

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

From: Adam Grant, Commissioner,  
Safety and Facilities Services

Report Number: SF-24-29

Date of Report: June 5, 2024

Date of Meeting: June 10, 2024

Subject: Fire Services 2023 Annual Report

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

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## **1.0 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the appended 2023 Fire Services Annual Report.

Fire Services produces an annual report to inform Council and the public of the activities during the previous year and to publish statistics that relate to the status of fire services in Oshawa.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Report SF-24-29 dated June 5, 2024 concerning the Fire Services 2023 Annual Report be received for information.

## **3.0 Executive Summary**

The Fire Services Annual Report 2023 provides an overview of the activities of Oshawa Fire during the year. It includes the gathering of statistics as a function that allows Fire Services to identify public safety needs, communicate them to Council and the public, and then focus fire resources to best address the needs. The database used for the collection of these statistics are also used as a benchmark for comparison purposes with other fire industry statistics. This aids with the development of strategic goals and objectives as well as the establishment, or modification, of programs and practices to improve the level of service to the community and maintain safety of our employees.

## 4.0 Input From Other Sources

Not applicable

## 5.0 Analysis

Fire Services collects and provides statistics on an ongoing basis to the Office of the Fire Marshal, City Council and other stakeholders. Statistics are reviewed on a regular basis to monitor the fire risk within the community, determine the effectiveness of strategies in mitigating the risk, and generate or modify appropriate programs.

An annual report is developed for the information of Council and the public concerning Fire Services activities.

The 2023 Annual Report notes that emergency responses increased by 410 calls for a total of 6597 responses in 2023. There was an increase in major fire calls (Damage est. greater than \$500,000) with a total of 9 fires causing an estimated loss of \$10,000,000 in damage and there were 8 fire related injuries in 2023. Total Alarmed for Life visits increased by 535 visits and the total number of fire alarms distributed increased by 190 in 2023.

Oshawa Fire Services continues to:

- Utilize strategic optimization of the three lines of defence, which include:
  - Line one: Public fire safety education;
  - Line two: Fire safety standards and enforcement; and
  - Line three: Emergency response.
- Develop partnerships through shared service agreements with other municipalities where possible; and,
- Meet established goals and objectives and maintain compliance with the Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

Partnerships with local businesses and service clubs have also been established to enhance both training programs for staff and education programs to the public.

The City's Emergency Management program continues to achieve compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.

The Oshawa Fire Services 2023 Annual Report has been appended as **Attachment 1**.

## 6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications directly related to this report.

## **7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan**

This report supports the Oshawa Strategic Plan goal of Accountable Leadership.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen Barkwell".

Stephen Barkwell, Fire Chief,  
Fire Services

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Grant".

Adam Grant, Commissioner,  
Safety and Facilities Services





# OSHAWA FIRE SERVICES 2023





Message from

## Chief Stephen Barkwell

Your Worship Mayor Dan Carter and Members of Council, On behalf of Oshawa Fire Services (O.F.S.) and the corporation of the City of Oshawa, I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Report.

We saw many changes in 2023, one of the most significant being the opening of a new state-of-the-art multi-prop training facility. Last year also brought us our first full year in the newly created Safety and Facilities Services Department, with Commissioner Adam Grant being appointed to lead the new Department in August.

In addition to the new training facility, our new Rapid Response Vehicle – Rescue 21, was put into service in late June. We purchased two additional Bunker Gear Extractors and Dryers, completing one of our Occupational Health and Safety Cancer Prevention strategy projects, which included outfitting all Fire Stations with this vital decontamination equipment. Council approved an increase of 20 Firefighters to our suppression Firefighter complement.

In 2023, O.F.S. did achieve many initiatives linked to the Oshawa Strategic Plan with a focus on Accountable Leadership and Social Equity.

Examples include:

- Opened the new Fire Training Tower and Facility
- Added Rapid Response Vehicle – Rescue 21
- Achieved compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) for 2023
- Purchased two new Bunker Gear Extractors and Dryers
- Added 20 new firefighter positions, leading us to conduct a recruit class of 28 Firefighters, the largest recruit class in our history

It is an honour to be affiliated with such a fantastic team of professionals who are wholeheartedly dedicated to meeting the needs of this great community while upholding the service's mission, vision, and city core values.

Sincerely,

Stephen Barkwell,  
Fire Chief





## Fire Chief Stephen Barkwell



Stephen Barkwell was appointed to Fire Chief and Community Emergency Management Coordinator by Oshawa City Council in August 2023, overseeing all aspects of Oshawa Fire Services following the retirement of Chief Derrick Clark. With over 24 years of experience,

Chief Barkwell held various roles within the department since 1999, including firefighter, Relief Dispatcher, Shift Training Instructor, Training Officer, Acting Captain, and Deputy Fire Chief. His qualifications include a Master's Certificate in Public Sector Management from Ontario Tech University and a Certificate in Project Management for Leaders from York University, with ongoing studies toward a Certificate in Fire Services Executive Management from Humber College.

Chief Barkwell's extensive background includes health and safety, financial stewardship, training, human rights, labour relations, and legislation. Engaged in professional associations, he serves on committees such as the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs Urban Advisory Committee and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs Data Committee and the Science & Technology Committee.

Acknowledging the challenges of emergency responders, Chief Barkwell collaborates with the City's Innovation & Transformation Branch, Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Trent University on various TeachingCity Oshawa projects, focusing on research and technology development in areas like firefighter navigation, virtual training, and the physiological effects of firefighter tasks.

## Deputy Chief Mike Barlow



Mike Barlow assumed the position of Oshawa's Deputy Fire Chief on October 23, 2023. In this new capacity, Deputy Chief Barlow oversees the Suppression division which forms the Operations side of Oshawa Fire Services.

Deputy Chief Barlow joined Oshawa Fire Services in 2007, rising to the rank of Acting Captain. He has extensive experience in fire suppression, emergency response coordination, and specialized rescue training.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Fire Chief, Mike was selected as the Durham A.M. Kiwanis Firefighter of the Year in 2018 for helping to bring and organize the Canadian Fire Fit Championships to Oshawa. He has held leadership roles on several department committees and was a member of the Peer Support Team starting in 2018.

## Deputy Chief Todd Wood



Deputy Chief Todd Wood was promoted from the Training Division in May 2017. Reporting directly to the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief Wood's roles include Risk Reduction, Mechanical and Communications divisions of Oshawa Fire Services. He has over 24 years of fire service

experience and brings a wealth of knowledge in the areas of fire suppression, training and specialized rescue. Deputy Chief Wood began his career as a firefighter with Oshawa Fire Services in 1999 and was promoted through the ranks, previously holding Firefighter and Training Officer positions. Deputy Chief Wood is responsible for streamlining the support divisions and working collaboratively to participate through budget preparation, capital projects and planning. The overall management, service delivery, goal setting, image and financial management of the divisions are reflected in the daily operations. Deputy Chief Wood has overseen the purchase of new fire apparatus and fleet vehicles, as well as updating radios, as we transition to the NexGen/911 platform. We continue to progress as a municipality through the implementation of Fire Services/Emergency and Protective Service strategies and the operations of the work unit, including organization structure and job design, as well as management of financial and human resources.

## Assistant Deputy Chief Ken Whetham



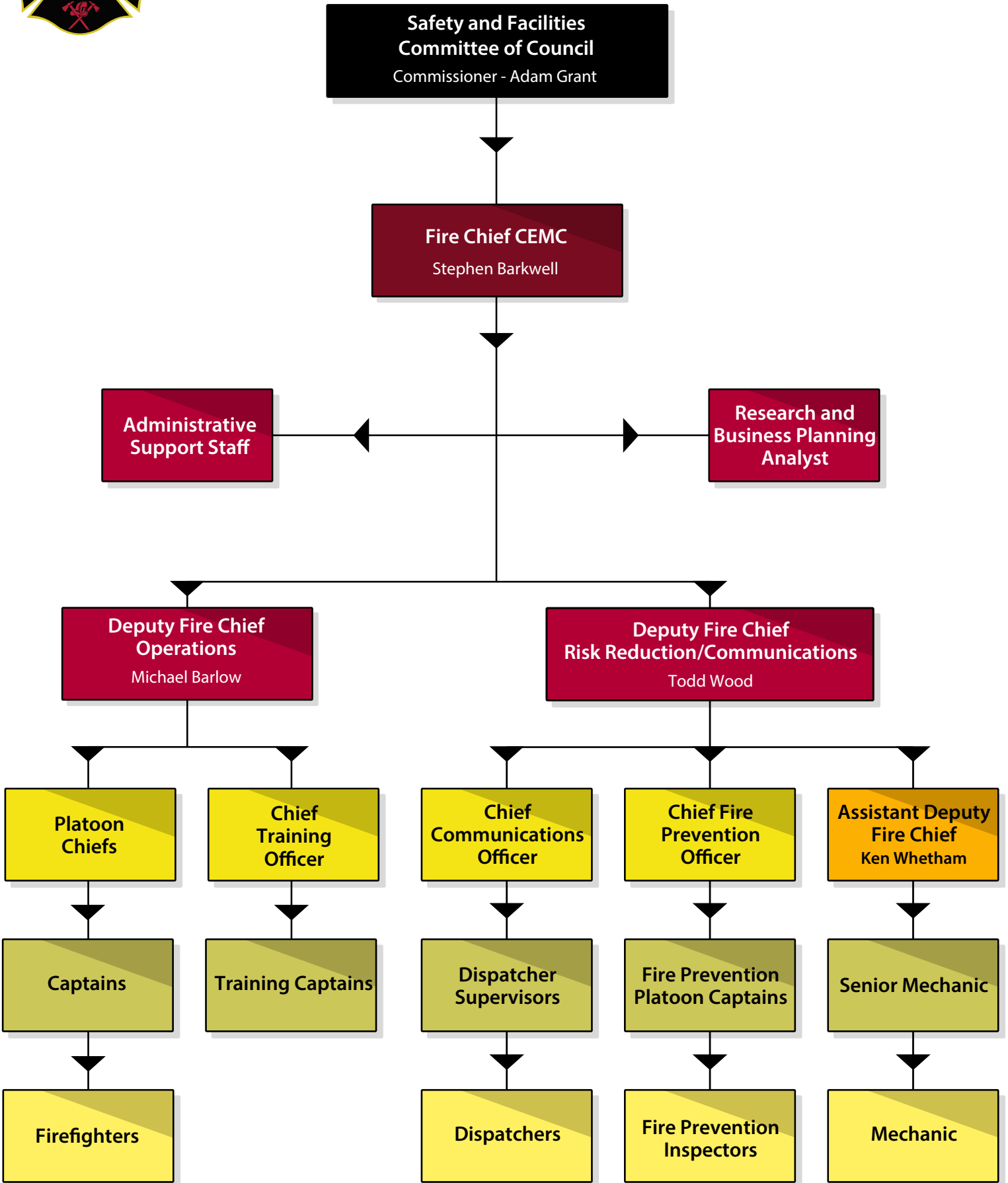
Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Ken Whetham entered his role in 2020 with several years of leadership and management experience in both the public and private sectors. ADC Whetham started his career as a Police Officer and collectively has over 25 years of experience in Emergency Services. He began

his profession with the Oshawa Fire Services in 2009 in the suppression division as a firefighter. ADC Whetham was a member of the Technical Rescue team and was a shift-training instructor for rope rescue, confined space rescue, trench rescue and medical training. After a promotion to Training Officer in 2018 ADC Whetham developed, implemented and delivered training programs to suppression staff, developed video training, a recruit fitness program and implemented an elevator rescue program.

ADC Whetham's current responsibilities include Operations Support, Facilities, Attendance Management, Health and Safety, and the Mechanical Division. "I am very proud and privileged to support the Senior Management team's objectives and goals to provide exceptional service to the residents of Oshawa."



# Oshawa Fire Services 2023



## OUR VALUED STAFF

### New Team Members

David Andrews - Firefighter	Owen Matthews - Firefighter
Jonathan England - Firefighter	Klark McGarr - Firefighter
Abigail Fawcett - Firefighter	Sarah McNeil - Fire Prevention Inspector
Kendal Freshwater - Firefighter	Adam Milnes - Firefighter
Brehanna Gassman - Dispatcher (Temp)	Matt Mistele - Firefighter
Jaclyn Halko - Firefighter	Derek Olan - Firefighter
Michelle Hanna - Firefighter	Alec Orvis - Firefighter
Lawson Hill - Firefighter	Curtis Pehlemann - Firefighter
Jeremy Hoekstra - Firefighter	Lukas Pither - Firefighter
Quinn Howitt - Firefighter	James Souch - Firefighter
Joseph James - Firefighter	Jevon Staples - Firefighter
Colin Kirst - Firefighter	Stacey Strange - Firefighter
Kevin Krawetz - Mechanic	Nick Waldschmidt - Firefighter
Luke Laszkiewicz - Firefighter	Alana Wilson - Dispatcher
Laura Losell - Firefighter	Jake Withers - Firefighter
Brett Mackie - Firefighter	Kurtis Worden - Firefighter

### Staff Retirements / Resignation

Gord Atkins - Lead Mechanic	Paul Freeman - Captain
Todd Bouckley - Firefighter	Debbie Hajdukovic - Dispatch Supervisor
Todd Bradley - Captain	Greg Latin - Captain
Derrick Clark - Fire Chief	Greg Watson - Platoon Chief
Dave Corner - Platoon Chief	

### Staff Promotions

Stephen Barkwell	- Fire Chief
Michael Barlow	- Deputy Fire Chief
Ryan Bell	- Training Captain
David Craven	- Captain
Mike Dingman	- Captain
Lance Fass	- Captain
Tim Fogal	- Platoon Chief
Mike Griffin	- Captain
Chris Haslam	- Captain
Brian Hoard	- Platoon Chief
Chris Keith	- Dispatch Supervisor
Mark Kolobutin	- Captain
Sandra Mackey	- Chief Communications Officer
Arthur Mann	- Captain
Jesse Martell	- Captain
Jamie Parchment	- Lead Mechanic
Darren Rankin	- Captain
Joe Therrien	- Platoon Chief
Todd Weitzel	- Captain

### Celebrating Staff Success

Jeff Abbott	- 35 Years Exemplary Service Medal
Chris Dreossi	- 25 Years Long Service Medal
Brett Fogal	- 25 Years Long Service Medal
Glenn Morris	- 25 Years Long Service Medal
Mario Perrino	- 25 Years Long Service Medal
Anthony Quick	- 25 Years Long Service Medal
John Webster	- 25 Years Long Service Medal
Craid Baird	- 20 Years Exemplary Service Medal
Brett Cooper	- 20 Years Exemplary Service Medal
Cory Devereaux	- 20 Years Exemplary Service Medal
Mark Kolobutin	- 20 Years Exemplary Service Medal
Jesse Martell	- 20 Years Exemplary Service Medal
William Passfield	- 20 Years Exemplary Service Medal
Aaron Shayda	- 20 Years Exemplary Service Medal

### Chief Clark Retired O.F.S after 37+ Years of Service



July 31, 2023 was Chief Derrick Clark's last day of service. Chief Clark began his career with O.F.S. as an alarm room operator/dispatch and then moved on to become a firefighter. He was promoted through the ranks and held the positions of Acting Captain, Training Officer, Chief Training Officer and Deputy Fire Chief before being appointed Fire Chief.

Throughout his career, Chief Clark has epitomized continuous improvement for not only himself through ongoing learning and development, but also for Oshawa Fire Services and the Oshawa community. O.F.S. Thanks Chief Clark for his service.

### In Memoriam:

It is with great sadness that we share the loss of Platoon Chief Ken Lynch to an occupational illness in January 2023. Chief Lynch served with distinction for over 36 years.

Chief Lynch made an impact both on and off duty serving his community.

We shall never take for granted the sacrifice Chief Lynch gave to serve his community with respect and honour.



# FIRE STATIONS



Station 1 | 199 Adelaide Ave. W.

Station 1 serves as the O.F.S. headquarters and was constructed in 1981. It occupies 24,000 square feet and primarily responds to the downtown core area of the City. Station 1 houses two suppression crews that operates Pump 21, Rescue 21, Administration staff, the Fire Prevention Division, and the Communications Division.

Station 2 | 1111 Simcoe St. S.

Constructed in 1982, Station 2 occupies 9,750 square feet and primarily responds to the south end of the City, including Highway 401. It houses one suppression crew operating Pump 22 and another suppression crew operating Aerial 22.



Station 3 | 50 Beatrice St. E.

Constructed in 1976, Station 3 occupies 9,000 square feet and primarily responds to the central west area of the City. It houses one suppression crew operating Pump 23 and a second suppression crew operating Aerial 23.



Station 4 | 50 Harmony Rd. N.

Constructed in 1982, Station 4 occupies 6,500 square feet and primarily responds to the central east area of the City. It houses one suppression crew operating Pump 24, along with two Fire Prevention Inspectors.

Station 5 | 1550 Harmony Rd. N.

Constructed in 2006, Station 5 occupies 17,900 square feet. It consists of the Training Division, the Mechanical Division, two Fire Prevention Inspectors, and one suppression crew. The suppression crew responds in either Pump 25 or Rescue 25 and primarily serves the northeast area of the City.



Station 6 | 2339 Simcoe St. N.

Constructed in 2016, Station 6 occupies 10,675 square feet and houses two Fire Prevention Inspectors, along with one suppression crew. The suppression crew responds in either Pump 26 or Tanker 26, primarily serving the northwest area of the City, including Highway 407.



# AT A GLANCE

## Oshawa Fire Services Mission:

To promote and protect the health and well-being of the community through adaptable and progressive education, prevention and emergency services.

## Oshawa Fire Services Vision:

To continually pursue and advance a level of professional excellence recognized as the model for the fire service.

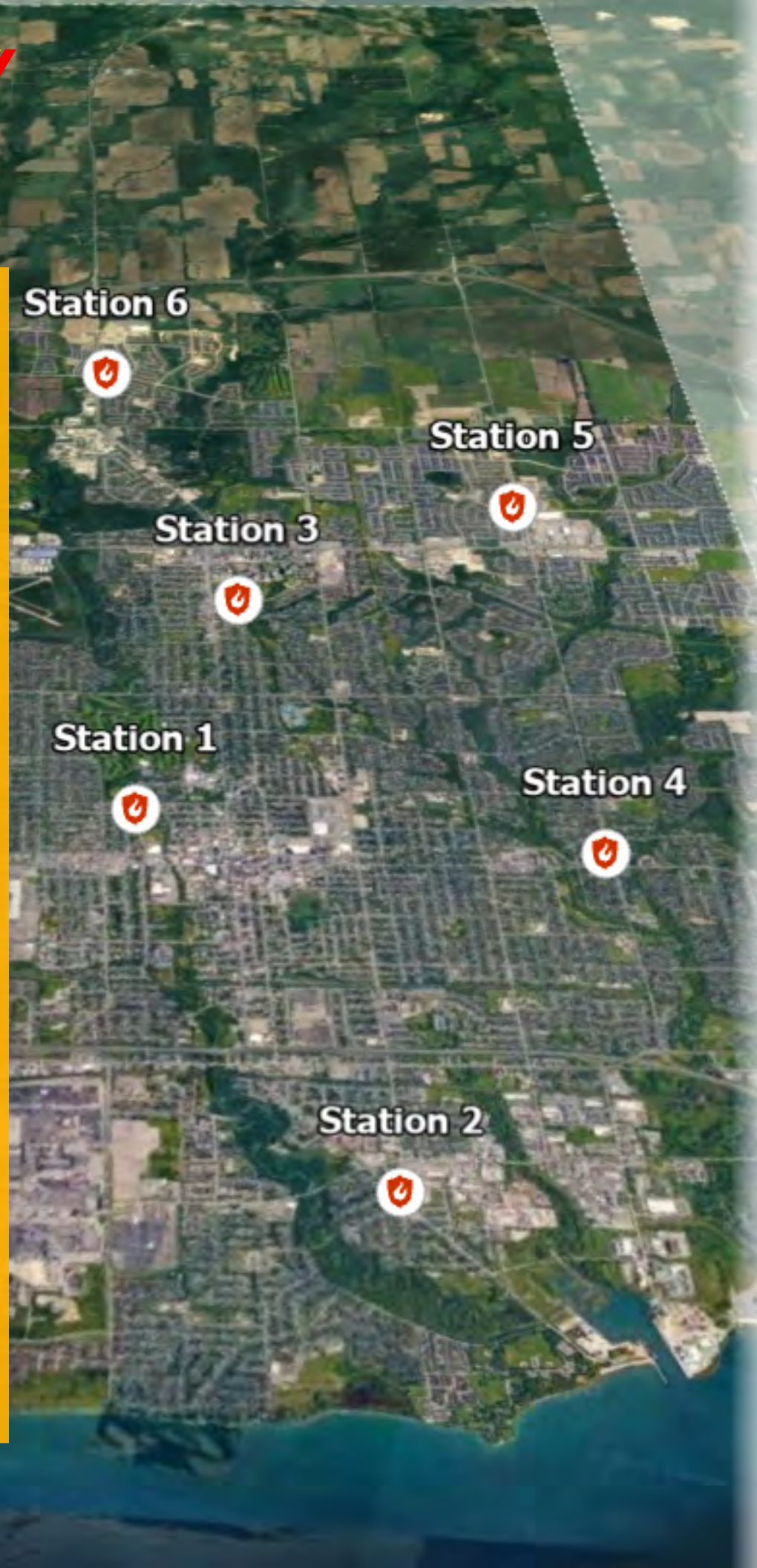
## At A Glance:

- 21,640 Training Hours Completed
- 18,713 Calls Dispatched for 6 Municipalities
- 3,817 Fire Inspections and Permits Completed
- 232 Staff across 6 Divisions
- 189,300 Residents Served
- 73,409 Households Served

## Top 3 Fire Causes in 2023:

- Electrical Failure
- Cooking
- Smoking

\*this info reflects only the reported fires.

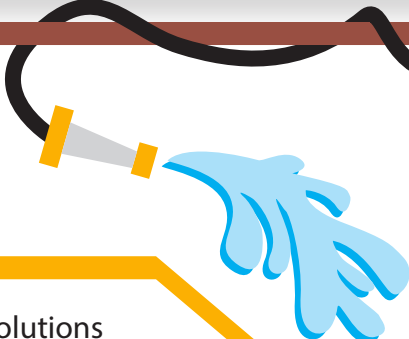





## CAMP MOLLY DURHAM

Oshawa Fire Services took great pride in being the first Fire Service in the Region to host Camp Molly Durham! Sept 14-17th, 2023.

Hosted at the new Oshawa Fire training grounds bringing a unique opportunity for 35 young women aged 15 to 18 years to learn what it's like to have a career in the fire service – beyond fire suppression!



Evolutions included Fire Training, Investigation, Public Education, Vehicle Extrication, Communications, Hoses and Ladder, Inspections/Enforcement and more.



By introducing them to the many facets available in the fire service, they get to broaden their horizons for those who may not contemplate firefighting as a viable career option and see the many avenues that still exist.

Camp Molly pays tribute to the first female firefighter on record in North America, Molly Williams.



# TRAINING DIVISION

2023 has been a remarkable year for the O.F.S. Training Division, marked by the introduction of new equipment, facilities, and training programs. The completion of the Draeger Class A live fire training tower at Oshawa Airport, featuring a full classroom portable, self-contained washroom, storage containers, and a car fire prop, has been a major highlight. Additionally, a forcible entry prop allows members to enhance their skills with locked doors. This new facility is set to significantly benefit the training and education of O.F.S. personnel.

Oshawa's largest ever recruit class; Class 97, consisted of 28 new firefighters who received 8 weeks of recruit training. Additionally, the division's staffing model was enhanced by adding a new Training Captain, bringing its complement to four.

Installation of iPads on front-line trucks has enabled digital submission of records, streamlining processes for all staff. The implementation of New Rapid Intervention Team bags has enhanced staff safety during emergencies, while upgrades to nozzles and hydrant gates ensure top-quality equipment for our team.





**Total Training Hours 21,640**

**306**

**Prevention  
Hours**

**546**

**Communication  
Hours**

**19,235**

**Suppression  
Hours**

**1,553**

**Technical Rescue  
-Hazmat Hours**

**In addition to 21,640 training hours completed by O.F.S .  
staff, the Training Division coordinated many other learning  
opportunities such as;**

- NFPA 1035 - Fire and Life Safety Educator I
- NFPA 1041 - Fire Service Instructor I
- IAFF Firefighter Survival course
- Officer development and training program for new Captains
- Mass Casualty training at Durham College
- General Motors first responder electrical vehicle training symposium
- Camp Molly



# FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION

## Citizen safety is the top priority to us.

The Fire Prevention division analyzes the needs of the community to conduct building inspections, develop and maintain targeted education campaigns to ensure the community is well equipped with fire prevention tools and to reduce the risk of emergencies.

The Fire Prevention division is staffed by a highly trained, dedicated and competent team. It is comprised of nine Fire Prevention Inspectors, two Fire Prevention Captains, and one Chief Fire Prevention Officer. This year the division welcomed Sarah McNeil, Fire Prevention Inspector to the team. Sarah possesses a tremendous amount of knowledge and a strong work ethic that will benefit the division for years to come.

### Public Education programs we used in 2023:

- Fire Prevention Week
- Durham College PSW Presentations
- CO Prevention Week
- Spring into Summer
- 12 Days of Holiday Safety
- It Happened on Your Street
- Coffee With the Crews
- Elementary School Fire Safety Presentations
- Secondary School Fire Safety Presentations
- Alarmed for Life
- Community Public Safety Engagement – Barbeques
- Summer Park Program
- Career Fairs
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Seniors Presentations

Public Support Worker Presentations: 95

Elementary School Presentations: 4,124



## Achievements

### Inspection Program

The Fire Prevention Division was hard at work completing inspections on buildings of all occupancy types.

### Inspections Completed

	#
<i>Residential Inspections</i>	1,790
<i>Residential Rental By-law Inspections</i>	554
<i>Assembly Inspections</i>	277
<i>Complaint Inspections</i>	503
<i>Industrial Inspections</i>	90
<i>New Construction Inspections</i>	165
<i>Occpancy/L.C.B.O</i>	6
<i>Business Licenses</i>	295
<i>Plans Review/Approval</i>	125
<i>Burn Permits</i>	12



School fire safety at Kedron Public School.

# Alarmed for Life Program

Be Alarmed! Don't assume your smoke alarms are working. Press the button to check.

**3,739** Homes Visited for Alarmed for Life

**840** Smoke Alarms & Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms Installed:



“By ensuring you have working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, testing your alarms monthly, and developing a well-practiced evacuation plan, you can avoid panic in the event of a fire. These simple proactive fire safety checks will contribute toward a safer Oshawa”

- Chief Stephen Barkwell.

## Community Members and Partnerships

- Canadian Red Cross
- CAMH
- Costco
- Community Safety Net
- CRCS DKI
- Durham College
- Durham Regional Police
- Enbridge
- McDonald's Restaurants
- Harvey's Restaurants
- OFMEM
- Walmart

## Events we attended this year

- Canada Day at Lakeview Park
- Ontario Fire Prevention Officers Association Symposium
- Orientation at Durham College
- Community Safety Barbeques
- Oshawa Generals Game Fire Safety Info
- Santa Clause Parade
- Help Shape Oshawa at Oshawa Centre

## Community Events

Community Safety Barbeques – Once again this year, we endeavoured to meet our community where they live. We hosted three Community Safety Barbeques where community members were invited to meet Fire Services staff and enjoy free hot dogs and drinks, fire safety information, and fire truck tours. These events were well attended and beneficial to all who attended. We also attended a Health Fair at Hillsdale Estates and Terraces.

# SUPPRESSION DIVISION

Suppression Division is comprised of 4 Platoons with 4 Platoon Chiefs, 36 Captains and 149 fire fighters across 6 fire stations working 24 hour shifts.

The suppression division is responsible for responding to fire incidents, emergency medical aid, vehicle extrication, elevator rescues, hazardous material response and technical rescue including rope, confined space, trench and water rescues. Our suppression crews also participate in several educational and emergency preparedness programs including fire drills and our "Alarmed for Life" program.

Rescue 21, the rapid response vehicle, was placed into service at Fire Station 1 on June 26, to assist with medical aid and a variety of non-emergent incidents. Rescue 21 is equipped with special equipment to mitigate hazardous material incidents and assist at fire incidents.

## Firefighter Recruits Class # 97



### Oshawa Incident Response by Type

<i>Response Type</i>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Fire Related</i>	629	809	741	629	622
<i>Medical</i>	1,857	2,029	2,446	2,198	2,520
<i>Motor Vehicle Collision</i>	1,036	715	734	815	905
<i>Alarm</i>	700	657	858	991	1,051
<i>Public Hazard</i>	829	759	780	792	771
<i>Rescue</i>	60	48	65	66	92
<i>Other</i>	113	86	523	696	636
<i>Total</i>	5,224	5,103	6,147	6,187	6,597

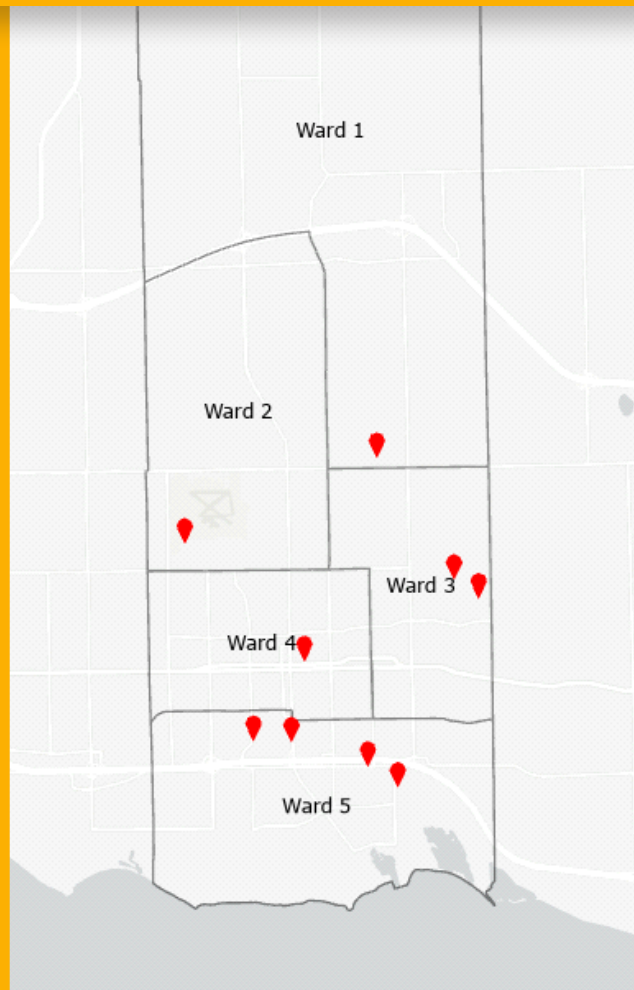
\*Due to COVID-19, annual responses declined in 2020



# Major Fires in 2023: with Estimated Loss over \$500,000

Incident Location	Property Type	Ward	Fire Station	Estimated Loss
Bloor Street East	Residential	Ward 5	Station 2	600,000
Bond Street East	Residential	Ward 4	Station 1	750,000
Faywood Crescent	Residential	Ward 3	Station 4	1,250,000
Jim Brewster Circle	Residential	Ward 3	Station 4	750,000
Raleigh Avenue	Industrial	Ward 5	Station 2	2,600,000
Simcoe Street South	Residential	Ward 5	Station 2	1,300,000
Springwater Crescent	Residential	Ward 1	Station 5	750,000
Tresane Street	Residential	Ward 5	Station 1	900,000
Waverly Street North	Residential	Ward 2	Station 1	1,100,000

## Major Fires in 2023 Locations



# COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Day and night, Oshawa Fire Communications personnel are ready to support the community in the event of an emergency. It begins with the call, and trained professionals are prepared to respond immediately, sending the right resources to fire incidents within six municipalities in Durham Region. The division, which is the largest Fire Communications Centre east of the GTA is comprised of a Chief Communications Officer overseeing 16 dispatch professionals including 4 supervisors, acting supervisors and staff who work 24/7 processing emergent and non-emergent calls for Clarington, Oshawa, Whitby, Scugog, Uxbridge, and Brock Township.

As the first point of contact in an emergency, Oshawa Fire dispatchers understand the importance in gathering crucial information quickly and efficiently and are held to the highest standards of response. They continuously exceed NFPA standards ensuring you receive the best in emergency response.



Divisional goals for 2023 included continuous learning and development of new technologies as we move towards an NG911 platform. Working closely with the CRTC and Emergency Service Working Groups and NENA (National Emergency Numbers Association).



## Our 2023 Performance

40,119 Calls Logged in 2023

### Calls Dispatched from Communications Division

<b>Clarington</b>	→	<b>4,158</b>
<b>Oshawa</b>	→	<b>6,597</b>
<b>Whitby</b>	→	<b>6,775</b>
<b>Scugog</b>	→	<b>479</b>
<b>Uxbridge</b>	→	<b>349</b>
<b>Brock</b>	→	<b>355</b>
<b>Total</b>	→	<b>18,713</b>

### New Technology

Oshawa Fire is implementing a new state of the art, NG911 CAD (computer aided dispatch) Hexagon OnCall System built for the future to enhance call response and fire dispatch capabilities.

### Continuous Training

Communications continues to focus on staff development as they provide ongoing training for relief dispatch firefighters who play an important role, ensuring we always have quality and competent staff available 24/7 to take your call and send help your way.

**PulsePoint**  
AED

**PulsePoint**

Download from GooglePlay or Apple App Store

Be the reason someone's tomorrow happens....

### Keeping busy in the Community! Pulse Point- Free CPR Clinic

Continuing the focus on saving lives, Oshawa Fire teamed up with Durham College in June and hosted a free CPR clinic for up to 200 community members to learn about PulsePoint (free life-saving app) and be an active participant in providing support to someone in cardiac arrest, until first responders arrive. Seconds count and through our Computer Aided Dispatch, PulsePoint provides the chance to make a difference!

## MECHANICAL DIVISION

The Mechanical Division plays a significant role in Oshawa Fire Services. It procures, inspects, maintains, and repairs all fleet vehicles including fire trucks and support vehicles, as well as firefighting equipment such as thermal imaging cameras, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), ladders and other small appliances and engines.

In 2023, the division spent almost 3200 hours maintaining all of the equipment within the Oshawa Fire Services to ensure they function properly to serve our community.

Congratulations to Jamie Parchment on his promotion to Lead Mechanic and Kevin Krawetz who started his career with the Oshawa Fire Services Mechanical Division.



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency management plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and well-being of communities, especially when it comes to fire departments. O.F.S. holds the responsibility for collaborating with the City in prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for a wide range of natural and human caused emergencies, including fires, hazardous material incidents, natural disasters, and other crises that pose a threat to public safety.

In 2023, the Municipal Emergency Control Group trained in coordination with Durham Emergency Management on Nuclear emergencies and response protocols. Oshawa Fire also participated in a joint emergency Active Shooter exercise in cooperation with Durham College, Durham Regional Police and Durham Emergency Medical Services to coordinate collaborative efforts on mass casualty responses. Throughout the year, O.F.S. has utilized social media and workshops to educate the community on emergency preparedness, fire safety and home escape plans. The "Alarmed for Life" program has suppression crews attend in their respective areas to check for working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Our Fire Prevention Public Education division is proactively delivers safety education to the community and schools. The Oshawa Emergency Management Program met compliance with Emergency Management Ontario under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.







Oshawa Fire Services has continued to be a proud supporter of TeachingCity Oshawa, a collaborative partnership between the City of Oshawa and local post-secondary institutions. This partnership has contributed to advancing research and technology in firefighter training and firefighter performance and wellbeing.

## **Pre-Service Education & Training: Improving the Health, Safety and Fitness for a Future Generation of Firefighters**

Durham College and Oshawa Fire Services have been working in collaboration to enhance work-integrated learning opportunities for students to experience real-life fire simulations while improving health, safety, and fitness. The project's primary focus has been on expanding program development, particularly conducting the Encapsulated Treadmill Test (ETT) in collaboration with Ontario Fire Administration Inc. (OFAI). The ETT was administered at the beginning and end of the academic semester for Durham College students.



Durham College students successfully planned and implemented Pre-Employment Clinics in conjunction with OFAI, testing various fitness parameters crucial for firefighting. The students developed and conducted small group training sessions and monitored students in specialized exercise science labs. The students experienced the ETT administered by approved evaluators, receiving tailored exercise prescriptions to ensure readiness for official testing. OFAI also received valuable training protocols recommended to pre-service firefighters and education providers across Ontario. The project provided future firefighter applicants exposure to candidate testing requirements and specific exercise training programs, enhancing their readiness for the application process.

Durham College students improved their understanding of health and wellness requirements within the fire service. They also enhanced readiness of future firefighters and fitness professionals and confirmed their contribution to long-term health and performance optimization for firefighters. The collaborative efforts of TeachingCity, Durham College, and Ontario Fire Administration, Inc. have significantly contributed to the advancement of firefighter pre-service education and training. The project's outcomes underscore the importance of integrating real-life simulations and tailored exercise programs to enhance the health, safety, and fitness of future generations of firefighters. Durham College looks forward to continued collaboration and refinement of training protocols to further optimize the readiness and performance of firefighters, ensuring the long-term well-being of both current and future members of the fire service.

## **Virtual Reality Simulation for Fire Services Training**

The research team at Durham College is currently in the process of finalizing a Virtual Reality (VR) prototype to facilitate training and testing of firefighters in collapsed and enclosed spaces. They are working with the Mixed Reality Capture studio to insert new assets and incorporate new technology. Once in place, the research team will conduct physiological data collection with the VR simulation in Ontario Tech University's Automotive Centre of Excellence (ACE) facility.

To learn more about TeachingCity, visit [www.teachingcityoshawa.ca](http://www.teachingcityoshawa.ca)



In the case of an emergency, call 911.



OSHAWA FIRE & RESCUE



**Connect with us:**

Oshawa Fire Services

**Address:** 199 Adelaide Avenue West,  
Oshawa, ON L1J 7B1

**Phone:** 905-436-3311 | **Email:** [fire@oshawa.ca](mailto:fire@oshawa.ca)

**Twitter:** @OshawaFire | **[www.oshawa.ca/fire](http://www.oshawa.ca/fire)**

Photo credit: Oshawa Fire Services acknowledges and thanks Colin Williamson, Durham Region Responses, Ken Whetham, Sheri Whetham, and Sofia Mingram for sharing their photos, many of which appear in this report.