



BRANDON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

2014

ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the staff of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES) it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2014 Annual Report.

2014 was a very busy year for our department with some significant changes within the EMS services. Due to changes in MB Health's procedures, we have started to respond to calls further outside of Brandon as well as transfer patients to and from more rural hospitals.

The Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund approved our application for a grant in the generous amount of \$5,000. We were able to purchase specialized equipment which will aid in administering medications and fluids in serious medical emergencies.

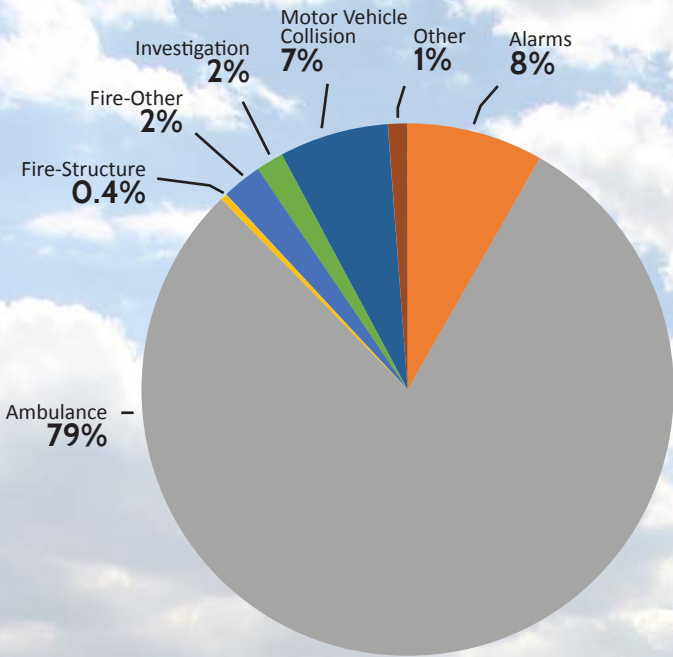
Our department participated in training for the Ebola outbreak, as well as training on how to handle train derailments where large amounts of oil are being transported.

We hope you find the 2014 Annual Report interesting and informative. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

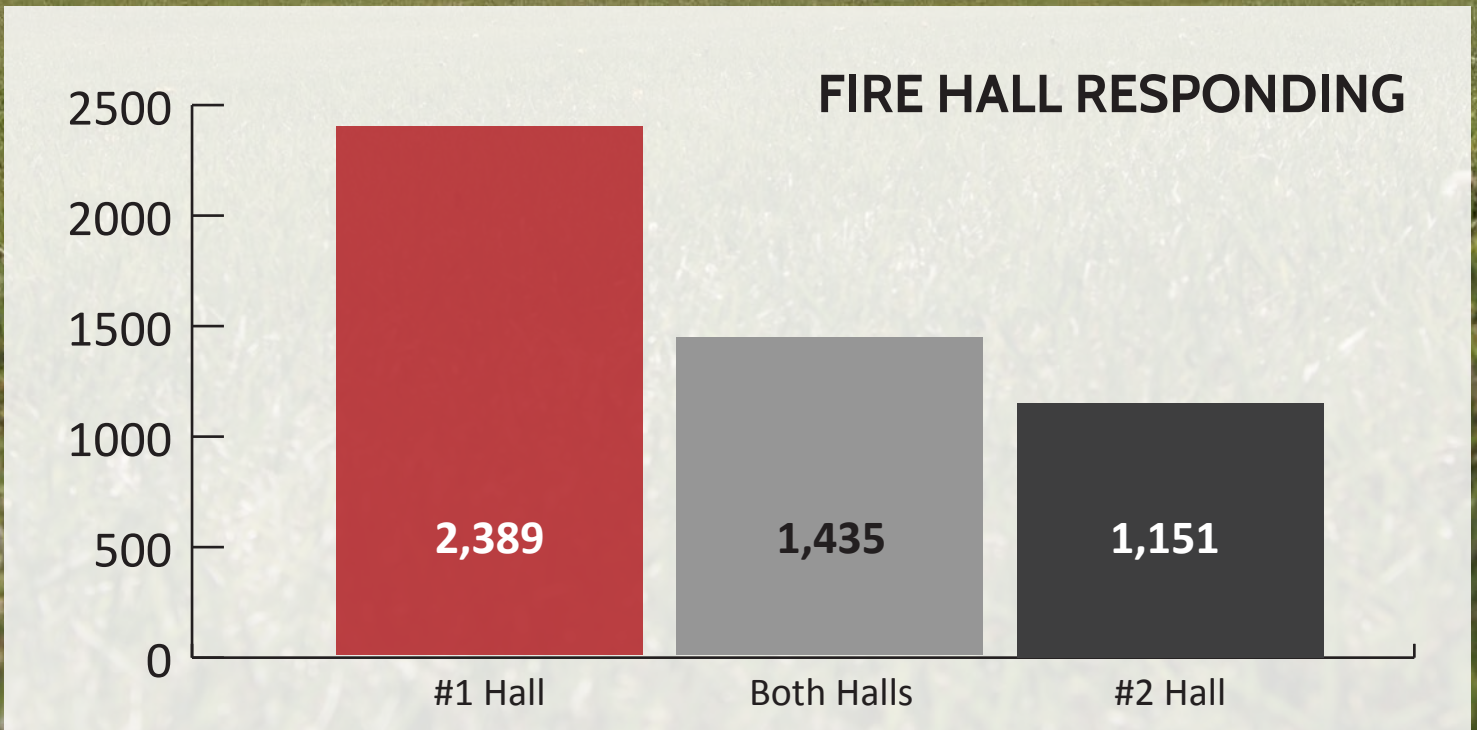


>> Brent Dane, Fire Chief

BY THE NUMBERS



TYPE OF INCIDENT	No.
Alarms	411
Ambulance	3951
Fire - Structure	20
Fire - Other	121
Investigation	83
Motor Vehicle Collision	330
Other	59
Total	4975



HISTORY

» Something to Note

The Archives Committee continues giving tours of the #1 Fire Hall the second Tuesday of each month. The committee consists of retired Brandon firefighters who provide extra insight to the historical display. Between them and our current staff, 145 tours of the Hall were provided to 1,384 people.



Bickle

In 1929, a Bickle fire truck was ordered for our department for the sum of \$11,000. 90 days later, in April 1930, it was delivered to the hall. This unit stayed in service until 1966. One of the new advancement features was that it upgraded from a 6 volt battery system to a 12 volt system which was a significant improvement. Today it is proudly on display in our museum at the #1 Fire Hall.

In comparison, in 2014 we ordered a new fire truck which took 12 months to build at a cost of \$520,000. One new upgrade for this fire truck is that it has a fully computerized operation as opposed to levers.

STAFF CHANGES

Promotions

Scott McDonald	Sept. 29	Deputy Chief
Marc Lefebvre	Sept. 22	Training Officer
Terry Parlow	Dec. 10	Lieutenant
Terry Browett	Dec. 18	Acting Lieutenant II
Lance Dornn	Nov. 22	Acting Lieutenant II

New Hires

Trevor Bell	Jan. 2
Matthew Tannas	Jan. 6
Tyler Robbins	Jan. 6

Retirements

Brad MacKay	Aug. 8	26 years of service
Steve Romanik	Nov. 4	35 years of service
Dennis Benson	Dec. 31	9 years of service

» Something to Note

Thirty-two of the sixty staff have achieved their Advanced Cardiac Life Support level, allowing them to administer cardiac drugs. This affords the patient the best chance to survive cardiac emergencies before reaching the hospital.

All 60 of our firefighters are also trained as paramedics.

FIRE PREVENTION

Fire Pit Permits

All outdoor fire pits require a permit. Permit applications can be obtained from our website at www.brandonfire.ca or hard copies are available at both fire halls. Completed applications can be delivered to either fire hall. An inspection of the proposed fire pit must be conducted prior to use.

Some Rules to Remember:

1. Fires must be supervised at all times;
2. Cannot be indoors or on balconies;
3. Only seasoned wood or charcoal can be burned;
4. Fire must be extinguished if there is unreasonable interference to others' property;
5. Must be on a flat, level base;
6. Each fire pit must have a 1.5m clearance from any property line, building or other structure.



» Something to Note

There are 1,103 fire pits that we have issued permits for in the City. 87 of these were in 2014.

FIRE



Courtesy of The Brandon Sun

We experienced over 1.8 million dollars in fire losses. This high number was in large part due to a few large structure fires, one of which was a total loss of a restaurant.

Richmond Avenue Semi Crash

Two semi-trailers traveling at highway speeds t-boned on Richmond Avenue East. One of the semis flipped on its side leaking diesel fuel onto the road and into the ditch. The firefighters had to dike the area in order to prevent the fuel from getting into the river. Members of the department waded through waist deep water in order to place absorbent booms in the nearby slough to further prevent the fuel from spreading.



Courtesy of The Brandon Sun

RV Fire

A firefighter douses an RV that was engulfed in flames at the Bry-Mar RV Park.

Local Restaurant Struck by Lightning

In the middle of a big storm, our department was called to a structure fire at Wei Na Restaurant on 10th Street. The fire started in the basement and after firefighters did an initial interior attack of the building, they had to evacuate due to the unsafe conditions. It was later discovered that the building was struck by lightning which ran through the ground wire to the basement, igniting the fire.

After 5.5 hours battling the blaze and the defensive attack taken by the firefighters, there was a total loss estimated at well over \$500,000. Both structures on either side of the restaurant were saved.



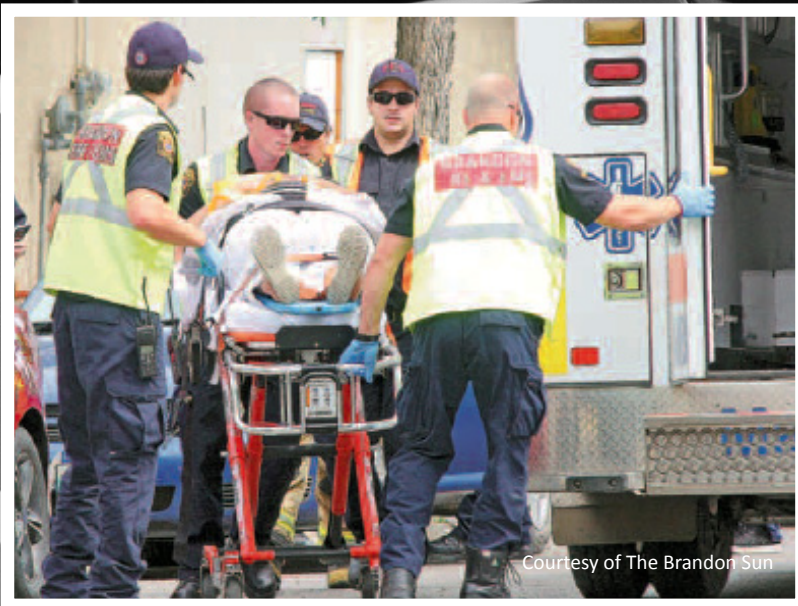
Courtesy of The Brandon Sun

AMBULANCE

In conjunction with Prairie Mountain Health and Manitoba Health, we are currently implementing new strategies to manage resources to meet the needs of a growing demand for EMS, while providing the best care possible. One of these changes include responding further outside of Brandon and transferring patients from rural hospitals to Brandon hospital.



Courtesy of The Brandon Sun



Courtesy of The Brandon Sun

EMS calls account for 3,951 of our calls, which is up 251 calls from the previous year. This is 79% of our total call volume.

SPECIAL RESCUE TEAMS



Tech Rescue Team

The tech (high angle/confined space) rescue team trains in various locations, buildings and conditions throughout the community in order to challenge themselves and become more familiar with their surroundings.

The team performed a training scenario in Wawanesa where they had to rappel down a 100 foot cliff with a rescue basket and “save” a victim who had fallen off a cliff. There was no access to the patient from the bottom of the cliff so they had to set up rope systems using a fire truck as the anchor point. The time taken to complete this rescue was 45 minutes.



WATER RESCUE TEAM

The water and ice rescue team trains throughout the year on the Assiniboine River in order to stay familiar with the hazards and current conditions.

The fast rising flood waters we experienced in the summer had our team deploying to assist other City staff who were working hard on the “wet side” of the dikes in order to keep the river from invading the “dry side”. The team’s involvement and activities during the floods of 2011 and 2014 were to enhance safety measures for other flood fighting staff and to inspect dike integrity.



TRAINING

We have trained our staff on 11 new medical skills. This aligns our members with the Intermediate Care Paramedic level as defined by MB Health. Some of these include IV starts in pediatric patients, placing a needle into the bone marrow of the tibia when IV access cannot be obtained, and training for the Ebola outbreak. Our members learned about the disease, facts about the outbreak and the proper use of the specialized personal protective equipment required for a possible Ebola response.



With the increased amount of train cars hauling oil through our communities, we were fortunate to partner with CP Rail to send five firefighters to train in Colorado. This training included how to deal with operations surrounding oil fires caused by train derailments. In this training scenario there were 100 derailed train cars with oil fires which required the firefighters to manage and extinguish the fires.

We also provide fire responses to rural areas. One concern is the water supply. Our staff train in getting water from an external source to the fire scene. Once we get the water tanker to the scene, the truck is equipped with a dump system which allows the truck to empty 1,500 gallons of water from the water tanker into the portable water tank in one minute.



VEHICLE EXTRICATION TRAINING

Vehicle Extrication

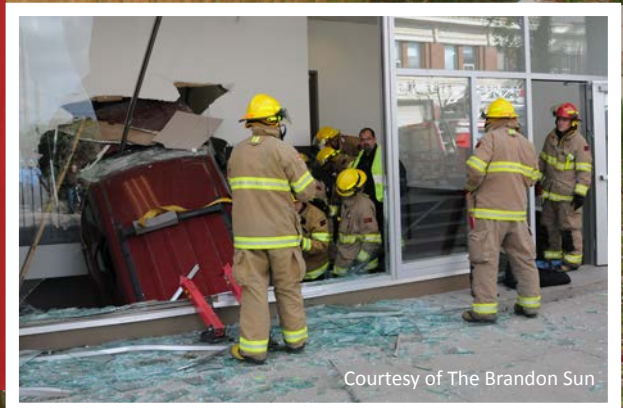
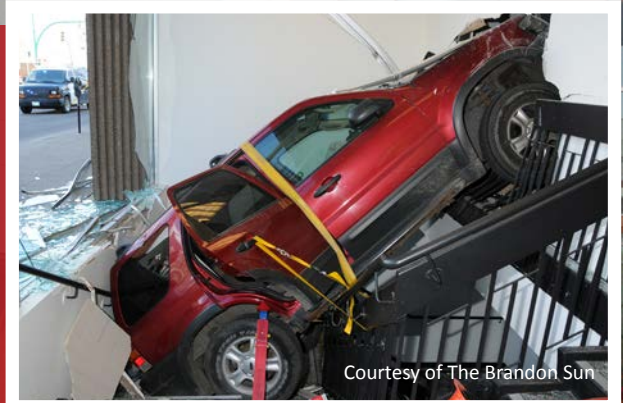
In partnership with Westman Salvage, we conduct annual vehicle extrication training. During this training we utilized the newest and most modern extrication equipment on the market. The training is very hands on in that the staff get to tear the cars apart including taking the roof off, and popping open the doors using the extrication tools.



Vehicle Crashes into Building

While our staff were training on vehicle extrication at Westman Salvage, our department was called to a single vehicle accident at 638 Princess Avenue. Upon arrival it was discovered that the vehicle was actually inside the building leaning precariously on the stairwell. Prior to being able to care for the patient, the firefighters had to immobilize the vehicle taking into account the falling glass from the windows and possible fuel leaks.

We were able to use the different equipment we were trying out in training on this call to stabilize the vehicle. One of the new pieces of equipment, called Struts, became a key part in stabilizing the vehicle. We were able to safely extricate the patient and transport him to hospital.



As a result of seeing the new equipment in action, the department purchased their own Struts later in the year.



**Brandon Fire &
Emergency Services**