

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

From: Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department

Report Number: SF-24-34

Date of Report: September 11, 2024

Date of Meeting: September 16, 2024

Subject: Fire Services Rescue 21 Performance Report

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of Rescue 21 at Fire Station 1.

The report will highlight the following with respect to Rescue 21:

- How it is staffed
- The specialized equipment and training required
- Mobility compared to pumper apparatus
- Type and number Rescue 21 responses

Attachment 1 is a map of the core boundary of Rescue 21, which encompasses the primary response areas of Fire Stations, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

2.0 Recommendation

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

That Report SF-24-34 dated September 11, 2024 concerning Fire Services Rescue 21 Performance Report be received for information.

3.0 Input From Other Sources

- Report CNCL-20-189
- CriSys Incident response reporting

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Background

On November 26, 2020, Council approved Report CNCL-20-189 containing the 2020 Fire Master Plan and Community Risk Assessment. Option #2 of CNCL-20-189 included a rapid response vehicle apparatus for Fire Station 1.

The primary purpose of this rapid response vehicle apparatus is to respond to emergent medical incidents within Fire Station 1's primary response area including but not limited to suspected overdoses, unconscious and V.S.A. (vital signs absent) incidents. Rescue 21 also responds to non-emergent medical incidents, carbon monoxide (without symptoms), alarm resets and public hazards within a broader area known as the core boundary, which encompasses the primary response areas of Fire Stations, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The purpose of these responses are designed to relieve pumper apparatus from responding to these incidents, allowing them to focus on fire related and emergent medical incidents in alignment with the N.F.P.A. (National Fire Protection Association) 1710 standards.

4.2 Rescue 21

Rescue 21 was placed into service at Fire Station 1 on June 26, 2023. It is staffed 24/7 with a crew that consists of a Captain and 3 Firefighters.

Rescue 21 is outfitted with specialized equipment including:

- AED (defibrillator)
- Basic life support equipment
- Naloxone (opioid overdose medication)
- Trauma and hazardous material mitigation equipment
- Elevator rescue equipment
- Firefighting support tools
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms with installation equipment

Specialized Training of Staff assigned to Rescue 21:

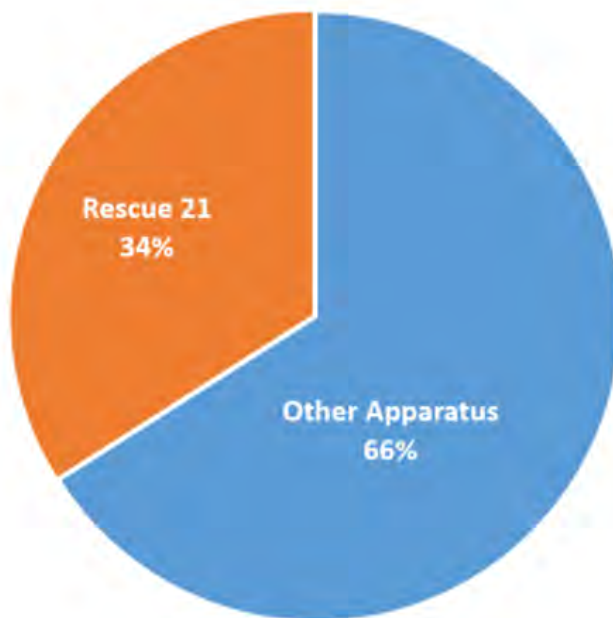
- Canadian Red Cross Emergency Medical Responder
- Trained in N.F.P.A. 472 standard in Hazardous Material Response
- Trained in T.S.S.A. Firefighters Elevator Evacuation (Rescue)

Rescue 21 is a more agile and lightweight vehicle compared to a pumper or aerial apparatus, resulting in an opportunity for more efficient responses to emergency medical interventions. Weighing 37,600 lbs. (17,055 kg) , Rescue 21 is 41% lighter than Pumper 21, which weighs 53,129 lbs. (24,100 kg) and carries over 2,000 liters (528 Gallons) of water and 610 meters (2,000 feet) of hose. The reduced weight of Rescue 21 allows it to respond to incidents more efficiently, which not only provides an opportunity to improve response times, but also reduces the mechanical strain on the heavier pumper apparatus, with the goal of lower maintenance and repair costs.

4.3 Progress

Oshawa Fire Services responded to 7,218 incidents from June 26, 2023, to June 26, 2024. Rescue 21 handled 34% (2,460 incidents) of these calls.

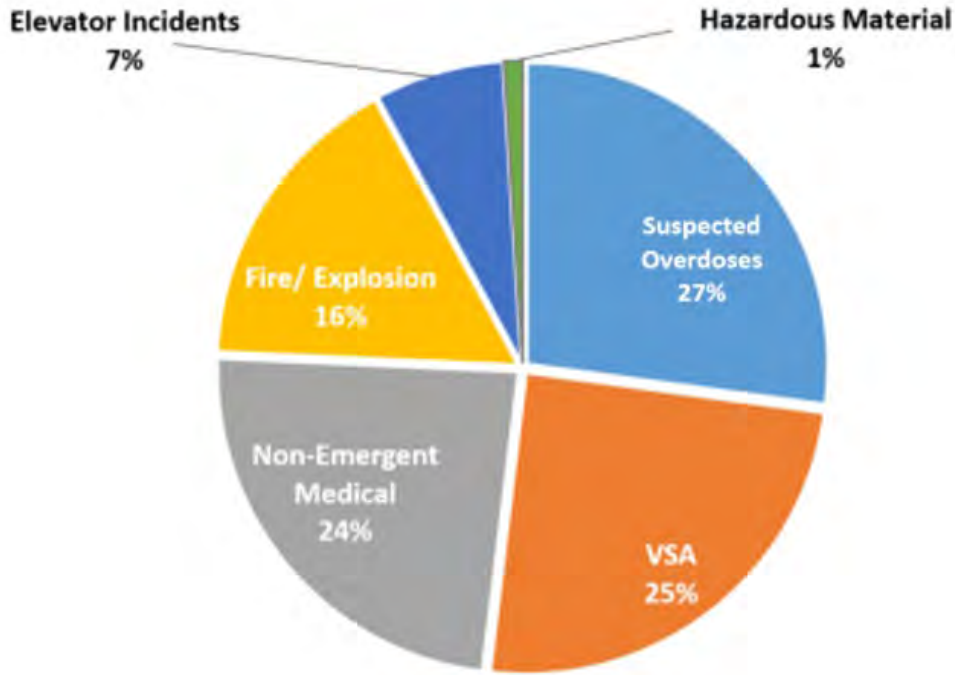
**Rescue 21 Incident Response Breakdown
(June 26, 2023, to June 26, 2024)**



Rescue 21 has responded to 2,460 incidents in Oshawa, which includes the following:

- 56 Elevator incidents
- 8 Hazardous material responses
- 990 Other incidents (carbon monoxide, fire alarms, MVC, public hazards)
- 1,274 Medical responses
 - 662 Unconscious
 - 200 V.S.A. (Vital Signs Absent)
 - 220 Suspected Overdoses (Fire Station 1 response area including Downtown core)
 - 192 Non-emergent medical incidents within the core boundary
- 132 Fire/Explosion incidents (adding 4 additional Firefighters to Fire/Explosion responses to Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, and High Density Residential city wide)
 - 119 Structural Fires

**Rescue 21 Incident Response Breakdown
(June 26, 2023, to June 26, 2024)**



By efficiently managing a sizeable portion of the total response load, Rescue 21 has enhanced the department’s overall capacity, providing an opportunity to decrease response times to medical calls, increased the capacity of other units, and has improved the quality of emergency services delivered to the community.

With Oshawa Fire Service’s modified Alarm for Life program, Rescue 21 has inspected and ensured compliance of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to 288 residential properties from June 26, 2023 to June 26, 2024. Through the combined efforts of Rescue 21 and the Alarmed for Life program, Oshawa Fire Services is reinforcing its commitment to safeguarding residents and protecting our community.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications

6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Care: Safe and Sustainable Environment” with the goal to enhance emergency preparedness and response, including preparing for potential climate emergencies and significant weather events.

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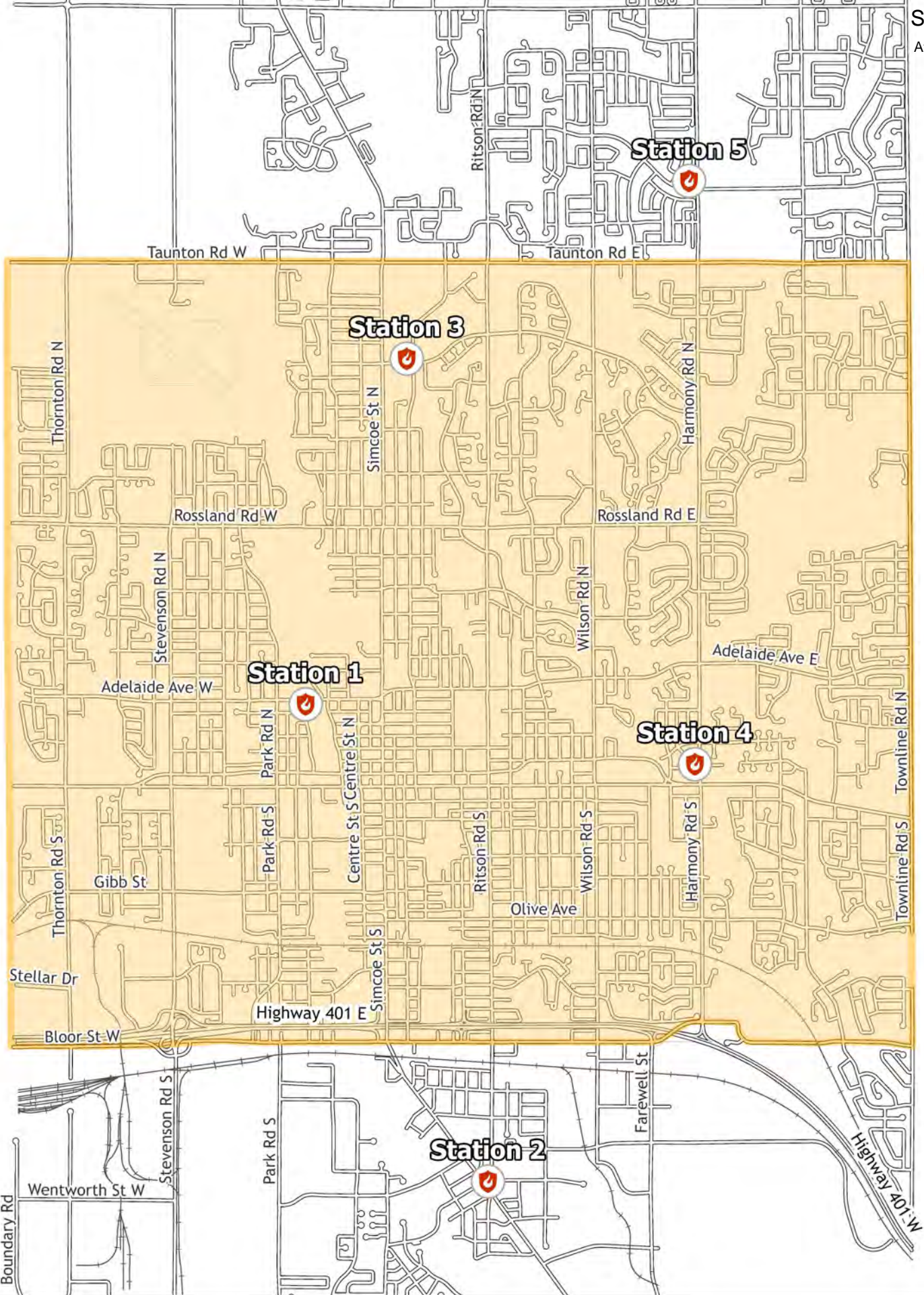
Stephen Barkwell, Fire Chief,
Fire Services

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

Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department

TOWN OF WHITBY

MUNICIPALITY OF CLARINGTON



The City of Oshawa

Rescue 21 Boundary

1:40,000

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