



# 2017 Annual Report

1 Message from the Chief



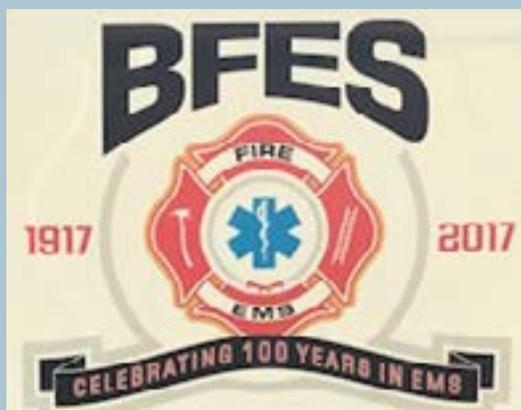
# Message from the Chief

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*We celebrated 100 years in EMS, a milestone we are proud to have achieved.*

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On behalf of the staff of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES), it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2017 Annual Report.

We celebrated 100 years in EMS, a milestone we are proud to have achieved. We held an open house for various business people in the community to showcase paramedic techniques and equipment used on medical calls.

After being in storage for 46 years, and four months of construction, the Coronation Bell sits proudly on display in the front foyer of 1 Hall.

A new hazardous materials response team was formed. Staff received training throughout the year to provide them with up-to-date skills for hazardous materials responses. Staff utilized their skills by participating in a mock disaster where they had to respond to a chlorine leak at the Water Treatment Plant.

We hope you enjoy the 2017 Annual Report. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

*Brent Dane*

Brent Dane, Fire Chief

# 100 Years in EMS



1935 Ambulance



1954 Ambulance



1982 Ambulance



1984 Ambulance

The Brandon Fire Department was established in 1882. The Ambulance Service has been associated with the Fire Department since 1917 when one firefighter went next door to the livery stable and, along with a man from the stable, took a team of horses to the call.

The first motorized ambulance belonged to the General Hospital. It was a Studebaker and had originally been an army ambulance in the First World War. It was kept in the garage by the Fire Hall and was operated by anyone who was handy in the garage when a call came in.

In December of 1964, all Brandon firefighters took requalification tests for first aid certification. These tests were done every five years as a requirement under city bylaw for ambulance service. They reviewed up-to-date techniques stressing the effectiveness of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and external heart massage in cases of drowning and severe shock.

Brandon had an average of 1,200 ambulance calls in 1964. Of these calls, 300 (an average of one per day) were emergencies where patients required handling by qualified personnel.

***In 2017, BFES had 4,747 ambulance calls.***

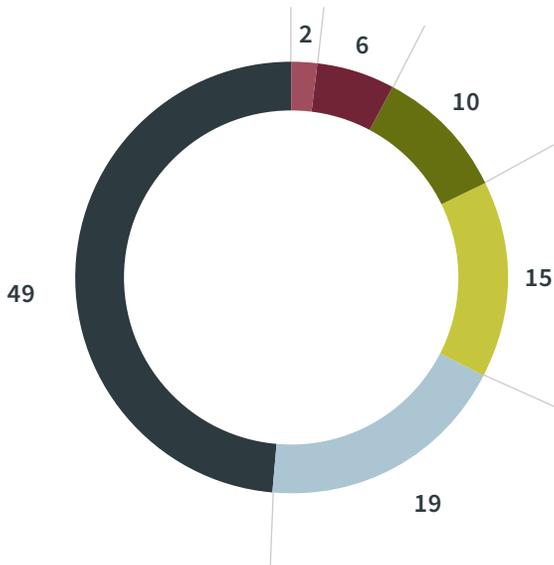


## Coronation Bell

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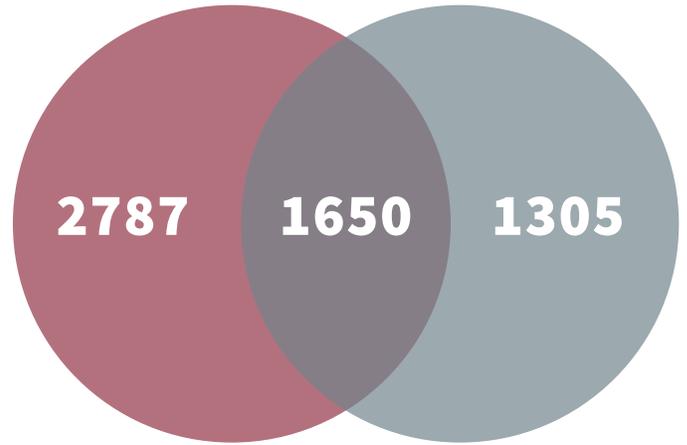
Construction for the installation of the Coronation Bell began in July. A structure was built around the area where the bell was eventually going to be, so as not to disturb the rest of the Hall during construction. Due to the weight, the floor under the bell needed to be reinforced. The floor was jackhammered and three piles were put in place to support the bell's weight. The project was finalized at the beginning of November; the bell proudly sits in the middle of the main foyer of #1 Hall for all to see. It weighs 4,400 pounds, has a base diameter of 62 inches, consists of 77% copper, 23% tin, and rings in the key of "C".

# Numbers



**Types of Fires**

- Structure Fire
- Fire - Brush/Grass
- Fire - Vehicle
- Fire - Other
- Fire - Rubbish/Garbage
- Fire - Outdoor Fire Pit



**Hall Responding**

- 1 Hall
- 2 Hall
- Both Halls



**244**

fire permits issued



**467**

people attending rodeos



**9**

fire extinguisher training sessions



**253**

school presentations



**1418**

people attending road shows

# Staffing Changes

New Hires	Position
Heather Penner	Public Educator
Jinesh Patel	Administrative Assistant
Robert Wilson	Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic

## Thank-yous

*“So grateful for the quick response, the calm and professional manner of the attendants and their crew as well.”*

*“The service couldn’t have been better. They stayed with us, maneuvered us through emergency until we were in the hands of the department we required for emergency response. Very professional, friendly, and knowledgeable.”*



*“Paramedics were gentle and concerned. They certainly deserve a praise. Brandon is very fortunate.”*

*“The service was excellent. The drivers were wonderful. Very pleased.”*

# Fire Prevention Week

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## Fire Prevention Week

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Fire Prevention Week is an event where fire departments all over North America promote fire prevention initiatives. It runs the week of October 9 in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire. The fire began on October 8, 1871, and did most of its damage on October 9. Because of the fire, 250 people were killed, 100,000 people were left homeless, and more than 2,000 acres were burned.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored Fire Prevention Week since 1922 and each year they have a theme to promote fire prevention.

This year's theme was "***Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out***". Students and members of the community participated in various fire safety events including Fire Chief for a Day, Celebrity Fire Olympics and Fire Safety Day.

## Celebrity Fire Olympics

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Local celebrities participate in an obstacle course with Grade 8 students.





## Fire Chief for a Day

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One Grade 4 student from each Brandon school as well as students from Souris, Carberry, Shilo, Wawanesa, Douglas and Forrest spent an entire day at the #1 Fire Hall and the Manitoba Emergency Services College learning all about fire prevention.



## Fire Safety Day

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Members of the department were at Home Depot to answer questions from the public regarding fire safety. Anyone who attended was able to take a tour of the fire truck and ambulance that were at the event.

# Fire



Photo by Ian Froese - The Brandon Sun

## Mobile Home Fire

May 14, 2017

Staff responded to a mobile home that, upon arrival, was fully involved in flames. Damage was caused to a neighboring home, and three lines of attack were used to extinguish the fire. The interior attack was successful and the fire was knocked down. Firefighters looked for hot spots to ensure the garage would not ignite again. After 3.5 hours on scene and a total loss calculated at \$60,000, the fire was extinguished.

## Anhydrous Semi-Tanker Rollover

June 22, 2017

BFES was called to the intersection of Highway 10 and 110 where a semi-tanker with 19.07 tons of anhydrous ammonia had rolled over. Upon arrival, fuel was leaking from the semi. There was 21,500 kg of sand used to soak up the fuel before the semi was moved. An Emergency Hazmat team was deployed and tow trucks were used to upright the truck. The anhydrous was pumped out of the tanker before the tow trucks moved into position to move it upright. None of the chemical had leaked from the semi. After more than 14 hours, staff cleared the scene.



Photo by Glen Kirby - Southwest Post

## Fire Truck Training

Staff participated in training exercises that utilized multiple portable tanks where jet siphon strainers are used to move water from a holding tank to a supply tank. This technique provides continuous water movement, which is vital to a successful outcome at rural structure fires.



# EMS Celebration

On September 30, we hosted an open house for various business people in the community. Scenario based stations were set up as paramedics demonstrated various techniques and equipment that are utilized on medical calls. Guests had an opportunity to try some of the techniques and equipment used by the paramedics in delivering emergency medical services. This was well received by all of our guests.

## Station 1 - Defibrillators

This station was about all of the different functions of defibrillators as well as medical protocols and medications. It was explained which medications are used and why. Guests were able to work the defibrillators themselves.



Station 1 - Defibrillators

## Station 2 - Airways

Different airway management techniques were demonstrated, primarily the iGel device. This technique was trialed in Brandon and Dauphin before it branched out to other stations in PMH in August. It has many advantages including easy insertion, less airway trauma and is cost effective. The iGel device is used in place of a combitube. Attendees were able to attempt inserting an iGel into a mannequin.



Station 2 - Airways



Station 3 - Medication Access

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Guests learned about the different ways medication is administered to patients. Everyone had a chance to attempt starting an IV. They were also able to use the EZ-IO system, which uses a device to inject medication directly into a bone. It was explained why the different techniques are used and under which circumstances to use them.



Station 4 - Ambulance Demonstration

## Station 4 - Ambulance Demonstration

Attendees saw all of the equipment and medications paramedics bring to a response. Staff demonstrated all of the different features of the stretcher, stressing the importance of preventing back injuries to paramedics. Various fracture management devices were demonstrated with guests trying out the vacuum splint. Air is extracted from the vacuum splint and molds around the injured body part.

## Station 5 - Business Aspect

Guests had a chance to hear the Chief talk about the department structure, types of calls, call priorities, paramedic levels, response times, and funding. It was explained how the department operates as a dual service and what our staffing model looks like.

# Training

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## Haz-Mat Rescue Team

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After several years of discussion and planning, a new hazmat response team was developed. Nine of our staff form this team, and it serves as a joint hazmat response team with the Office of the Fire Commissioner. Together they participate in quarterly training exercises to ensure their skill sets stay sharp and current.

BFES now has three specialized rescue teams: Water Rescue, Tech and Confined Space Rescue, and Haz-Mat Rescue. Over 25 staff are part of these teams and participate in training and exercises throughout the year to keep their skills relevant and up-to-date.



## CP Rail

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CP Rail provided the department with an opportunity to send two staff members to Pueblo, Colorado to participate in training that provided them with the basic knowledge, skills and abilities to respond to incidents involving crude by rail. The training included tactical product control methods including firefighting foam agents, water and spill control procedures, planning for crude oil incidents and the environmental impacts. There were demonstrations of crude Oil fires, boil overs, and foam applications using advanced firefighting techniques.



## **BRANDON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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