



City of Chilliwack Fire Department

2012

Annual Report



Mission Statement:

The City of Chilliwack Fire Department will safeguard our community by providing fire prevention and life safety programs and by delivering fire and rescue services. As fire service professionals, we dedicate ourselves to protecting lives, property and the environment in times of emergency or disaster.

Vision Statement:

The Chilliwack Fire Department will be effective, innovative and accountable in its pursuit of public safety and emergency preparedness as we respond to the needs of the community and our organization.

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INTRODUCTION



It is my pleasure to submit the City of Chilliwack Fire Department's Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2012.

The Chilliwack Fire Department responded to 2,260 calls for service in 2012, which resulted in 11 fire related injuries, and fire losses totalling 4.6 million dollars. A major fire event occurred at the Atchelitz B.C. Hydro substation resulting in several hundred thousand dollars of damage, the loss of electricity to a large portion of the community, and the release of a substantial amount of insulating oil onto the property. The fire was successfully brought under control with the aid of neighbouring fire departments and multiple agencies.

The department through its many fire safety and prevention programs was able to engage over 5,800 persons within the community. Fire and life safety programs such as the Juvenile Fire Setter, Fire Safety Classes, Fire Extinguisher Training, Chilliwack Safety Village, National Fire Prevention Week, Fire Hall Tours, Home Smoke Alarms, and Fire and Emergency Preparedness were part of the department's proactive approach to prevent fires and educate the public on how to prepare themselves and their families when disaster strikes. In addition the department is an integral part of the City's Health and Safety Inspection Team working to ensure all residential properties are safe for their tenants and their neighbours.

In 2012, the department's training division focused on firefighter safety, basic firefighting skills for new recruits, and the maintenance of existing firefighting, rescue, and emergency medical aid techniques. The department's extensive training program is responsible for the education and skills maintenance of approximately 155 members, including both career and paid-on call firefighters.

The department is responsible for the planning and training of all aspects of emergency preparedness in the community as well as training and engaging City staff in the planning and management of large scale disasters. Local volunteer support groups such as the Chilliwack Radio Club, Emergency Social Services, and the Chilliwack Search and Rescue organization are crucial to our planning and response to local emergencies.

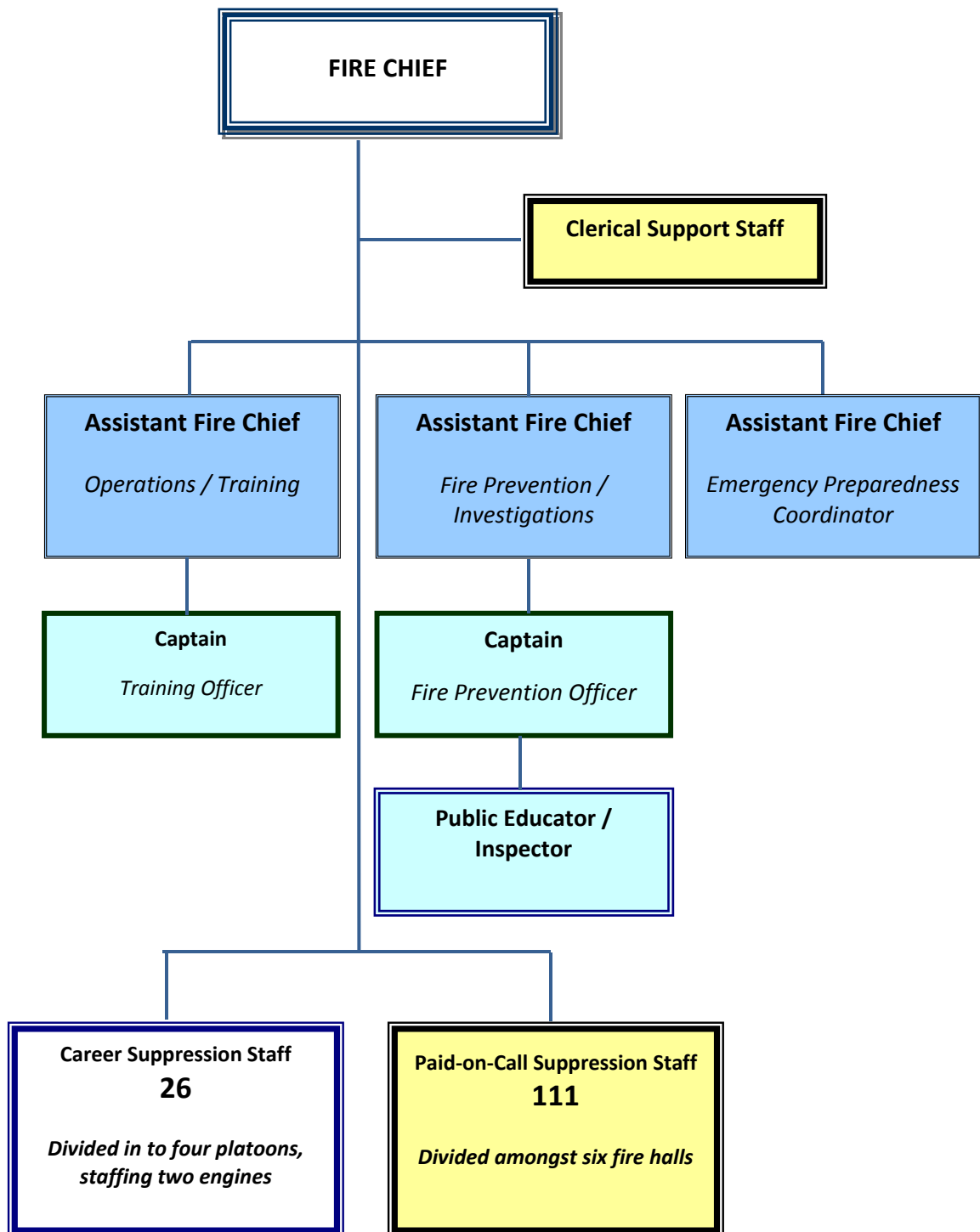
The department was actively involved in many community events and fundraisers. The department's Firefighter Education Fund awarded ten post-secondary financial awards to local high school graduates and the Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society awarded one bursary to a local student to assist with their pursuit of post-secondary education. Our 12th Annual Christmas Food Drive in support of the Salvation Army was our most successful and collected over 20,000 food items and \$2,300 for the local food bank. The members' Charitable Society raised over \$16,000 from calendar sales and participated in several other fundraisers for the B.C. Burn Fund and local charities and causes.

The hard work and dedication of our paid-on call firefighters and the support of their families and employers has been essential to our success as a fire department and we are very grateful for their contribution. Likewise, the hard work and enthusiasm of our career staff have been essential to our high quality of service delivery and together both groups are responsible for providing an efficient and quality fire service for our community.

"Proudly Serving Our Community"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. E. Ryall'.

Fire Chief
R. E. Ryall



PERSONNEL

CAREER PERSONNEL

Fire Chief	1
Administrative Support	1.4
Assistant Chief Operations/Training	1
Assistant Chief Fire Prevention/Investigations	1
Assistant Chief Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	1
Fire Prevention Officer	1
Training Officer	1
Suppression Company Captains	4
Suppression Company Lieutenants	4
Suppression Firefighters	18
Public Educator / Inspector	1
Total	34.4

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Firefighter	Chris Pluhowy	November 2012
Firefighter	Kody Klassen	November 2012

PAID-ON CALL (POC) FIREFIGHTERS, DECEMBER 31, 2012

Hall # 1	33
Hall # 2	14
Hall # 3	13
Hall # 4	28
Hall # 5	9
Hall # 6	14
Total	111

NOTE: In 2012, twenty (20) POC members left the service and eleven (11) new members were recruited.

SUPPRESSION STAFF RATIO:

Paid-on call 81%

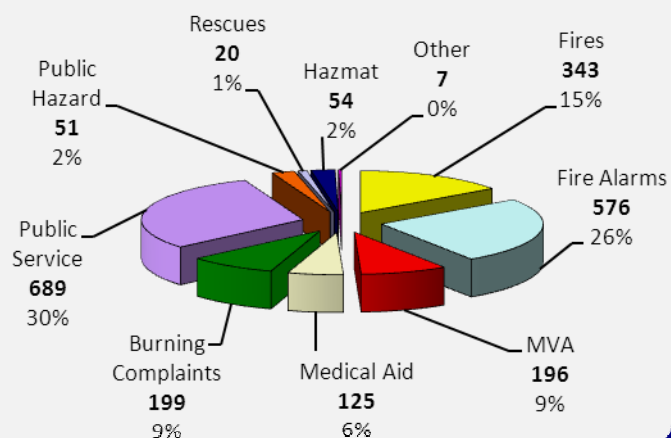


Career 19%



EMERGENCY RESPONSES

2012 Service Calls

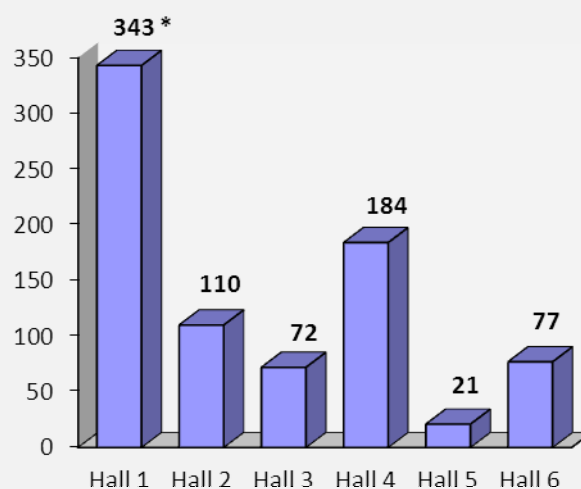


**Structure Fire – No. 3 Road, Yarrow
January 2012**



**Structure Fire – Greenhill Road
November 2012**

2012 Responses by Firehall



* Hall 1 operates several specialized vehicles (rescue, air, ladder) and are called to many fires outside of their coverage area.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

RESPONSES BY TYPE	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Fires	343	270	299	389	357
Emergency Medical Aid	125	123	85	89	70
Fire Alarms	576	558	705	672	696
Motor Vehicle Incident (No fire)	196	211	159	191	181
Burning Complaints	199	211	243	299	264
Public Service	689	633	560	510	482
Public Hazards	51	58	78	62	63
Rescues	20	21	26	19	27
Hazardous Materials	54	58	67	69	86
Mutual Aid and Service Agreements	2	4	4	4	7
PEP Road Rescue (out of area)	5	2	2	3	6
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	2,260	2,149	2,228	2,307	2,239

CAREER ENGINE RESPONSES	2,149	2,088	2,164	2,254	2,172
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POC RESPONSES BY FIRE HALL	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Hall #1, Cheam Avenue	343	291	321	377	345
Hall #2, Rosedale	110	82	108	78	68
Hall #3, Yarrow	72	44	60	52	31
Hall #4, Sardis	184	132	140	139	171
Hall #5, Ryder Lake	21	21	19	17	13
Hall #6, Greendale	77	86	82	94	62
TOTAL	807	656	730	757	690
% POC Response of all calls	36%	31%	33%	33%	31%

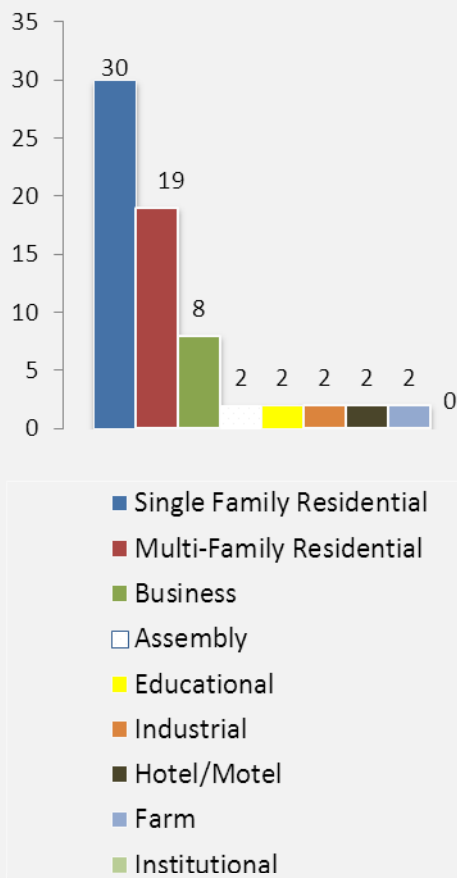
BURNING PERMITS ISSUED	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
General Burning Permits *	1,173	1,310	1,283	1,364	723

* Two burning seasons implemented in 2009 (two months in the spring and two months in the fall.)



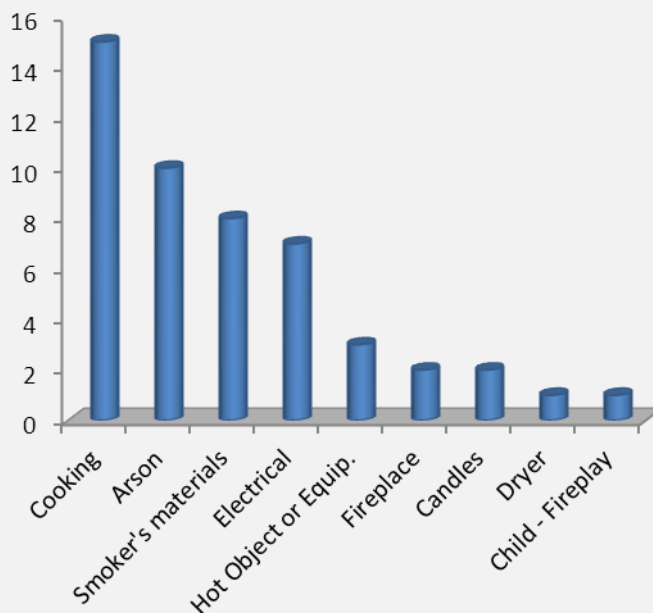
B.C. Hydro Substation Fire
January 2012

Structure Fires Losses by Occupancy Type



CHILLIWACK FIRE TRENDS

Residential Structure Fire Causes



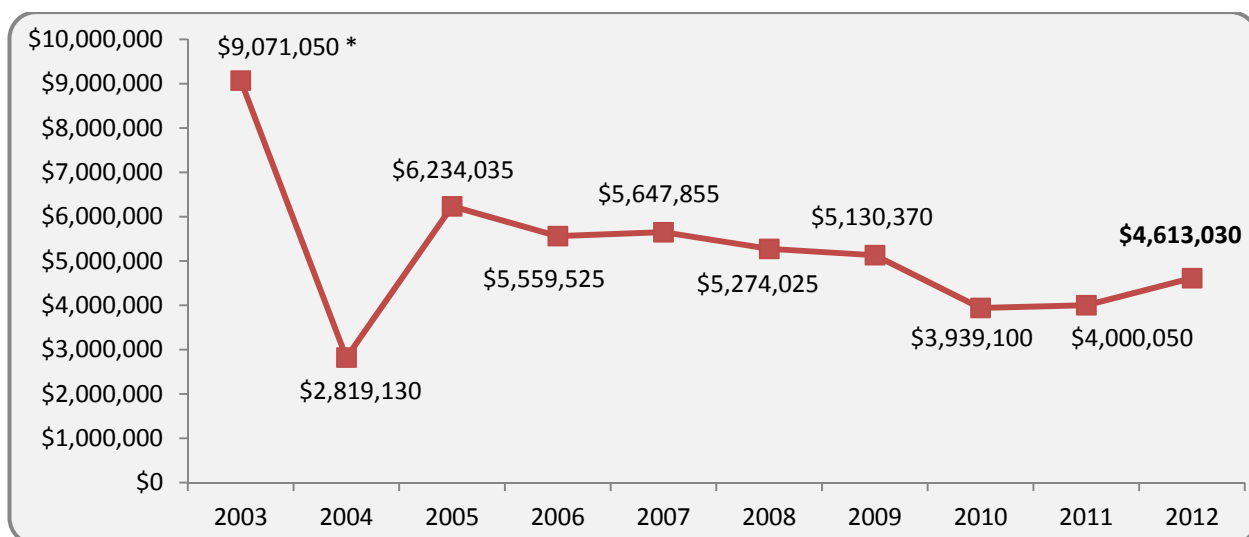
FIRE LOSSES

PER CAPITA FIRE LOSS	2012	\$55.68
	2011	\$48.78
	2010	\$48.25
	2009	\$63.46
	2008	\$65.90
	2007	\$72.30
	2006	\$73.15

FIRE FATALITIES	2012	0
	2011	0
	2010	2
	2009	1
	2008	0
	2007	1
	2006	0

FIRE INJURIES	2012	12	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2011	16	<i>(no firefighter casualties)</i>
	2010	20	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2009	15	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2008	17	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>
	2007	22	<i>(includes 2 firefighters injured at fire scene)</i>
	2006	16	<i>(includes 1 firefighter injured at fire scene)</i>

FIRE LOSSES



* Jamp Pharma Fire, \$4.2 million loss



**Fire Hall Tour, Colouring Contest Winners
October 2012**



**Fire Prevention Week Display, Canadian Tire
October 2012**



**Fire Hall Public Education Tour
June 2012**



**Fire Extinguisher Training
December 2012**

FIRE PREVENTION

FIRE INSPECTIONS	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Business License Applications	217	196	216	215	231
Safety Complaints	34	34	0	11	9
Final Inspections (new buildings)	21	24	28	42	68
Re-Inspections	40	63	59	22	110
Regular Inspections	1,112	989	1,438	1,046	813
Special Inspections	19	52	52	53	28
TOTAL	1,443	1,358	1,793	1,389	1,259

NOTE: There are approximately 2,800 occupancies that require regular fire inspections.

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Health and Safety Inspection Program	22	53	104	125	161

FIRE ALARM UPGRADE PROGRAM

In 2009, the Chilliwack Fire Department started working with building owners to upgrade antiquated fire alarm systems. The program focussed mainly on high life safety risk buildings such as apartments and community care facilities. There are 106 buildings on the upgrade program with 66 buildings having completed this work to date.

HOME SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM

Thirty-seven (37) home smoke alarms were installed.

JUVENILE FIRE SETTER PROGRAM:

Four (4) children and young adults were put through the fire department's juvenile fire setter program, along with their guardians in thirteen separate intervention sessions in an effort to educate them and correct their fire setting behaviour.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Career staff conducted 248 public fire and life safety presentations, fire hall tours and fire extinguisher demonstrations. Over 5,800 persons were provided with fire and life safety education during 2012, including elementary school students at the Chilliwack Safety Village and during Fire Prevention Week.

BURN AWARENESS WEEK, February

Burn prevention information was distributed to all public and private elementary schools in Chilliwack.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, October

Fire Prevention Week included the set up of fire prevention and safety information displays at Chilliwack Home Depot and Canadian Tire. The displays were staffed by career and paid-on call firefighters. An open houses was held at the newly renovated Yarrow fire hall. Fire safety information was broadcast by local radio stations and fire safety articles were published in local newspapers, including the Greenheart News.

*Photos on Pages 11 and 13 are courtesy of Kelly Corbett Photography
www.kellycorbettphotography.com*



Hall 1 Paid-on Call Members

Hall 2 Paid-on Call Members



Hall 3 Paid-on Call Members

BUDGET

ACTUAL OPERATING COSTS	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
(millions)	5.19	4.80	4.77	4.37	3.61
Population estimate	82,842	82,000	81,647	80,838	80,038
Per Capita Cost	\$62.70	\$ 58.54	\$ 58.42	\$54.10	\$45.10

POC WAGES

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Hall #1	\$174,935.64	\$175,904.40	\$ 155,302.81	\$202,258.42	\$ 174,739.82
Hall #2	50,576.15	48,645.25	55,524.00	63,311.16	48,508.74
Hall #3	56,095.60	47,537.57	47,208.93	51,562.46	40,319.89
Hall #4	107,591.67	90,534.83	76,207.41	85,329.37	88,575.73
Hall #5	20,798.14	24,292.77	22,620.94	26,538.49	17,757.84
Hall #6	50,523.25	41,148.06	41,142.12	43,651.66	33,680.16
TOTAL	\$460,520.45	\$ 428,062.88	\$ 398,006.21	\$472,651.56	\$ 403,582.18

POC HOURS WORKED	20,129 hrs	18,950 hrs	18,168 hrs	21,631 hrs	18,687 hrs
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2012 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

Apparatus / Vehicle purchases:

- ◆ Contracted for construction of water tender (\$340,000)
- ◆ Rehabilitation Squad (*delivered in 2012*)
\$ 155,810

Major fire fighting equipment purchases:

- \$ 65,000
- ◆ Firefighter turnout gear
- ◆ AED



Rehabilitation Squad



Hall 4 Paid-on Call Members

Hall 5 Paid-on Call Members



Hall 6 Paid-on Call Members

EMERGENCY FIRE FIGHTING APPARATUS

	No.	Apparatus	Year	Capacity
Hall 1	246	Engine 1	2010	1050 IGPM
	252	Engine 1-1	2001	1050 IGPM
	267	Engine 1-2	1991*	1250 IGPM
	270	Engine 1-3	1995	1050 IGPM
	247	Ladder 1	2008	1750 IGPM
	260	Tender 1	2003	2500 / Gal
Hall 2	264	Engine 2-1	1994	1050 IGPM
	255	Engine 2-2	1990*	1050 IGPM
Hall 3	297	Engine 3-1	1998	1050 IGPM
	276	Engine 3-2	1986*	1050 IGPM
Hall 4	280	Engine 4	2006	1050 IGPM
	298	Engine 4-1	1999	1050 IGPM
	289	Engine 4-2	1993*	1500 IGPM
	253	Tender 4	2001	2500 / Gal.
Hall 5	290	Engine 5-1	2006	250 IGPM
	250	Engine 5-2	1997	840 IGPM
Hall 6	256	Engine 6-1	1995	1050 IGPM
	292	Engine 6-2	1984*	1050 IGPM

* Firefighting apparatus more than 20 years old.

NOTE: The average age of the 2012 Chilliwack fire apparatus fleet is 14.4 years.

Squads	251	Rescue 1	2010	Heavy Rescue
	272	Air 1	1997	Air Supply
	296	Air 4	1995	Air Supply
	239	Rehab 6	2012	Rehabilitation
Antique Fire Vehicle	281	Ford	1940	Rosedale Ceremonial Vehicle



POC Live Fire Training, March 2012
Photo Courtesy of Ian Wills



POC Recruit Graduation, March 2012



Decontamination Training, June 2012



Hall 3 Monday Night Practice, July 2012



**Module 8 (Fire Control) Training, Langley
November 2012**



**Career Live Fire Training, JIBC Maple Ridge
December 2012**

TRAINING

FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

The Chilliwack Fire Department had a very busy and successful training year. This year's focus was on the development of our own in-house instructors in support of several training programs. New instructors were trained in a number of disciplines including the new Red Cross First Responder Program to support our pre-hospital care program. Several career firefighters attended JIBC Fire Academy courses to become certified as instructors, as well as vehicle rescue Instructors and evaluators.

Weekly Monday night practices for POC firefighters were as busy as ever, and covered many disciplines and skill sets used in firefighting, rescue and pre-hospital medical care. The winter months focused on pre-hospital care including CPR and AED; with all fire halls now having at least one AED on their engines. The spring and summer months focused on water supply operations and fire attack training. In the fall the training focused on vehicle fires, extrication and rescue and on managing larger fire hose streams, making use of two acquired residential structures. Eleven POC firefighters graduated from our four month recruit training program in March.

The department participated in many programs outside the community to further enhance and supplement our firefighter training programs. Paid-on-call fire officers participated in the Township of Langley and the Maple Ridge Fire Department POC Fire Officer Program. The department has participated in this program for the last 15 years, enrolling our newly selected POC fire officers into this five month long program. The program continues to show its worth through the growth and development of our POC fire officers. Five firefighters attended the Abbotsford Fire Rescue training facility and participating in the Air Brake training course in preparation to become a driver/operator. The department worked with the neighbouring fire departments of Agassiz and Popkum in preparation for mutual aid events.

Career firefighters continue to train and hone their skills through participation in both in-house and contracted training programs. Contracted training included a joint confined space training drill at the Sewage Treatment Plant with City staff. Computer software training was also provided to several staff members and career fire officers attended the JIBC professional speaker series on Leadership delivered by Fire Chief Dennis Compton and Deputy Chief Neil Heinze from the USA. The two newly hired career firefighters completed their initial recruit camp training led by Training Officer Captain Meeres in October and November. Two career firefighters participated in the City's sponsored PIECES program and others were enrolled in the JIBC Fire Officer 2 program and most career firefighters spent a full day of live fire training at the JIBC Fire Training Center in Maple Ridge.

Chief Officers attended their annual conferences and workshops, Assistant Chief Josephson attended the PIECES program and officers attended several leadership seminars. Administrative staff attended at a professional writing course and participated in Fire Department Management software training.

The department commenced planning for development of a fire training center for teaching both practical and technical skills required by firefighters. The center may also provide other City departments with training space and opportunities. The department will partner with public utilities in the training center through donations of props and equipment. Such a training center within the community would allow for less travel by Chilliwack firefighters to training sites and increase training opportunities for Chilliwack firefighters and City staff.



2012 Fraser River Freshet Event



**Emergency Operations Centre
Training Exercise**



**Grand Opening – Renovated Fire Hall 3, Yarrow
October 2012**

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

CHILLIWACK EMERGENCY PROGRAM

2012 was a good year in regards to accessing external financial support for the Chilliwack Emergency Program. A federal JEPP grant was approved to assist in developing our alternate Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). This second EOC received upgrades including enhanced emergency communications, as well as interactive display boards.

Personal preparedness presentations were delivered to a variety of participants ranging from neighbourhood organizations, to community service organizations, service clubs, city employees, and members of the general public.

The 2012 Fraser River Freshet resulted in several properties, outside the diking system, affected by high water. Some of these properties were protected by a community built berm which ultimately failed. Therefore, some residences needed to be protected by sand bag dikes. The protective measures were coordinated by property owners, public volunteers, and city employees. This continued community effort spoke to our local capacity in times of need. City staff members also assisted some of the affected residents by conducting water quality sampling on wells that were contaminated by flood waters.

Public lifeline volunteers displayed their continued commitment to assist community members in their time of need. The Emergency Social Services team provided basic food, clothing, and shelter needs to people displaced from their homes by fires. Seven structure fires resulted in the need to care for 28 evacuees resulting in a total of 29 volunteer hours. Our emergency communicators continued to develop our EOC radio room by bringing in new technology as well as many new members. Chilliwack Search and Rescue attended to 76 emergency incidents as well as attending regular meetings, conducting ongoing equipment maintenance activities and taking part in skills training sessions. The 20 active volunteer members gave a total of over 3,000 hours of their time towards responding to emergency calls as well as a further 2,500 hours to meetings, maintenance and training.

The success of the City of Chilliwack Emergency Program is due to a collaborative effort with a broad representation from various agencies and groups as listed below.

Departmental representatives from the City of Chilliwack, First Nations' Communities RCMP, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Emergency Management BC, BC Ambulance Service, Fraser Health Authority, Chilliwack Search and Rescue, Emergency Social Services, Chilliwack Amateur Radio Club, School District 33, First Nations' Emergency Services Society, Salvation Army, Abbotsford Emergency Program, FVRD Emergency Program, Chilliwack Society for Community Living as well as a couple of members from the general public.





**Local Government Awareness Week
May 2012**



**Presentation of Bursary, July 2012
Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society**



**Presentation of "Pennies for Tots" – Envision Financial
Chilliwack Firefighters Charitable Society**



**Salvation Army Food Drive
December 2012**



WHAT OTHERS HAD TO SAY

February 2012

"Again, I need to say thank you. Last month you answered a shrieking smoke alarm call late on a snowy night, and with your usual large, calm competence put the situation right. I feel more secure knowing you are there."

Resident, Hazel Street, Chilliwack

February 2012

"Coast Hotels & Resorts and the staff at the Coast Chilliwack Hotel are extremely grateful for the prompt action by the fire department and thankful that no one was injured. Your team was outstanding and was able to act swiftly and effectively. The fire was quickly extinguished and the hotel incurred minimal damage."

*Joey Beltrano, General Manager
Coast Chilliwack Hotel*

March 2012

"Thank you so very much for blowing out the smoke from my house when my magic bag caught on fire."

Resident, Coachlamp Drive, Chilliwack

March 2012

"On Tuesday March 6th and Tuesday March 13th, the cadets of 147 Airwolf Squadron had the pleasure of working with three of your staff members. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for giving up their evenings to impart upon our youth not only the importance of having and maintaining a fire extinguisher, but also the essential skill of knowing when and how to use one."

147 Airwolf Squadron Parent Society

March 2012

"Thanks for all your help; Good job you guys; Thank you for a job well done; The world sure could use more people like you."

Residents, City of Chilliwack

March 2012

"On behalf of the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund Bright Nights Committee, thank you for your continued support of Bright Nights. We extend our sincerest appreciation for your involvement in supporting your firefighters to participate this year and we hope you will choose to support this event in 2012/2013."

*Ray Boucher, Chair, Bright Nights Committee
Coquitlam Fire Fighters Local 1782*

WHAT OTHERS HAD TO SAY (continued)

August 2012

"On behalf of my wife and I, please accept our gratitude and heartfelt thanks for the response and fantastic job done by the responding fire personnel. The residents of Chilliwack can be proud knowing that the Chilliwack fire personnel are second to none in their professionalism, skills and work ethic. We will be forever grateful."

Residents, City of Chilliwack

August 2012

"In the early morning hours of Tuesday July 31, the brave men of the Chilliwack Fire Department – Fire Hall No. 4 Sardis, saved my family's home from near destruction, and we thank them all from the bottom of our hearts. The efforts, sacrifice, and precision in which this group of men performed needs to be recognized and that's what I'm doing here. Thanks to every single one of you, your efforts have not gone unnoticed."

Resident, The Woods at Garrison Crossing, Chilliwack

October 2012

"Today we had Lisa Axelson out to do some fire extinguisher training for our staff. She did a great job and I wanted to send you our thanks for the quality fire training available for Chilliwack businesses. The opportunity to have our staff take part in hands on training made for some exciting education and helped to "extinguish" staff anxiety toward the use of our building's fire equipment."

General Manager, Chartwell Seniors Housing REIT

November 2012

"Thank you for your generous donation of the Christmas Light Setup for our 9th Annual November Night Gala. Your generous support of Chilliwack Hospice Society helps to provide excellence in hospice care to Chilliwack."

Executive Director, Chilliwack Hospice Society

CHILLIWACK FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE FACTS

Did you know that in Chilliwack during 2012:

- ▽ 50 (73%) of the 67 structure fires occurred in residential buildings;
- ▽ 30 (60%) of the 50 residential fires occurred in single family homes;
- ▽ Leading causes of fires during the year were:
 - Cooking
 - Intentionally set (arson)
 - Smoking materials
 - Electrical related
- ▽ \$3.9 million (85%) of the total \$4.6 million dollar loss occurred from residential fire losses;
- ▽ All 12 fire related injuries occurred at residential fires;
- ▽ There were 49 dollar loss vehicle fires;
- ▽ There were 34 dumpster/recycling bin fires;
- ▽ There were 199 burning complaint calls;
- ▽ Residential and commercial fire alarm system activations accounted for 576 (25%) total calls for service.

