



ANNUAL REPORT 2015



MESSAGE

from the chief

"2015 was a busy year with the implementation of a larger response area for our fire and ambulance crews."

On behalf of the staff of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES), it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2015 Annual Report.

2015 was a busy year with the implementation of a larger response area for our ambulance crews. We received two replacement ambulances to provide better patient comfort and care during transportation.

Working with Prairie Mountain Health, our paramedics were trained in new protocols which allowed our staff to transfer stroke patients directly to approved stroke care facilities.

Our department took possession of battery operated Jaws of Life that will make extrication more efficient at motor vehicle collision scenes.

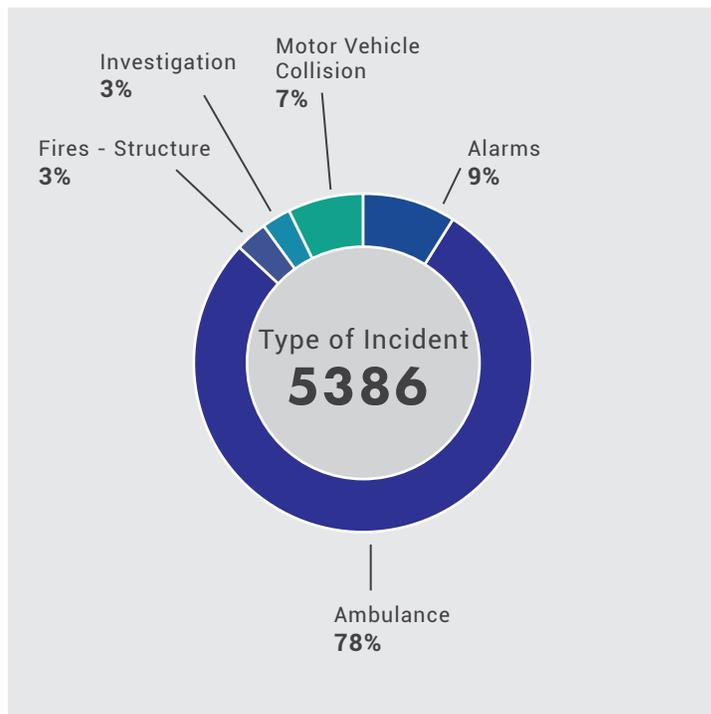
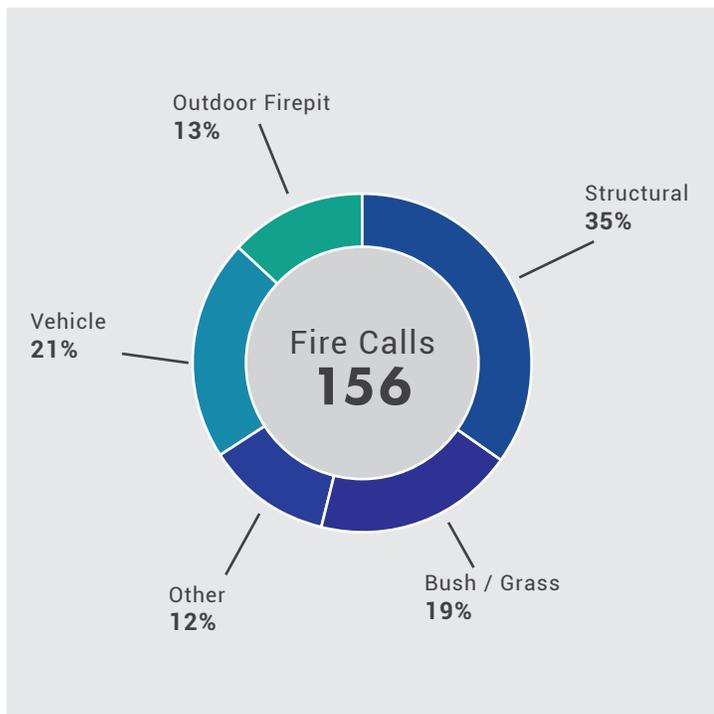
We worked with Manitoba Emergency Services College to provide our staff with special tech rescue training. Real life scenarios were replicated in order to further our staff's knowledge and skills.

We hope you find the 2015 Annual Report interesting and informative. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

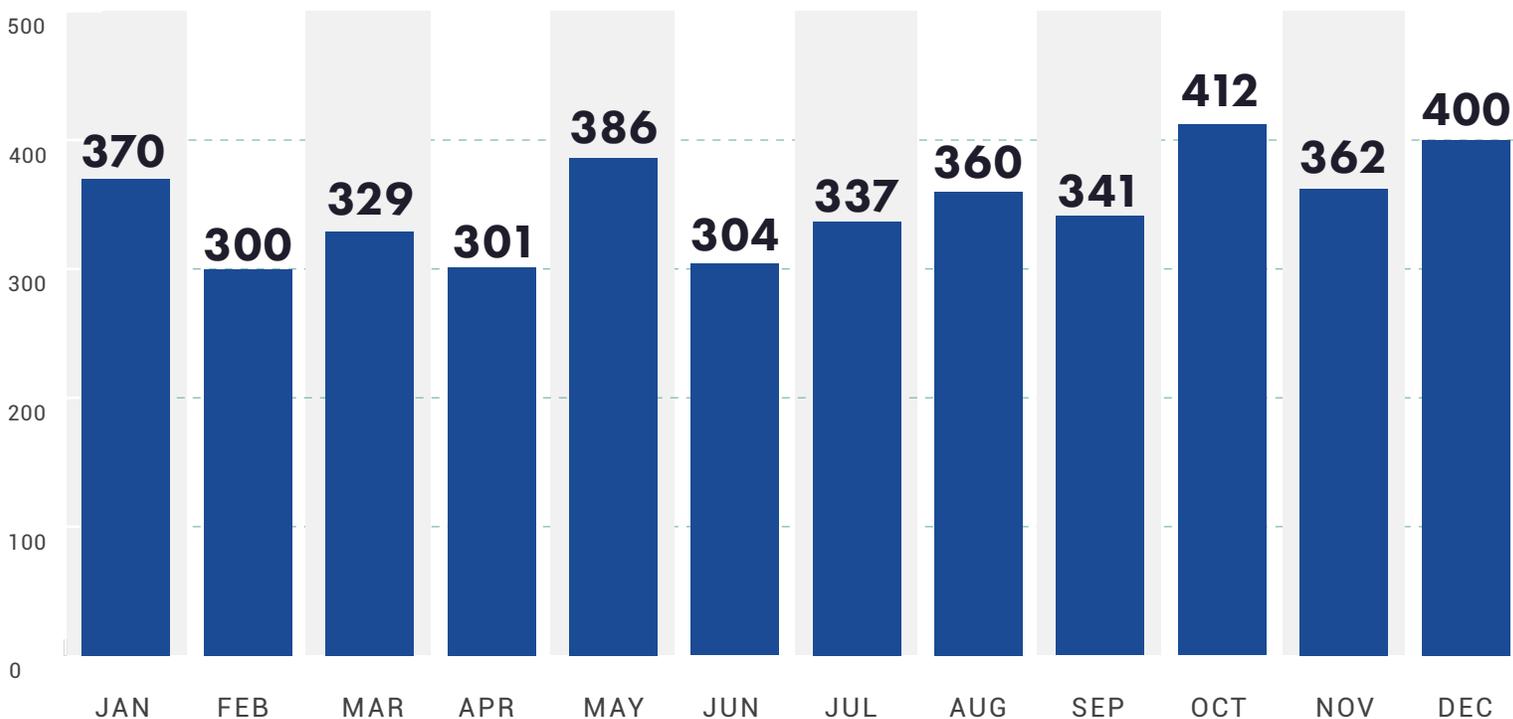
Brent Dane

Brent Dane, Fire Chief

FACTS and numbers



EMS Trips Per Month



11 members were trained in the HAZMAT Technician course. This training will enable the members to be better prepared to handle the various types of hazardous material responses we deal with.

97

Safe Baby kits delivered to new parents in the community, in partnership with Red River Mutual.



86

Fire pit permits issued.



14

Guest appearances by Sparky the Fire Dog.



70

Public tours of #1 Fire Hall.



43

We hosted 43 work experience students from 12 different schools.



255

School Presentations completed by our Prevention Division.

HISTORY

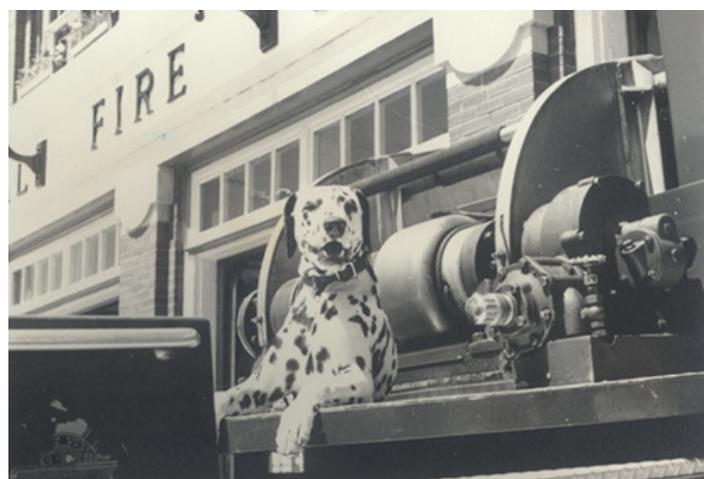
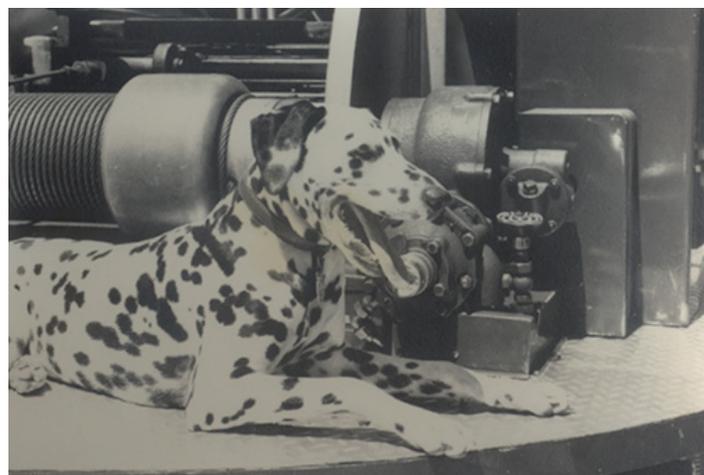
dalmatians in the fire hall

For many years, Dalmatian dogs were the mascot for fire departments.

Before there were motorized fire trucks, horses were used to transport firefighters to fire scenes and to haul water.

As horses are naturally afraid of fires, the Dalmatians had a very calming effect on them. They would calm the horses and allow them to get closer to the scene, enabling the firemen to fight the fire.

They would also stay with the horses to keep people and animals away from them.



Duchess - 1969 to 1979

In 1969, the Brandon Fire Hall received a donated purebred Dalmatian puppy named Duchess. She was the fire hall mascot from 1969 to 1979.

She loved to sleep in the Rescue van, and as a result would often end up at medical scenes.

Duchess was the highlight of tours when kids would come to see the Fire Hall.

STAFFING

changes

New Hires - Firefighters

Mitchell Klassen Kory Kimpinski

Carter Thiessen Ryan Marshall

Leanna Namaka

New Hires - Administration

Amy Lees Roxanne Dyck

Retirements

Garry Bell



“ I have only good things to say about my first and only ambulance trip to hospital. The service was exceptional. Thanks to those who looked after me so well!! ”

FIRE prevention

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING

It is important for everyone to be familiar with the proper use of a fire extinguisher. Knowing when to use them, and when not to is vital.

When using a fire extinguisher, it is important to use the PASS Method:

Our department offers fire extinguisher training to businesses and their employees.

179 people received fire extinguisher training.

P

Pull the pin - this allows you to squeeze the handle in order to discharge the extinguisher.

A

Aim at the base of the fire - if you aim at the middle of the fire, the agent will just pass through the flames.

S

Squeeze the handle - this will release the pressurized extinguishing agent.

S

Sweep side to side - cover the entire area that is on fire and continue until the fire is extinguished.

FIRE

There were 54 structure fires that we responded to, which is an increase from 2014. The total losses were over 2.4 million dollars. This high number was in large part due to a few large structure fires, one of which was a fire that destroyed two homes.



Structure Fire Destroys 2 Homes

We responded to a structure fire at a Brandon home. Once our staff reached the incident, it was discovered that the fire had spread and breached the roofs of two dwellings. The fire was a result of an electrical malfunction. 17 firefighters were engaged to extinguish the fire. After 7 hours on scene, both dwellings were demolished.

Garage Fire

Our department was called to a burning detached garage fire that was fully engulfed in flames upon arrival. As the fire was quite intense, a large stream of water was used to cool the surrounding area, making sure the fire did not extend to the house. The fire was extinguished after two and a half hours at the scene.



Photo by Colin Corneau
Brandon Sun



“Response time was unbelievably quick - truly amazing. Good people. Greatly appreciated. We are lucky to have such dedicated people in our midst. Thank you so much!”

AMBULANCE

Our department works with Prairie Mountain Health and Manitoba Health to identify and establish treatment protocols. The EMS Training Officer ensures that all paramedic staff are trained to meet the new requirements.

We saw the addition of two new Provincial Ambulances which are both designed to provide better patient comfort and care during transport. These two new ambulances replaced two high mileage units in our fleet of five ambulances.



Photo by Bruce Bumstead - Brandon Sun

did you know?



EMS calls account for 4,211 of our calls, which is up 260 calls from the previous year.

This is 78% of our total call volume.



Our staff went on 412 long distance ambulance trips to various locations such as Winnipeg, Morden, Regina & Saskatoon.

“The ambulance’s response to my 911 call was impressively fast. The treatment I received while in their care was excellent and I felt safe and well looked after. Thank you so much for everything that you do, it is greatly appreciated!”

TRAINING



Spinal Precautions

The spinal motion restriction protocol was implemented and we are now using cervical collar immobilization for spinal precautions (that's right, no more backboards!)

We purchased a Mule II Litter, which provides staff the ability to efficiently and safely remove patients from difficult terrain, such as the Brandon Hills. Ideally suited for narrow, rough trails, it easily tracks over bogs, ruts, rocks, roots, snow, etc. giving the patient the smoothest possible ride.



Vehicle Extrication

We took possession of new "Jaws of Life". They are battery powered and require no hoses or power units to operate. They are stronger, smaller and lighter, and with battery power we can venture off the beaten path to accomplish any extrication that is required. These new tools will save valuable time on motor vehicle crash scenes.

We were able to utilize the new equipment during our annual vehicle extrication training in partnership with Wesman Salvage.

SPECIAL rescue teams



Urban Search and Rescue Team

Eight members of our department sit on the provincial USAR team. The USAR Team assists the local region in performing searches and rescues for missing individuals as a result of any serious emergency or disaster.

Water Rescue Team

Members of this team routinely stage rescue and recovery scenarios year-round along the Assiniboine River in a variety of dangerous conditions. We maintain a stock of equipment which enables this team to perform rescue operations.

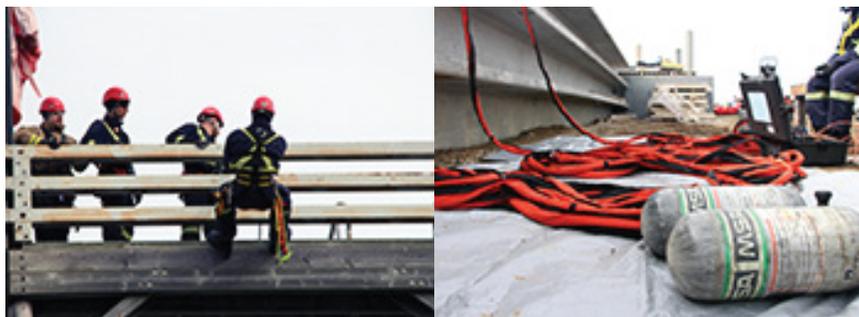
Our team continues to join outside agencies, such as the Brandon Police Service and the Office of the Fire Commissioner, to assist with search efforts for missing persons. On occasion, our team will be called to respond and search areas along the river that aren't accessible by land.

Tech Rescue Team

Nine members of our department are part of this team. By utilizing the Manitoba Emergency Services College, and their training props, they practice through the year with mock scenarios.

One training exercise had the members climbing to reach a victim, administer medical intervention, and package the patient prior to lowering the patient to the awaiting personnel.

Another scenario had the team entering a confined space while on supplied breathing air, to rescue a patient in a simulated oxygen deficient environment.





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