involving more than one patient – averaging 209 incidents per month and nearly doubling the 1,281 calls recorded in 2024. This surge underscores the significant and ongoing impact of the opioid crisis on Saskatoon residents, emergency responders and community partners.





# EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Saskatoon Emergency Management Organization (EMO) takes an all-hazards, whole-community approach to building resilience across Saskatoon. EMO recognizes the strength and capacity within all sectors of the community, working collaboratively to prepare for, respond to and recover from major emergencies and disruptive events.

EMO is comprised of four integrated sections: Emergency Management Operations, Corporate Security, Services Continuity and Regional Resiliency. Together, these areas support EMO's core pillars of planning, readiness, response and partnerships. These areas enable coordinated, multi-agency efforts during major incidents, helping protect the community and strengthen its capacity to respond and recover.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Command 9 Activations

Command 9 was activated 29 times over 34 days to support a range of emergencies, training initiatives and community events:

- 12 calls to incidents – including fires, active search and rescues and support to the Saskatoon Police Service
- 2 calls to training – spring and fall training initiatives
- 15 special events – including parades, festivals, marathons, national celebrations and cultural gatherings

### EOC Activations

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated for a total of 246 days in response to a range of complex and sustained events. Activations included:

- Winter Emergency Response: 57 days
- Extreme Heat: 15 days
- Northern Fire Evacuations: 86 days
- OD Response: 85 days
- University Bridge Fire: 3 days

### notifynow

notifynow continued to strengthen the community's access to timely emergency information, with 82,673 businesses and residences registered to receive alerts. The program's success was strengthened by the support of gold sponsors Saputo and ERCO, whose contributions play an important role in elevating public safety awareness across the community. Additionally, during Emergency Preparedness Week in May, a system-wide notifynow test message was issued successfully, demonstrating the reliability and readiness of the notification platform.

## **Training**

EMO delivered Incident Command System (ICS) training to strengthen response readiness across the corporation and partner agencies. A total of 43 participants completed ICS training, including 21 internal staff from City departments and 22 external participants from agencies including the RCMP, Ministry of Environment, Saskatchewan Health Authority, YXE Airport Fire Department, SaskPower, SaskEnergy and Prince Albert Grand Council.

EMO also delivered two trauma-informed training sessions, reaching 58 staff and partners in October and 66 in May. These sessions equipped participants with the knowledge and skills to strengthen organizational capacity, build resilience, and integrate trauma-aware principles into emergency response operations.

## **Vehicle Management and Security**

Corporate Security introduced long range RFID (NEaders and vehicle tags for authorized City fleets, including snowplows, graders, and Saskatoon Fire Department apparatus, to improve access efficiency at City Yards and Fire facilities equipped with this technology. NEDAP enhances operational readiness by enabling seamless, hands-free access to secured sites. Vehicles can enter directly through equipped gates without stopping or maneuvering large apparatus close to card readers, reducing congestion, wait times, and access friction at critical facilities. This approach maintains strong site security while supporting safer, more efficient movement of emergency and heavy equipment .

## **ID Cards**

Corporate ID cards play an essential role in maintaining secure and efficient access across City facilities. Serving as a standardized form of identification for employees and authorized personnel, ID Cards support safe entry, streamline movement within workspaces and reinforce the City's commitment to Safety in All We Do. In 2025, Corporate Security processed 3863 ID Card requests.

## **Industry Involvement**

Corporate Security continued to strengthen its industry presence and professional partnerships through active engagement in national, provincial and community events. The Corporate Security team organized the Canadian Municipal Security Leaders Meeting in Toronto, bringing together 35 representatives from municipalities across the country for a hybrid knowledge-sharing forum. Corporate Security also contributed to the CPWA Public Works Saskatchewan Chapter conference, collaborating with SaskTel to highlight emerging technology advancements in the sector. In addition, the Security Operations Specialist supported future workforce development by participating in the WITT Young Women's Conference at SaskPolytechnic, providing Grade 8 students from Saskatoon and surrounding communities with hands-on exposure to careers in trades and technology.

## NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS

### Saskatoon Support for Northern Evacuations

In 2025, Saskatoon played a critical role in hosting large-scale northern evacuations during one of Saskatchewan's most severe wildfire seasons. The scale and complexity of the response required activation of the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and a coordinated, multi-agency effort to support evacuees arriving from more than 13 northern communities. Saskatoon hosted more than 8,000 of the 15,000 people evacuated.

The EOC activation included multiple City departments and external partners, including the Canadian Red Cross, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Public Safety Canada, Saskatoon Public Library, Discover Saskatoon, Saskatoon Police Service and Central Urban Métis Nation (CUMFI). These partnerships ensured evacuees had access to shelter, registration, health services, recreation and culturally appropriate supports.

First Nations leadership played a key role throughout the response. Representatives from evacuated communities held Command positions within the EOC coordination, working alongside partners to identify needs, support community-specific planning and advocate for appropriate services for their members. Many of these individuals were also experiencing evacuation themselves.

At the request of the Canadian Red Cross, the City activated Cosmo Civic Centre as a Red Cross Reception Centre. The site supported evacuee registration, health services, recreation and inter-agency coordination. It served as a central hub for evacuation support and demonstrated the importance of adaptable civic facilities during large-scale emergencies.

Throughout this event, Saskatoon residents supported evacuees through donations to the Saskatoon Community Foundation and the Saskatoon United Way. These funds helped provide recreational opportunities for evacuees, with remaining funds available to support future needs.

### PiT Count

EMO developed and implemented the Incident Command System (ICS) structure for the City's Point-in-Time Count on October 16, deploying staff alongside Command 9 to support operations throughout the event. EMO filled key command roles, including Safety Officer, Operations Section Chief and Planning Section Chief, contributing to a well-coordinated and effectively managed event. With the help of over 250 volunteers, the count identified 1,931 individuals in Saskatoon experiencing homelessness.

### World Series Activation

In October, the potential for large public gatherings associated with Games 6 and 7 of the World Series and Halloween posed an increased risk of community disruption. To ensure operational readiness, EMO activated the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in coordination with the Saskatoon Police Service and the Saskatoon Fire Department. Mobile Command 9 was deployed to act as the Municipal EOC. This activation included advance planning and coordination with key partners, including Saskatoon Fire, Saskatoon Police, Saskatoon Transit, Transportation, Construction and Design, Medavie Health Services and the University of Saskatchewan. Although large scale celebrations did not occur, the planning and coordination efforts enhanced inter agency preparedness and underscored the City's commitment to proactive business continuity and public safety.

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT & SAFETY

Staff Development & Safety (SD&S) plays a critical role in supporting the SFD's frontline personnel by delivering high-quality training that promotes skill, professionalism and operational excellence. With safety as a foundational priority, all training is designed to address the inherent risks associated with emergency response.

SD&S is responsible for research and development, training delivery and the coordination of specialized programs within Operations. These specialty areas include Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Water Rescue and Dive, Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) and Technical Rescue.

In addition to operational programming, SD&S plays a vital role in delivering ongoing training for Community Risk Reduction. This work supports proactive risk reduction, public education and regulatory compliance. It includes training for frontline personnel and continued development for officers.

## SPECIALTY PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



### EMS

SD&S successfully recertified 148 firefighter/paramedics and 60 medical first responders. Members are cross-trained across specialty programs to strengthen operational readiness, safety and effectiveness during complex incidents.



### Hazmat

All firefighters maintain foundational HazMat training, supported by a dedicated team of 40 HazMat technicians, providing a highly capable and coordinated response to hazardous materials incidents.



### Surface Water Rescue

The SFD maintains a team of 56 Surface Water Rescue Technicians trained to respond to river and water emergencies. This includes 11 sonar operators qualified to deploy advanced underwater search technology.



### Dive Program

The SFD Dive Team consists of 14 specialists selected from the Surface Water Rescue program. Divers complete advanced public safety diving training, including operations in low visibility bodies of water, night conditions and ice environments.



### Technical Rescue

The Technical Rescue Team comprises 36 technicians trained in low- and high-angle rope rescue, confined space entry, trench rescue, heavy urban search and rescue (HUSAR), and advanced vehicle extrication.

# HIGHLIGHTS



## Live Fire Dynamics

The 2025 Live Fire Dynamics program delivered thirteen comprehensive three-day courses at the Regional Training Facility, providing members with realistic, evidence-based live fire training gaining experience and understanding of fire behavior and improving interior fire attack methods under NFPA 1403-compliant conditions. Member engagement, professionalism, and the sharing of operational experiences were key contributors to the success of each session. In total, the program accounted for 1,800 FSI/OSI hours and 2,160 student hours, with 112 Operations members successfully completing the training.



## Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Training

The SFD continues to strengthen its capacity to respond to the potential risks of wildland urban interface fires, which occur where developed areas meet natural vegetation. As the city grows and weather patterns change, these incidents are becoming an increasing concern for many communities.

In response, SD&S partnered with the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) to host the Responding to the Interface (RTI) training program in September 2025. This comprehensive course equipped firefighters with the skills needed to safely and effectively manage WUI incidents through online modules, classroom instruction and hands-on field training. The program also certified 16 new RTI instructors for the SFD, strengthening the fire service’s long-term regional capacity and enabling future in-house training.

## Interoperability

The Technical Rescue Team engaged in regular interoperability exercises with the Saskatoon Police Service Tactical Response Unit to promote coordination, clear communication and integrated command during complex, high-risk incidents. Similarly, the Hazardous Materials Team partnered with the CLAN Lab Response Team for joint training and response planning, emphasizing unified procedures, rigorous safety protocols and strong inter-agency collaboration.

## Community Partners

The Hazardous Materials Team collaborated with external agencies and community partners to strengthen site-specific preparedness, enhance hazard awareness and improve coordinated response capabilities. Key initiatives included joint planning and operational familiarization with the Saskatoon Water Treatment Plant, Synovus Energy, Maple Leaf Foods, the Federated Co-op Grocery Warehouse, St. Paul's Hospital and Cameco. These partnerships support effective incident response and reinforce a shared commitment to safety and resilience across the community.

## Hours of Training

The training activities at SD&S represent the SFD's commitment to operational excellence and readiness. The following summary reflects the time and effort invested in equipping SFD's teams with the skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively.

Type of Training	Hours Delivered
Operations	3200
EMS	2086
Hazmat	140
Water Response	854
Community Risk Reduction & Fire Community Support	602
Technical Rescue	504
Fire Officer	1700

# COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Community Risk Reduction & Community Relations strengthen public safety by building meaningful community partnerships and reducing fire-related risks across Saskatoon. Through interactions with residents and local partners, the various Community Relations teams build trust by responding to the community, supporting those in need and reinforcing the SFD's role in creating safer, healthier neighbourhoods.

Complementing this work, the Community Risk Reduction team promotes safety through education, inspections, enforcement and fire investigations. Operating under municipal, provincial and federal legislations, inspectors and investigators work throughout the city to ensure compliance, provide technical expertise and help prevent life and property loss through proactive risk reduction.

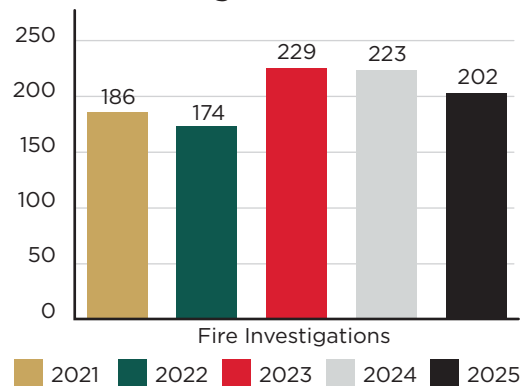
## HIGHLIGHTS

### Inspections & Investigations

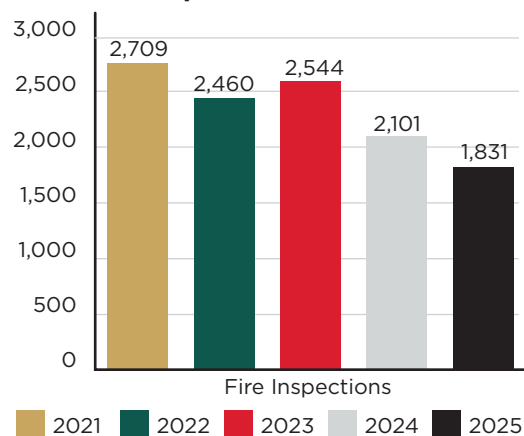
Fire investigations determine the cause and origin of fires and involve working with the Saskatoon Police Service when arson is suspected. Investigation findings are reported to the Saskatchewan Fire Commissioner and help shape public education and safety messages based on identified risks and emerging trends.

Fire inspections identify whether buildings are meeting required fire-safety standards, including the maintenance of extinguishers, fire alarms, sprinkler systems, hydrants, and specialized equipment. When hazards or deficiencies are found, inspectors can issue orders, tickets, or pursue prosecution for non-compliance.

**Fire Investigations 2021-2025**



**Fire Inspections 2021-2025**



## Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement

CRR enforces Property Maintenance & Nuisance Abatement Bylaw 8175, which sets minimum standards for safe and healthy living conditions and addresses concerns that may affect the well-being of people and their properties.

When a property maintenance concern is issued, Fire Bylaw Inspectors respond based on priority, addressing issues that range from immediate risks to public safety, to moderate hazards that could cause injury or property damage, to low-risk concerns that primarily create nuisances.

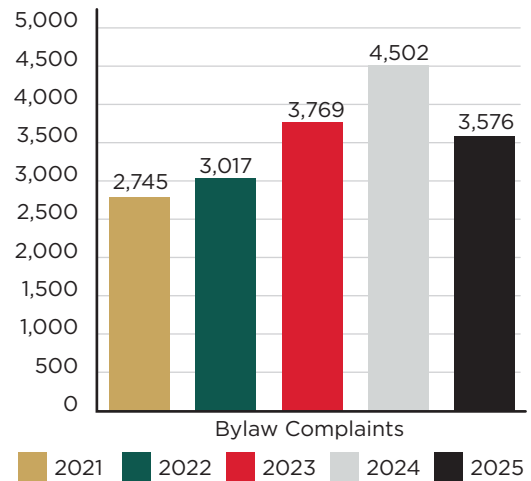
As demand on the Community Risk Reduction team continues to rise, capacity pressures are becoming more evident. Growing service demands, competing priorities, and increased operational complexities have contributed to backlogs in both bylaw complaints and annual fire inspections. Key factors include:

- Increasing encampment activity continues to draw significant resources, contributing to delays in addressing property maintenance and bylaw files.
- A priority-based approach is essential, allowing teams to address higher-risk bylaw concerns ahead of lower-risk complaints.
- City growth is expanding the number of buildings requiring annual fire inspections, outpacing current Fire Inspector capacity.
- Tracking and completing inspections across all occupancy types remains challenging as the volume of required annual inspections continues to grow.

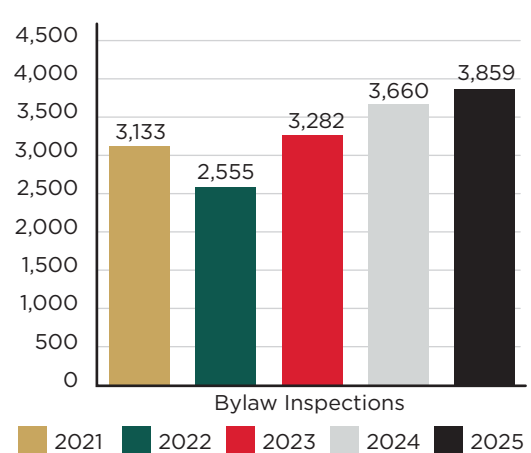
## Enforcement

Orders issued under property maintenance and fire code requirements focus on correcting conditions that could compromise safety, structural integrity or the overall upkeep of buildings. Complementary enforcement under Bylaws 8175 and 7790 help resolve nuisance conditions and fire-related hazards, reinforcing community expectations for well-maintained properties and fostering a safer, more welcoming community.

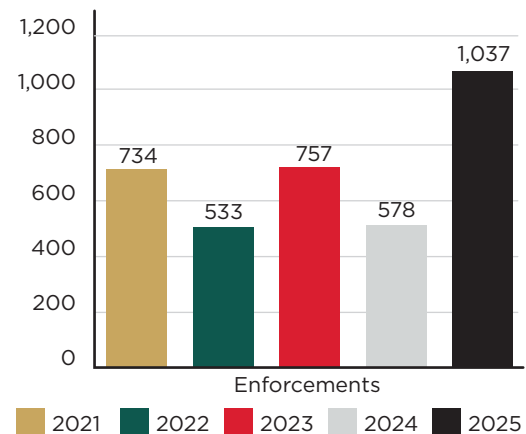
**Bylaw Complaints 2021-2025**



**Bylaw Inspections 2021-2025**

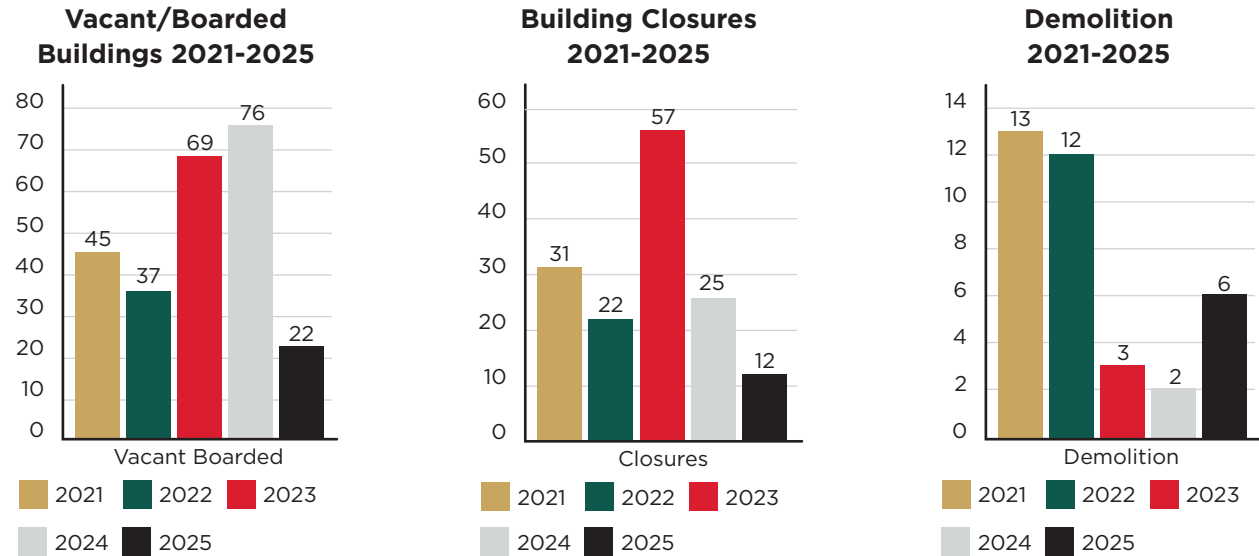


**Enforcements 2021-2025**



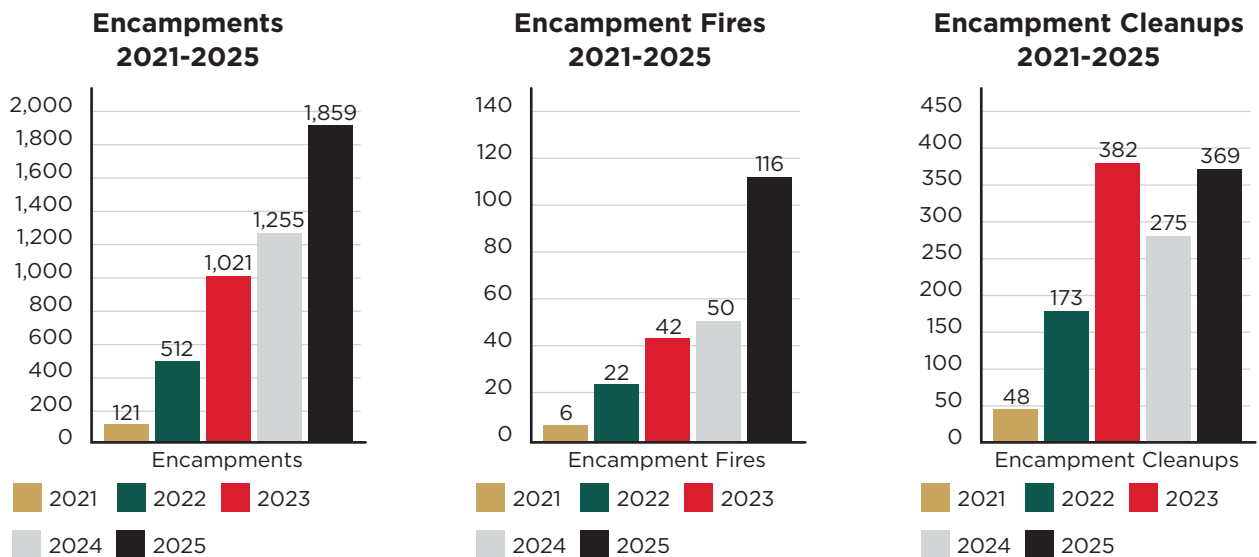
## Vacant/Boarded Buildings and Closures

The number of vacant boarded buildings and closures reached its lowest point since 2019. This positive trend reflects stronger property compliance, supported by Fire Prevention’s continued emphasis on education, enforcement and collaborative problem-solving with property owners. Wherever possible, the team focuses on maintaining existing housing stock rather than issuing closures, helping keep more homes safe, stable and livable.



## Encampments

The SFD Encampment Strategy supports community members living in unsafe or inadequate housing such as accessory buildings, vacant or boarded structures and makeshift shelters commonly referred to as encampments. Fire inspectors work collaboratively with community partners to identify hazards, offer safety information and connect individuals to supports whenever possible, helping create safer options for those experiencing homelessness.



## Fire Community Support

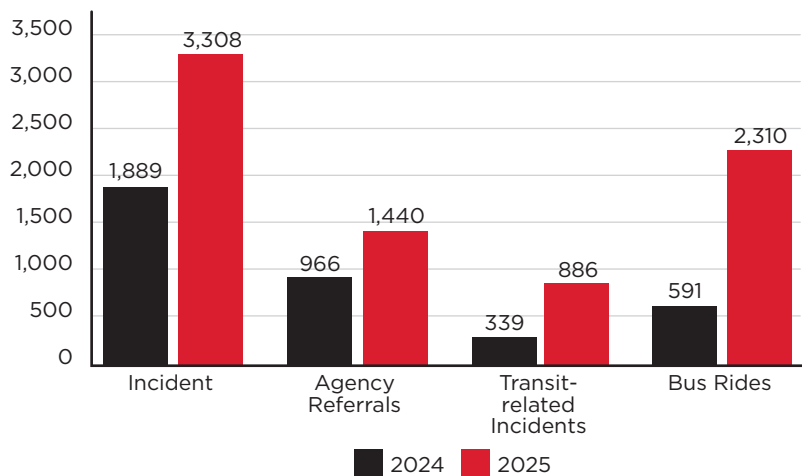
Fire Community Support (FCS) provides proactive support to Saskatoon Transit and the downtown Business Improvement Districts through seven-day-a-week coverage. FCS teams conduct foot and vehicle patrols, ride transit, and respond to non-criminal, non-emergent calls, including wellness checks, assisting individuals in distress, mediation, minor disturbances and reports of suspicious activity. By building strong relationships with community members and partner agencies, FCS helps enhance public safety while reducing the need for police, fire and ambulance response.

Through this collaborative approach, FCS and community partners are able to resolve a majority of incidents without police involvement, allowing the Saskatoon Police Service to focus on higher-priority calls while ensuring timely support for low-level social-disorder issues. FCS also assists at EMS and fire incidents when requested, connecting individuals to appropriate services and enabling fire crews to return to service more quickly for priority calls.

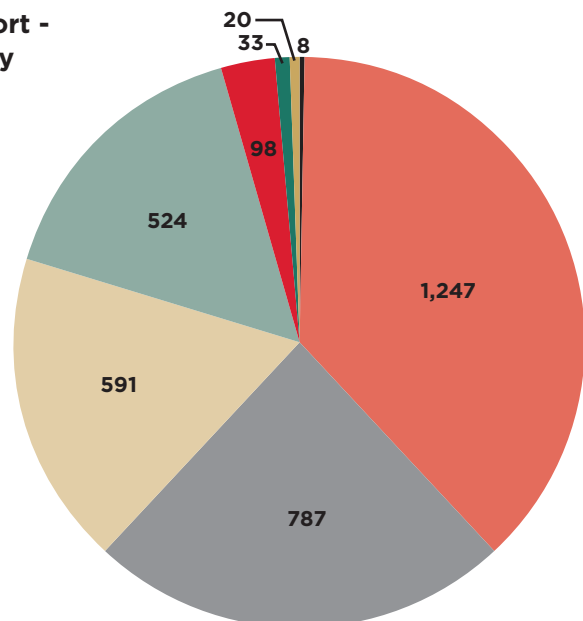
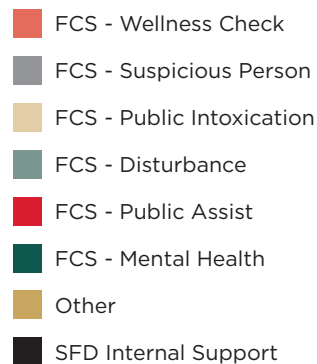
Effective multi-agency coordination, supported through collaboration with EMO's Corporate Security division, has integrated FCS into the City's newly developed tiered response model alongside Transit Supervisors, Commissionaires, and the SPS Alternative Response Officers and Patrol Units. FCS staff conduct data-informed bus rides and patrols to address high-incident routes and maximize visibility and impact. Feedback from bus rider advocacy groups and Transit staff indicates an increased sense of safety due to FCS's presence.

FCS continues to strengthen partnerships across City of Saskatoon divisions through a "One City" approach, aligning resources and efforts to improve community safety and overall well-being.

**Fire Community Support 2025**



**Fire Community Support - Number of Incidents by Type - 2025**



## Fire and Life Safety Presentations

Throughout the year, the SFD delivers Fire and Life Safety presentations to a wide range of audiences, including daycares and preschools, elementary and high schools, community groups, new Canadians and seniors. These sessions cover essential safety topics, from basic fire prevention tips to advanced programs such as Steps to Safety, as well as hands-on training in CPR and AED use. By engaging with diverse groups across the city, these presentations empower residents with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent emergencies and respond effectively when they occur.

## Fire Station Tours

The SFD welcomes community members into its fire stations throughout the year, offering an inside look at the daily operations of firefighters and the equipment used to keep the community safe. These tours provide an engaging, educational experience for groups such as elementary students, high school students and community organizations. Visitors learn about fire prevention, emergency response and the vital role the SFD play in protecting lives and property.

## School Connections

The SFD maintains strong relationships with elementary and high schools across the community, recognizing the importance of engaging with youth. Whether participating in Welcome Week activities, attending career fairs, engaging in a Firestop conversation, or sharing a story during class, the SFD takes every opportunity to connect with students. These interactions allow SFD's members to share their real-life experiences, promote fire and life safety, and inspire future generations to explore the many career paths within emergency services.



## F.I.R.E. Cadets

Through partnerships with the Saskatoon Public School Division and the Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division, the F.I.R.E. (Firefighter Introduction Recruitment Experience) Cadets program offers senior high school students a unique opportunity to engage directly with SFD staff. Delivered as part of each division's work education programming, the initiative introduces students to the fire service through hands-on experience, mentorship and exposure to emergency response operations. The program fosters career exploration, builds foundational skills and strengthens community connections between youth and public safety professionals.

In 2025, the SFD welcomed 15 grade 11 and 12 students into the eight-week F.I.R.E. Cadets program.



## Take Your Kid to Work Day

On November 5, the SFD participated in “Take Your Kid to Work Day,” welcoming 25 Grade 9 students to experience a day in the life of the fire service. SFD members shared their work with their children through hands-on, job-specific activities that showcased the skills and dedication required in emergency services. This annual event continues to strengthen family connections, spark curiosity and inspire the next generation to serve their community.



## Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is a nationally recognized event that commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of October 8, 1871. Each year, the SFD joins fire services across Canada and the United States to promote the annual campaign. The 2025 theme, “Charge into Fire Safety,” focused on educating residents about safely buying, charging and recycling batteries.

Leading up to Fire Prevention Week, the SFD hosted two open houses at Station No. 1 and Station No. 8, and a third open house in partnership with the Saskatoon Airport to promote fire safety within the community. Each event featured fire engine tours, presentations by the Fire Prevention team, tasty treats, fire safety giveaways and opportunities for residents to meet SFD members from across the department.

## SFD Gives Back

In partnership with IAFF Local 80, the SFD finds meaningful ways to give back to the community it serves. Throughout the year, members participate in initiatives that make a difference, such as raising awareness and funds for breast cancer research with the iconic pink fire truck or spreading holiday cheer through Project Christmas Angel, which provides gifts to children and families in need. From charity events to volunteer activities, these programs highlight the SFD’s dedication to supporting the residents of Saskatoon and strengthening the relationships that celebrate the generosity and kindness that define Saskatoon.

## SFD in the Community

The SFD is proud to be an active and visible part of the community it serves. Beyond emergency response, SFD members participate in a wide range of events and initiatives that bring people together and strengthen community connections. From hosting fire station tours and community barbecues to supporting Special Olympics, Pow Wows, and National Indigenous Peoples Day, the department values opportunities to engage with residents in meaningful ways. Whether it's joining parades, organizing youth activities like the SFD Slip N' Slide, or collaborating with local organizations and cultural groups, these efforts reflect the SFD's commitment to building trust, celebrating diversity and showing that public safety is a shared responsibility.



Hosted **49** fire and life safety presentations.



Participated in **77** community events.



Hosted **11** Steps to Safety presentations.



Engaged in **13** youth Fire Stop interventions



Guided **63** fire station tours.



Estimated **28,640** interactions with residents.

# LOGISTICS & FIRE SERVICE TECHNOLOGY

Logistics is a vital part of making sure the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) is always ready to respond when emergencies happen. The team looks after four key areas: maintenance, mechanical, supply chain and information technology.

These areas work together to keep fire stations, vehicles, and equipment in top condition, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Logistics makes sure everything firefighters need is available and reliable, from trucks and tools to protective gear and technology. This support allows crews to focus on what matters most: protecting lives, property and the community.

Beyond day-to-day operations, Logistics also plans for the future. This includes preparing for new fire stations, upgrading equipment and improving systems so the SFD can continue to meet Saskatoon's growing needs.

## OVERVIEW

### Maintenance

Maintenance plays a critical role in keeping equipment, tools, and protective gear in optimal condition. Thousands of specialized items—from medical equipment and HazMat detectors to rescue tools—are procured, serviced and repaired to support emergency operations. The team also manages, tracks and inspects all of SFD's assets to maintain safety and performance standards.



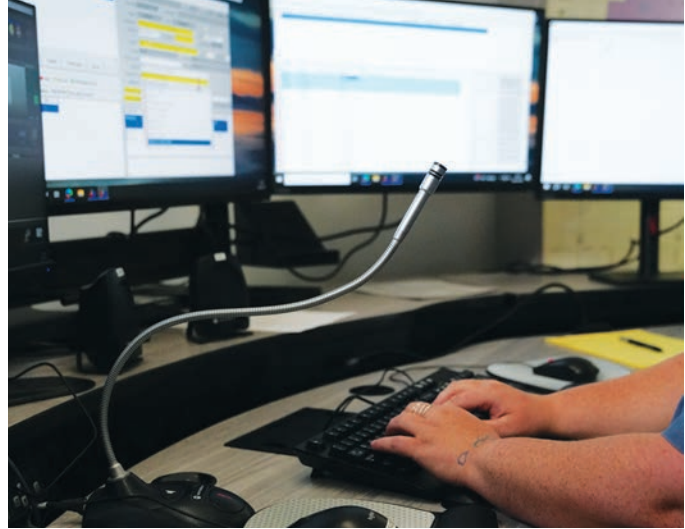
### Mechanical

Mechanical performs preventative maintenance, repairs, and inspections of all apparatus and fleet vehicles to NFPA 19-1-1 standards. This includes 30 fire/emergency apparatus, four boats and 70 fleet vehicles. The team possesses specialized skills and training to conduct advanced diagnostics and repairs associated with maintaining emergency vehicles to ensure operational readiness for the residents of Saskatoon.



## Information Technology

IT provides critical technology support that underpins every aspect of SFD operations. The team oversees technical support for all fire stations, manages Emergency Communications through Central Dispatch, and maintains specialized technology for hazardous materials and water rescue responses. IT also administers a Records Management System, which captures incident information, analyzes data, identifies trends, and delivers reliable reporting to guide operational decisions.



## Supply Chain Management

Supply Chain Management is essential to equipping the SFD for both emergency response and daily operations. The team manages the procurement and distribution of a wide range of critical resources, including medications, EMS supplies, tools and equipment, personal protective gear, mechanical parts for rapid apparatus repair, and uniforms and specialized clothing for all staff.



## HIGHLIGHTS

The Logistics and Fire Service Technology team is essential to sustaining operational readiness and efficiency across the SFD. The small sample of statistics highlight the resources, maintenance efforts and technological support that provide SFD's teams with the resources and systems needed for consistent, reliable response.





Maintenance and repair of **173** Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA).



Manage and supply **470** compressed air cylinders.



Over **1,000** pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) ordered, inspected and fitted for staff.



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

# OUR PEOPLE

The Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) is supported by a workforce that is united by a shared commitment to public safety and service to the community. From emergency responders on the front lines to personnel focused on fire prevention, training, inspections, maintenance, public education and administrative support, each role plays a critical part in the SFD's ability to deliver reliable, effective services to residents across Saskatoon and surrounding communities.

In 2025, the SFD maintained a strong and capable workforce that reflected its operational readiness, commitment to professional development and leadership capacity.

## **Retirements**

- The SFD honoured eight retirements

## **New Hires**

- 1 Corporate Service Continuity Lead
- 7 Fire Bylaw Enforcement
- 5 Fire Community Support
- 1 Mechanic
- 1 Mechanical Supervisor
- 1 Risk Reduction Coordinator (Temporary)
- 1 Overdose Outreach Paramedic (Temporary)
- 1 Physical Security Analyst
- 1 Fire Dispatcher
- 5 Fire Dispatcher (Temporary)

## **Promotions**

- 1 Assistant Chief, Logistics & Fire Service Technology
- 1 Risk Reduction Officer
- 5 Captains
- 5 Lieutenants
- 2 Fire Inspectors

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

## **Helen Perry-Raycraft: Canadian Security Association RA Henderson Award**

Helen Perry-Raycraft of Corporate Security was recognized with the Canadian Security Association (CANASA) R.A. Henderson Award at the association's annual meeting in Toronto. This prestigious award honours individuals who have demonstrated exceptional achievement and made significant contributions to advancing the Canadian security industry.

Helen was recognized for her leadership at the national level, including her work on CANASA's national board, her support of the national scholarship program and her commitment to strengthening professional standards. A respected leader within the Canadian security community, she is also a strong advocate for women in the profession and continues to play a key role in advancing security education and programming in Saskatchewan.



## **Adrian Waskewitch: Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service**

Adrian Waskewitch of Saskatoon Emergency Management was recognized with the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service in recognition of his outstanding service and leadership. Established in 2003, the Premier's Award honours Saskatchewan public servants who demonstrate exceptional commitment to citizen service, excellence, innovation, integrity and teamwork.

Adrian received this distinction for his critical role during the 2025 Spring wildfires, when he was deployed by the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency as a member of the Incident Management Team. Serving as an Information Officer with the Pisew Fire Incident Management Team in La Ronge, Adrian supported wildfire response efforts over a 12-day deployment by coordinating timely and accurate information sharing across multiple fire operations and with a wide range of stakeholders, including First Nations, municipal leaders, provincial officials and the public.

This recognition reflects both Adrian's individual contributions and the vital role public service professionals play in supporting effective emergency response and community safety across Saskatchewan.



## **Fire Under the University Bridge: A One-City Approach**

On January 19, SFD crews responded to a fire beneath the University Bridge. The fire caused significant damage, including a compromised sewer line, a sewage leak and damaged fibre optic lines that disrupted municipal network services.

In the early hours, the Saskatoon Fire Department (SFD) activated Mobile Command 9 and the Emergency Operations Centre to lead incident command. SFD crews and City departments quickly mobilized, working together to contain the fire and prevent further damage.

Despite extreme windchill temperatures reaching  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$  and difficulty accessing the confined space, fire crews successfully extinguished the fire. Meanwhile, City teams managed structural inspections, sewer repairs, environmental cleanup, traffic detours, transit adjustments, and restoration of communication lines. Thanks to these coordinated efforts, the University Bridge partially reopened on January 22 and fully reopened on January 29 following sewer line repairs.

This response exemplifies Saskatoon's One City approach where interdepartmental collaboration across departments ensured public safety and community resilience. The dedication and teamwork demonstrated during this incident reflect the strength of our partnerships and our shared commitment to keeping Saskatoon safe and thriving.

## **The Honour Guard**

The International Association of Fire Fighters' (IAFF) Local 80 Honour Guard serves as an ambassador of the fire service, representing honour, integrity, pride and professionalism.

In May 2025, the team focused on strengthening readiness that included a full review and practice of the Line of Duty Death (LODD) protocol. A well-defined protocol is essential for the many agencies and the people of Saskatoon to honour members who dedicate their life to serving others with dignity, respect and a meaningful tribute.

The Honour Guard also participated in ceremonies throughout the year, including Saskatoon's 94th Remembrance Day Event and the City of Saskatoon Long Service Awards.

The team continued to grow; welcoming new members into a ceremonial unit for maintaining tradition, sustaining capacity and ensuring the Honour Guard can continue its important work for years to come.



**Star Blanket**

The 2025 Saskatoon Tribal Council Pow Wow provided an opportunity to listen and learn from organizational leadership at the Saskatoon Tribal Council and to honour valued friends and community partners. During the event, a Star Blanket was presented to Fire Chief Doug Wegren in recognition of the SFD's dedicated service to the community during the opioid crisis earlier in the spring.



# LOOKING AHEAD

## Fire Stations No. 10 & 11

Fire Station No. 10 will be located on Hunt Road and will enhance emergency coverage in the northwest sector of the city. The station will improve response times and service delivery for Hampton Village, Dundonald, Westview, Confederation Park, Massey Place, Pacific Heights and Kensington.



*Rendering of Fire Station No. 10*

Fire Station No. 11 will be located at Dawes Avenue and will provide enhanced emergency coverage in the southwest sector. This station will improve response times and service delivery for Montgomery Place, Southwest Industrial, Holiday Park, Meadowgreen, West Industrial, Pleasant Hill, King George, Fairhaven, Agpro Industrial, and the CN Yards Management Area.



*Rendering of Fire Station No. 11*

Construction for both stations will begin in 2026 and are expected to open in early 2027.

## New Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD)

In early 2026, Emergency Communications' new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and enhanced software will be fully implemented. The new CAD will enhance SFD's ability to manage incidents and allow for software integration of call-taking protocols. The new system also improves the use of geographical information system (GIS) times, allowing for a more efficient allocation of resources and assets.

# PROUD TO SERVE SASKATOON

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