



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

On behalf of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES), it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2022 Annual Report. 2022 was an extremely busy year for the department, seeing the highest call volumes in the department's history with over 8,000 calls.

With the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, we were able to welcome work experience students back into the department to shadow staff in order to get a better understanding of what they do. Of these students, 14 were paramedic preceptors from the Manitoba Emergency Services College providing them with hands-on experience.

2022 saw CF Industries approve our application for a donation. We were able to complete outfitting all staff in new Cairns XF1 firefighting helmets. These helmets are the most innovative, cutting edge technology in the fire service. They are light weight and come complete with an integrated lighting system and ocular lens.

The Fire Inspection division was extremely busy completing over 1500 fire inspections. These inspections were completed on multiple types of properties such as revenue, commercial, and personal care homes to name a few.

There were 245 school presentations over 17 schools with fire prevention and safety lessons delivered to close to 5,000 students. Additional presentations were delivered to multiple businesses around Brandon throughout the year.

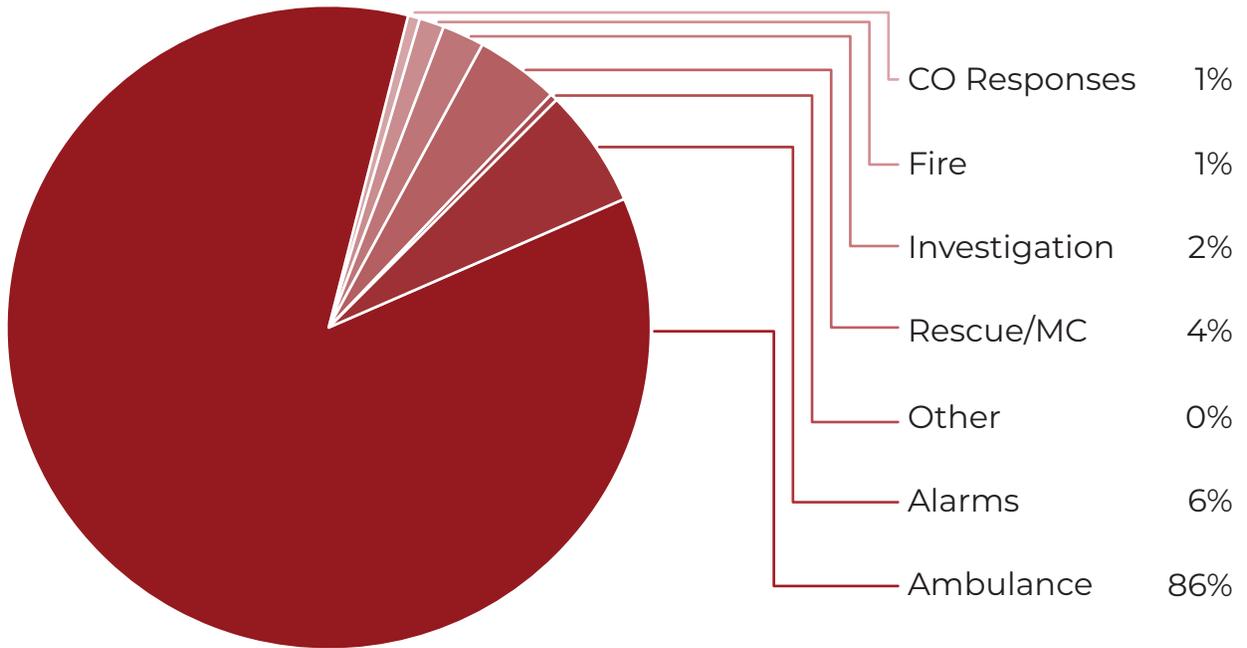
We hope you find the 2022 Annual Report interesting and informative. Thank you for your continued interest and support.



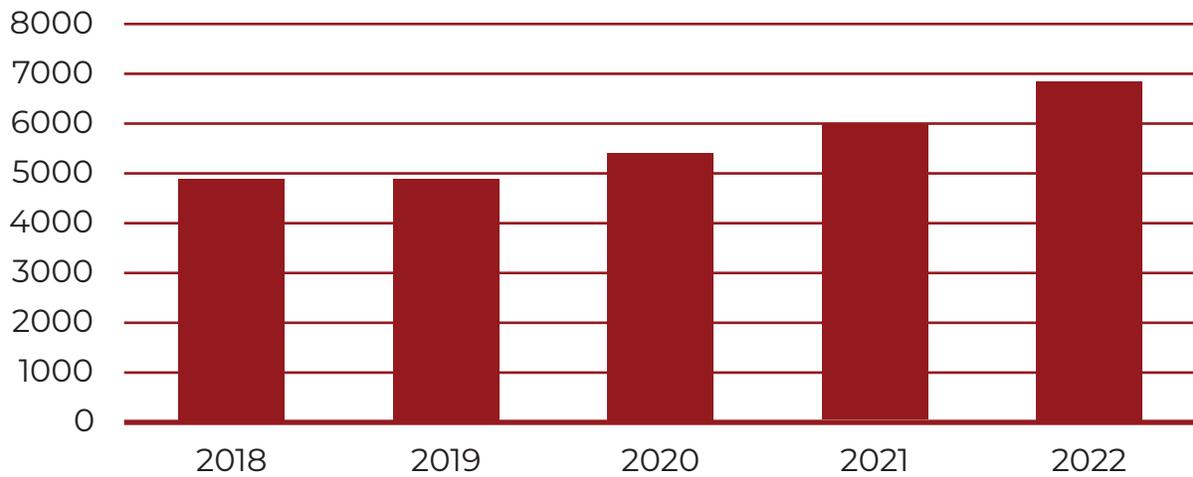
TERRY PARLOW
Fire Chief

STATS

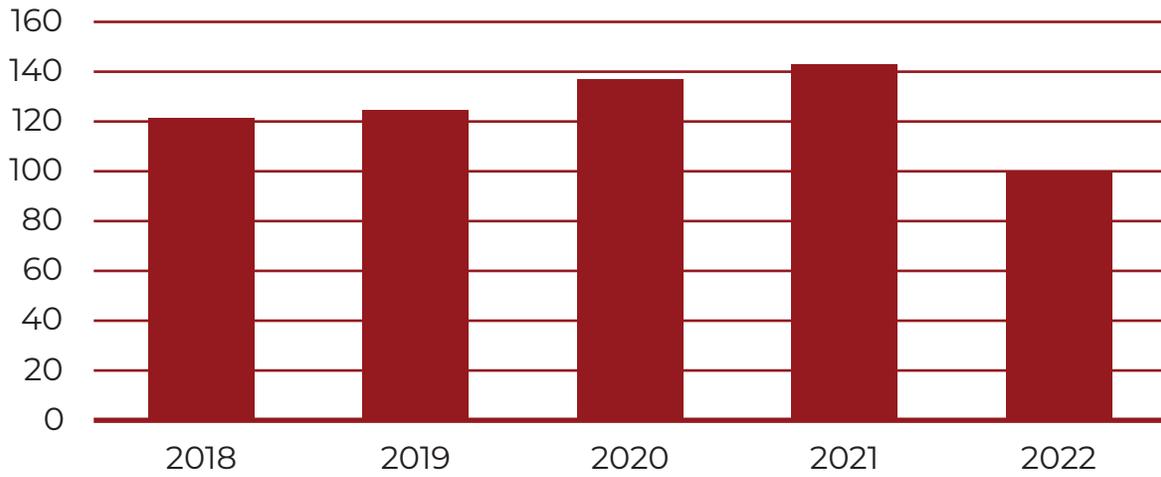
CALL TYPES



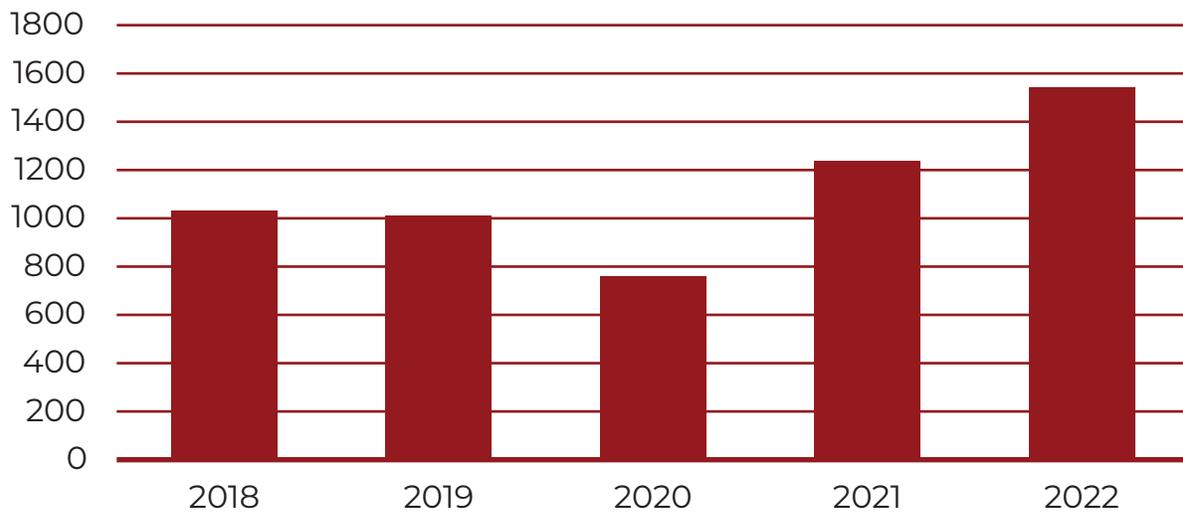
AMBULANCE CALLS



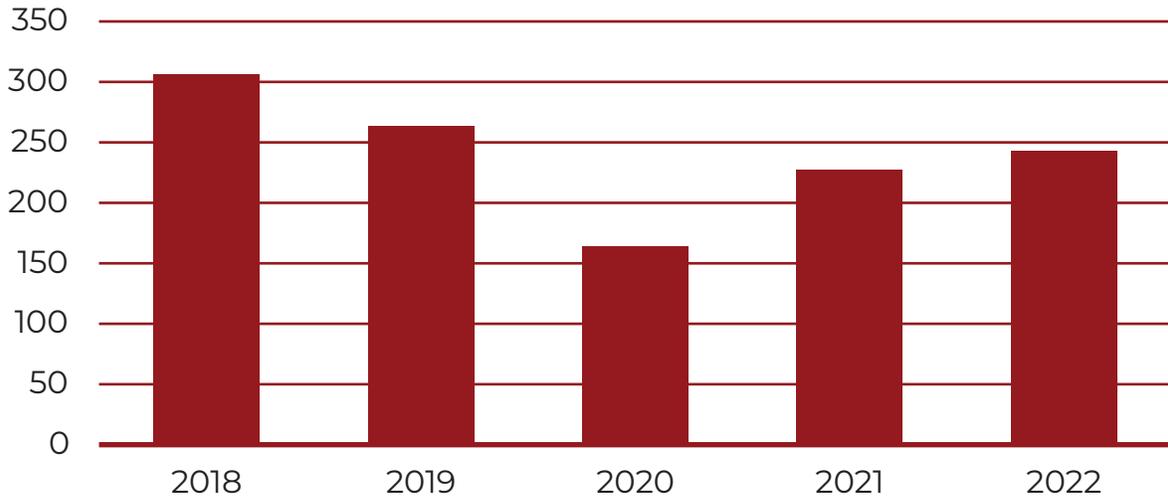
FIRE RESPONSES



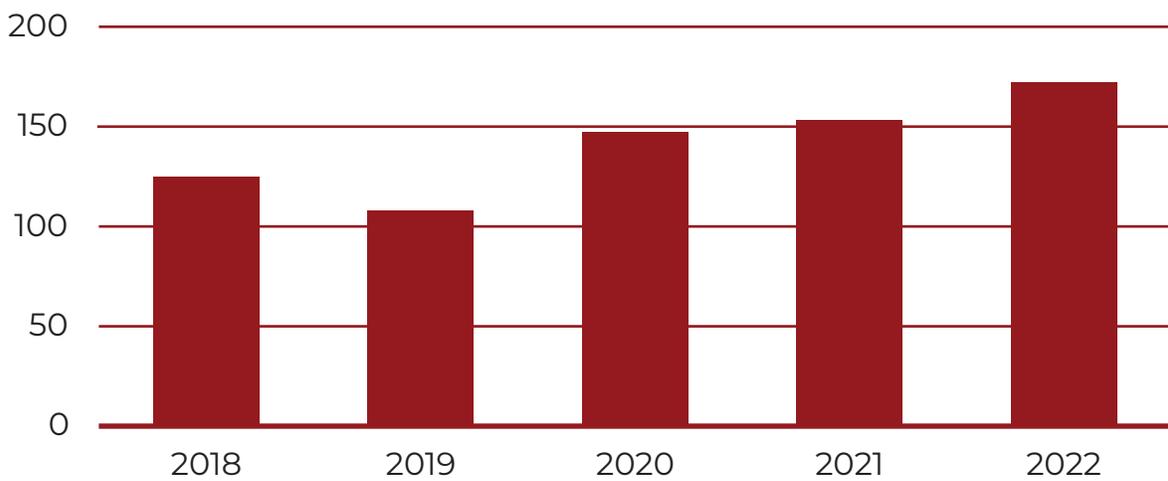
COMPLETED INSPECTIONS



SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS



INVESTIGATIONS



STAFFING CHANGES

PROBATIONARY FIREFIGHTERS/PARAMEDIC NEW HIRES

- Kirk Dechka
- Max Van Dorp
- Aldy Sebastian
- Garrett Moss
- Eric Fehr
- Nicole Chermcora
- William Hicks

PROMOTIONS

- **Sarah Peto** – Acting Lieutenant II
- **Mike Tiel** – Acting Lieutenant I
- **Rob Brown** – Acting Lieutenant II
- **Cameron Hodgins** – Acting Lieutenant I
- **Steve Sherb** – Acting Lieutenant II
- **Marc Lefebvre** – Deputy Fire Chief

RETIREMENTS



Public Educator, **Heather Penner** – January 3, 2017 to February 14, 2022

Heather was the Public Educator and she would spend her time going around to the different schools promoting fire safety. She organized many programs including the Babysitting Course, Learn Not to Burn and fire extinguisher to name a few. Prior to becoming the Public Educator, Heather was with the City for 28 years between the Police Department and Emergency Communications.



Firefighter/Paramedic **Robin Chant** – April 5, 1994 to May 24 2022

Robin was the first female firefighter hired at Brandon Fire & Emergency Services. As a recent graduate of the Manitoba Emergency Services College, Robin didn't waste any time learning her new job and the responsibilities that went along with it. She could always be counted upon to pitch in and help anywhere required without being asked.

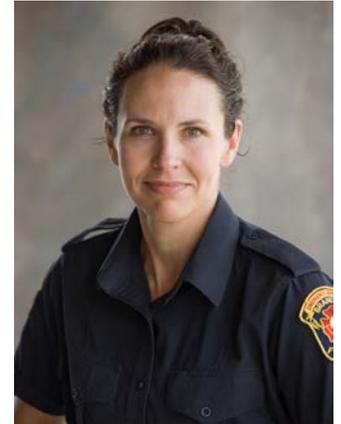
SPECIALIZED RESCUE TEAMS

HAZ-MAT RESPONSE TEAM

As a result of so many hazardous materials being produced locally and so many being transported by rail and highway in and around Brandon, it is important for the Department to have a specialized Haz-Mat Rescue Team to respond in the case of an emergency.

The Haz-Mat Team, which is made up of eight members, was led by Sarah Peto since the team's inception in 2017. In 2022 Sarah stepped down and the team is now led by Michael Hole.

In order to ensure staff are prepared for an emergency, the team trains on various aspects of hazmat responses four times a year in conjunction with the Office of the Fire Commissioner who provides the protective equipment. Staff work very closely with various Brandon industries to ensure that everyone is aware and able to respond effectively to any emergencies if they occur. This past fall, the team had an opportunity to work with CF Industries and Chemtrade.



Sarah Peto



Michael Hole



■ SPECIALIZED RESCUE TEAMS

TECH RESCUE TEAM

The Tech Rescue Team specializes in both high angle and confined space rescue.

This past year has seen longtime leader, Doug Wheatland, step down after 15 years as the team leader. His dedication to the team was an example to the existing, and newly selected team members, embodying the professional standards we represent. The team, which is made up of eight members, is now led by Rob Brown.

The team conducts quarterly training sessions where members utilize all of their skills and equipment in mock scenarios to test their ability to respond. This past year staff have been able to put these skills to use several times.



Doug Wheatland



Rob Brown



WESTMAN DREAM FOR KIDS

Brandon Fire & Emergency Services made a young man's day memorable through the Westman Dreams for Kids program. Members of the department, including the Tech Rescue Team, had him rappel from the training tower at 1 Hall. It was gratifying to see his first descent where he had a look of trepidation in his eyes, to the third descent where his expression had turned to pure joy and excitement. It was a rewarding experience for all.



WATER RESCUE TEAM

Being situated on the Assiniboine River and other waterways, it is important that BFES has the capability to respond to emergencies on our waterways.

Shane Wilton leads the water rescue team which consists of nine members off shift.

The team needs to be proficient in ice rescue and open water rescue. As a result, the team trains in March on Pelican Lake to simulate ice rescues and for the remainder of the year trains on the Assiniboine River for open water rescue.

The two main specialized pieces of equipment utilized by the team are the rapid deployment craft, which is used for ice rescue, and the zodiac, which is used for open water rescue.

As a result of this training, the team was utilized several times throughout the year for rescue and recovery efforts.



Shane Wilton



FIRE INCIDENTS

STRUCTURE FIRE *Victoria Avenue - February 17, 2022*

Crews responded to a 4 story multi-suite building in the construction process with visible smoke and flames on the corner of Victoria Avenue and 42nd Street. The fire continued to spread throughout the structure and to all floors. The walls of the building began to fail and collapse in on itself. This occurred within 45 minutes of the crew's arrival. The fire moved quickly through the building primarily due to the phase of construction that it was in. Once the walls had collapsed and the fire was under control, the hydrant manifold was used to manage one 2 ½" hand line and one 1 ¾" hand line to continue with extinguishment of hot spot and cooling of the remains of the structure. All units cleared after 7 hours and 15 minutes.



DUMP FIRE *Victoria Avenue East - November 1, 2022*

Staff responded to the report of a fire within the city landfill site located at 4932 Victoria Ave E. There was a wood pile approximately 20 feet tall, 300 feet deep and 100 feet wide. The fire was located in the scrap pile's North face and stretched along the 100 foot Northern front. Crews performed a defensive attack to protect all exposures. Staff remained on scene throughout the night to extinguish all exposures.

I AMBULANCE

STRYKER POWER-PRO XT STRETCHERS

BFES saw a much welcomed addition to the ambulance fleet in November 2022. Two Stryker Power-Pro XT stretchers were purchased by our Shared Health partners for use on our ambulances. These power stretchers operate off a battery system very similar to batteries found in everyday power tools. The undercarriage, or wheel assembly, of the stretcher is automatically lowered and raised by the simple push of a button.

For decades paramedics have used manual lift stretchers that saw staff lift not only the patient but the stretcher's weight as well while raising and lowering patients. As with the original manual lift stretchers, many of the same adjustability features remain on the new powered units but the ability to automatically raise and lower the patient and stretcher with the push of a button is a much welcomed change.

Statistics show a drastic reduction of paramedic injury while using these power stretchers in their daily handling of patient loaded stretchers. These power stretchers also provide a more stable, safe platform for patients to ride on as well as the jarring and bumping effect is removed with a more controlled raising and lowering movement. While these battery powered stretchers are heavier than their non-powered counterparts, patient and stretcher weight is now handled by the power raise and lower system. The end result is paramedics with reduced injury time related to back injuries and a more safe and enjoyable experience for patients.



BRANDON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Annual Report

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brandon.ca/fire