

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2016 June 02

**FROM:** JOE ROBERTSON  
FIRE CHIEF

**SUBJECT:** FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

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## REPORT

This report will provide an update for the committee of recent events related to the Fire Department:

### MAJOR INCIDENTS

- 1) April 11, 2016 – 03:58 hours  
- Commercial building fire



To: Public Safety Committee  
From: Joe Robertson – Fire Chief  
Re: Fire Department Report  
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- 2) April 24, 2016 - 08:40 hours  
- Apartment building fire



- 3) May 24, 2016 – 19:49 hours  
- House fire with animal fatalities



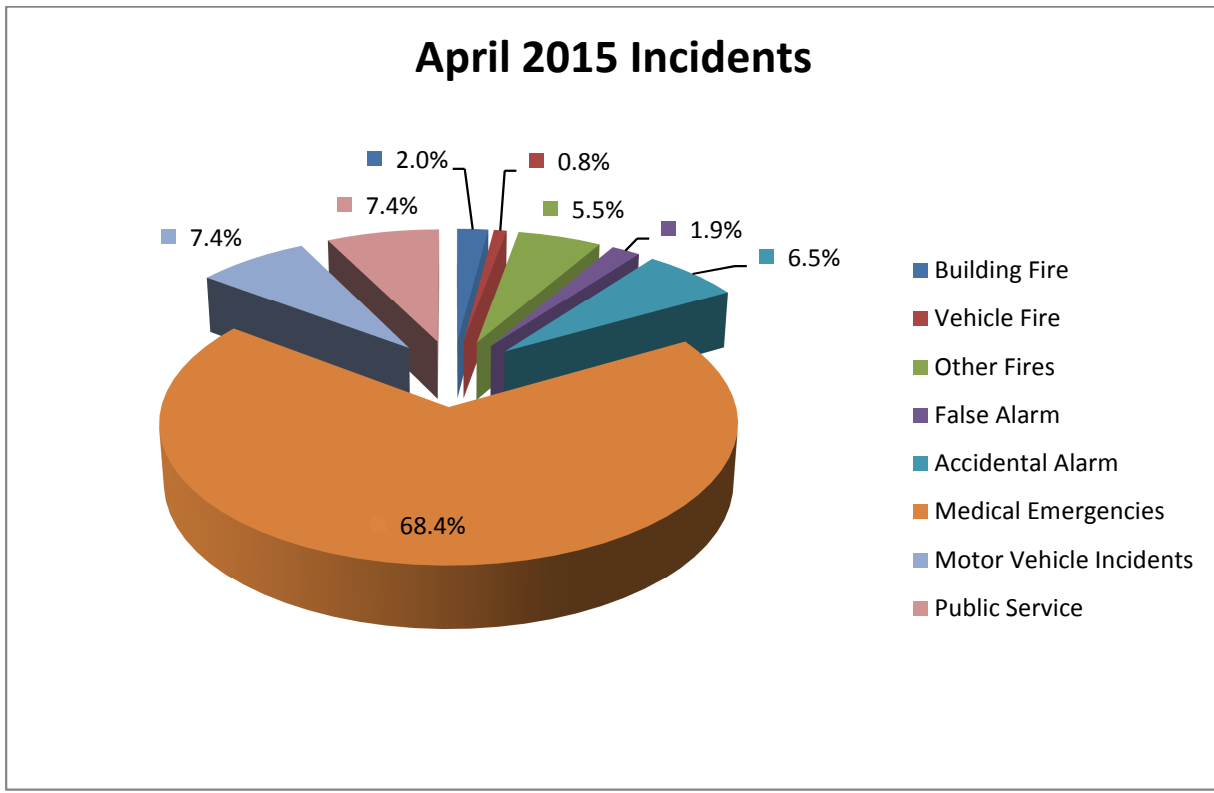
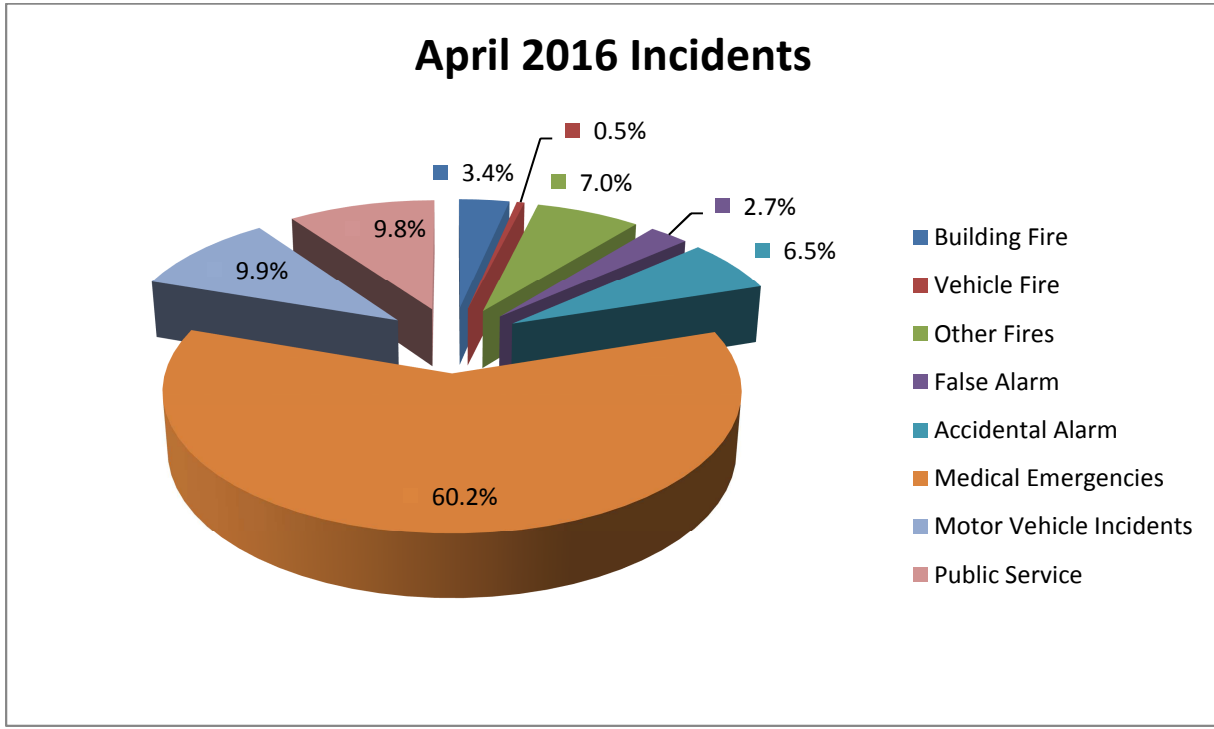
Courtesy of Global BC

To: *Public Safety Committee*  
From: *Joe Robertson – Fire Chief*  
Re: *Fire Department Report*  
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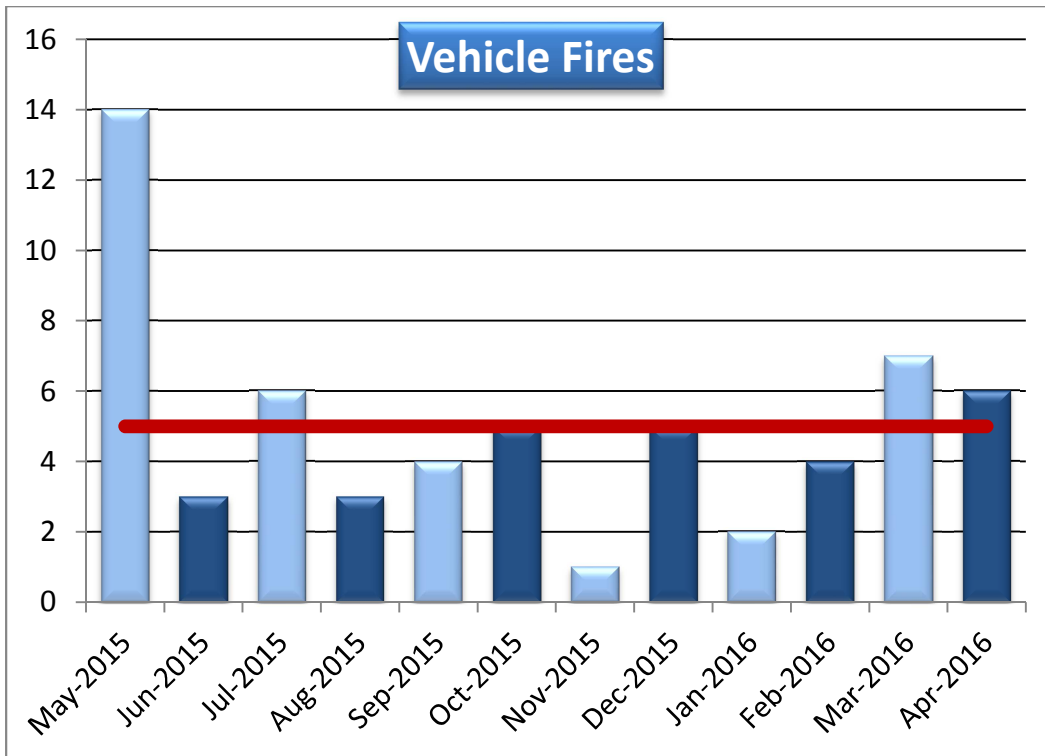
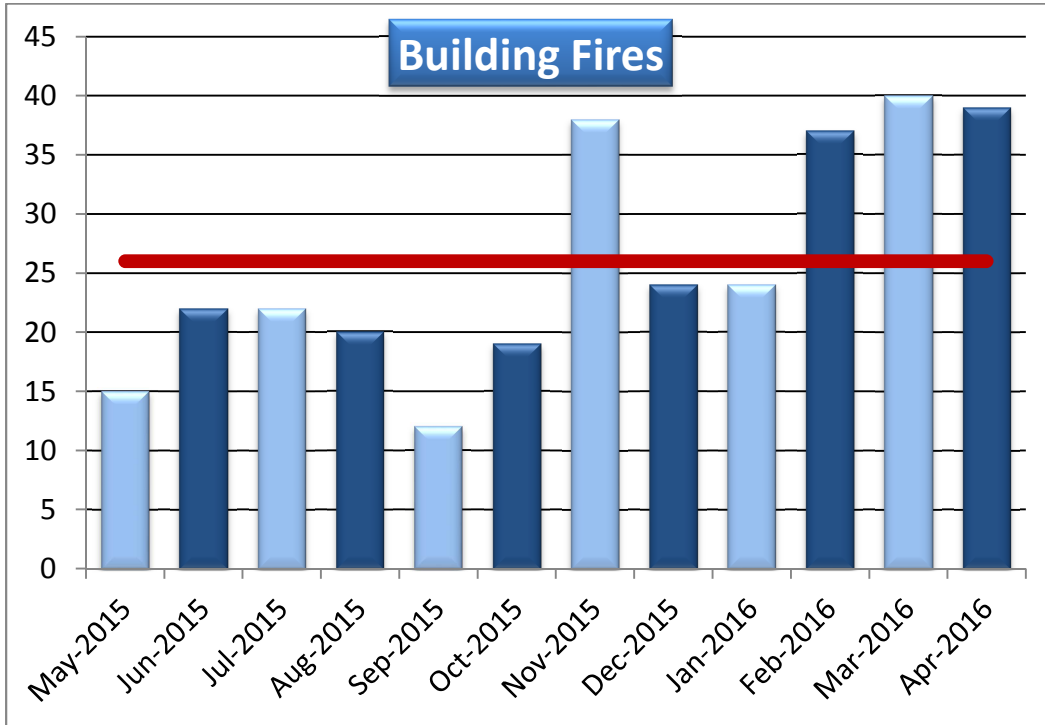
This was a very stressful and emotional incident for the residents, bystanders and the firefighters. Immediately upon arrival of our first fire company it was apparent that multiple animal lives were in danger. Our crews quickly reacted by entering what we call 'Rescue Mode' in attempt to save the lives of the pets while also ensuring the fire did not escalate. Unfortunately out of 11 animals only one dog was saved with 8 dogs and 2 cats perishing despite resuscitation attempts by firefighters, residents and veterinarians.

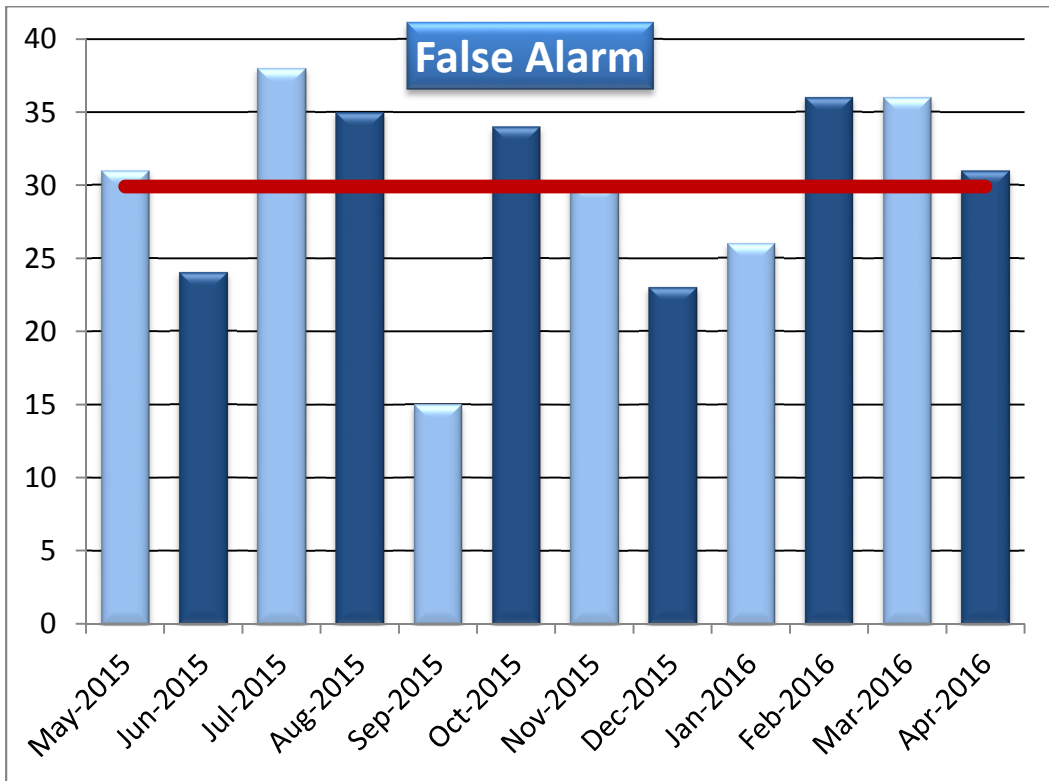
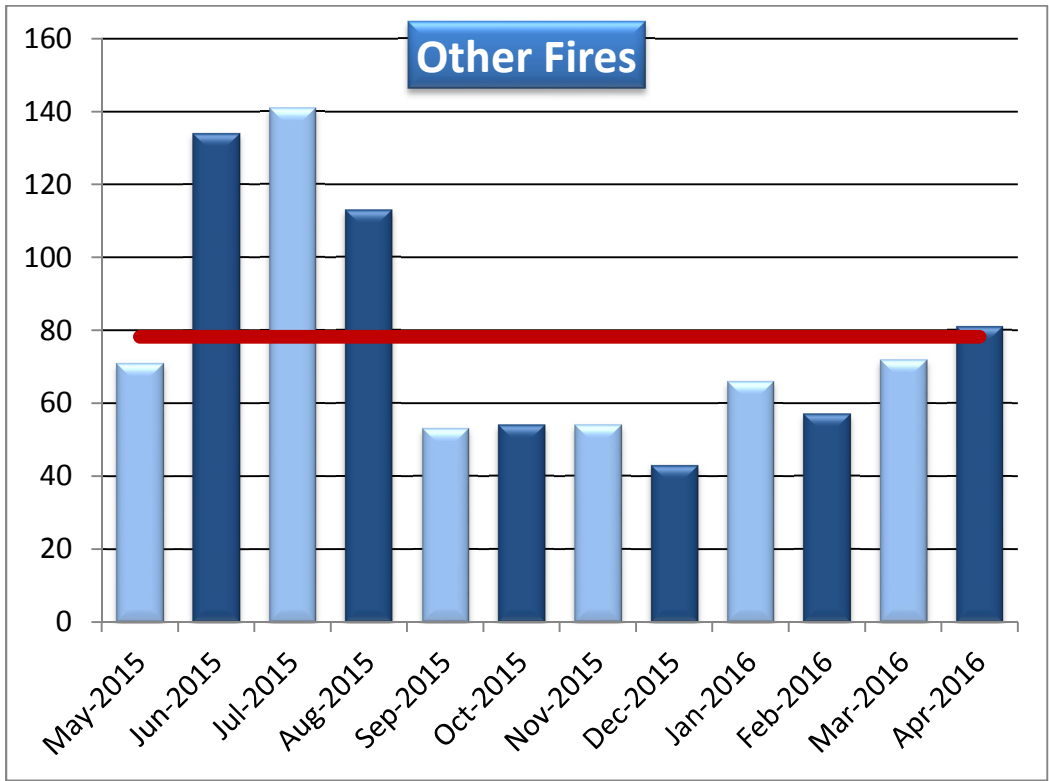
This incident garnered much interest and support from the media and the public. The positive side of this resulted in members of the public wanting to donate pet masks which can be utilized in live saving efforts.

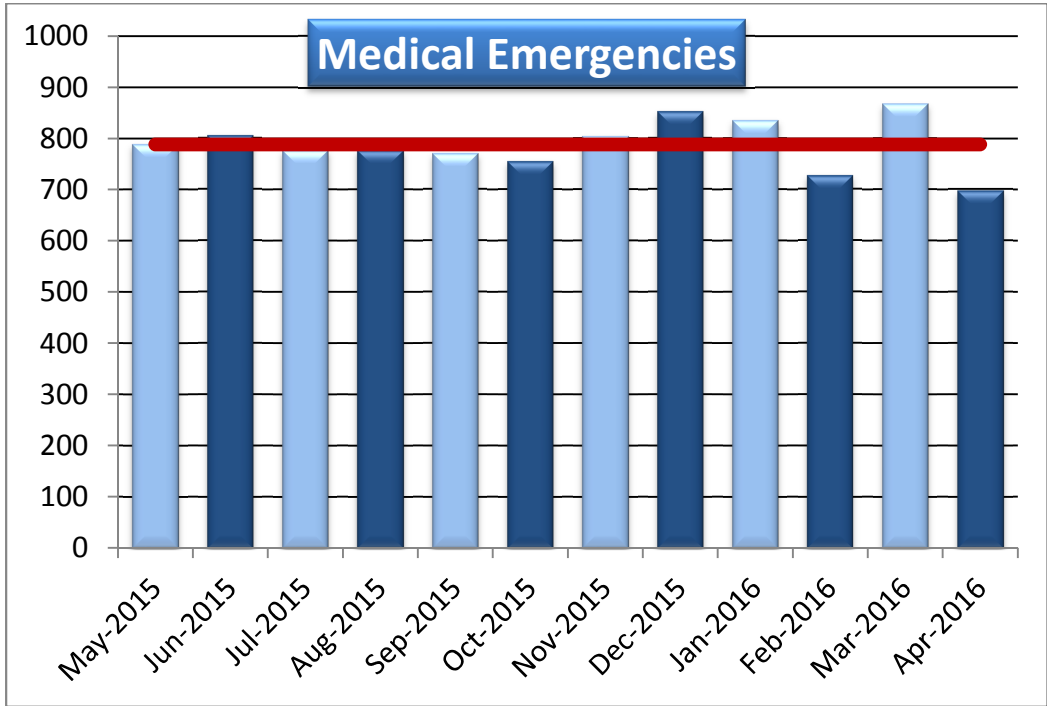
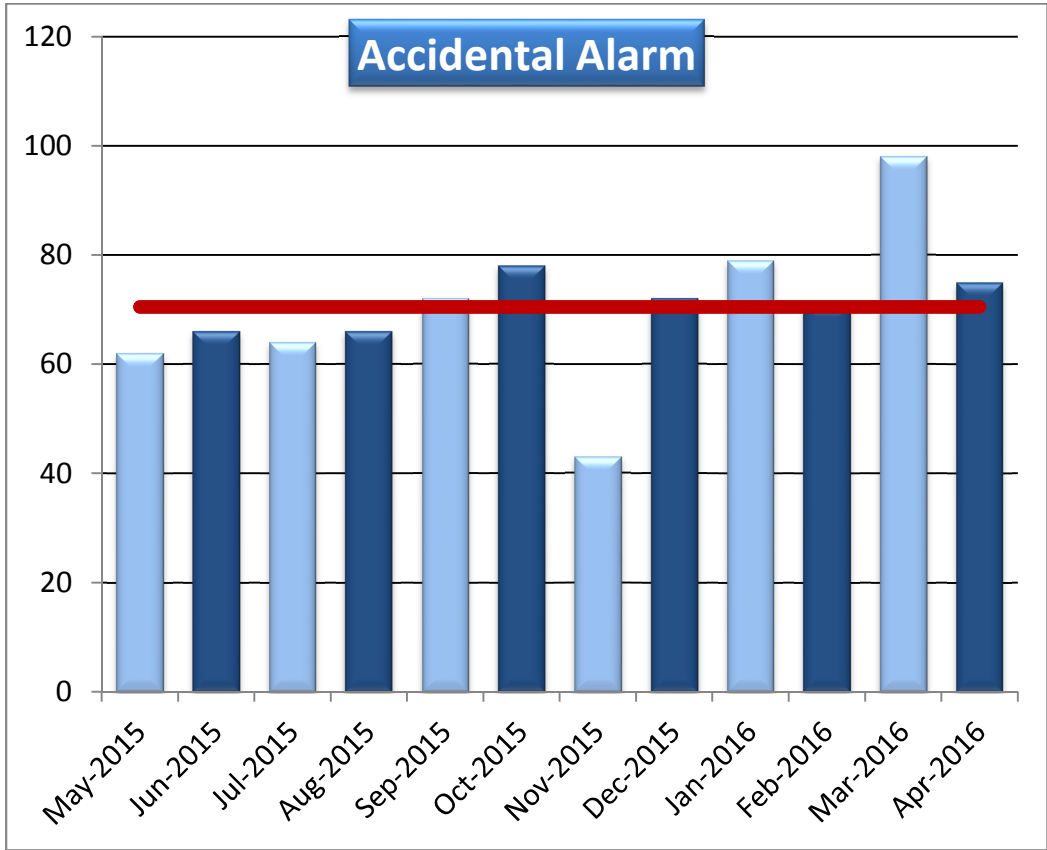
**SUPRESSION DIVISION**

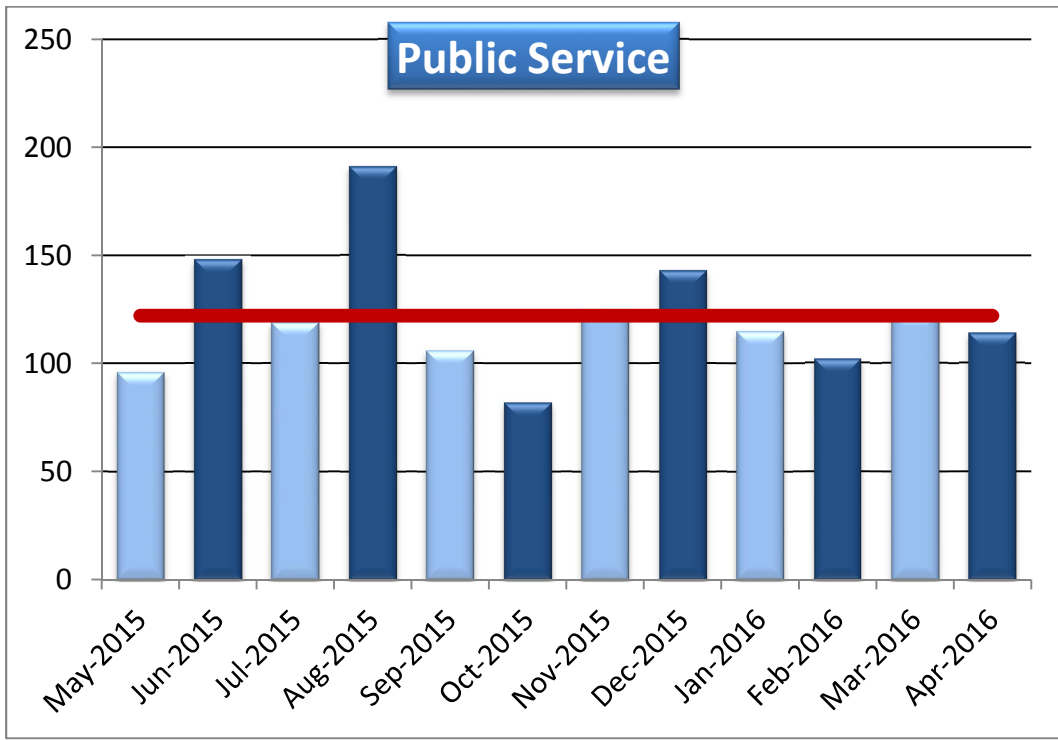
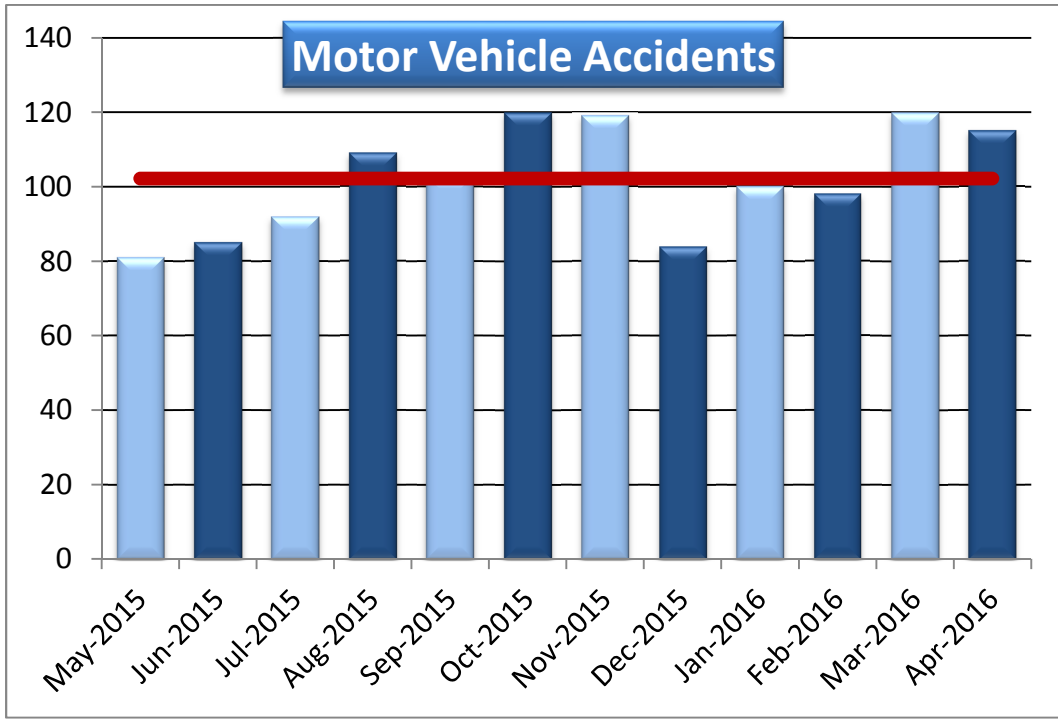


**INCIDENT TYPE STATISTICS OVER 12 MONTHS**











## **TRAINING**

Since our last report, the Training Division has been involved in certifications for eight Fire Officer 1 candidates, which then allows the employee to act as a Lieutenant. The process involves self-study for one year, a Fire Service Instructor course through the Justice Institute of BC and then a week of classroom theoretical learning before they present course material themselves. This is followed by a written test and four weeks of on-shift training in both Fire Command and Strategy & Tactics. Candidates then perform 'table top' exercises culminating in a table top evaluation by ProBoard certified evaluators. This is followed by an incident command system (ICS) written test and a four week preceptorship with a senior officer. Throughout this time there are other exercises and assignments which must be completed and evaluated by the Training Division.

It is a thorough process which exceeds the standards set out in the National Fire Protection Association guidelines for a fire officer, and which we believe provides our officers with the knowledge, skills and ability needed to ensure the safety of the public and our firefighters.

## **FIRE PREVENTION**

The Fire Prevention Division reviews and extracts data from a Fire Safety Plans that follows specific guidelines to create Pre-Incident Plan. This information is then transferred electronically to the PIPMS (Pre-incident plan management system), a computer program that was designed by our in house I.T. staff member. The PIPMS is available to fire officers on the truck mounted computers as a resource to assist them in making quick, precise decisions to aid in life safety while en route to an incident.

A Pre-Incident Plan is one of the most valuable tools available for aiding responding personnel in effectively controlling an emergency. During the development of these plans, a Fire Prevention officer is able to connect with building and/or company owners and assist them in understanding the BC Fire Code, evacuation procedures and fire emergency systems that are specific to their building.

With new staff replacing former vacancies in this Division we hope to conduct more routine inspections and streamline the data entry process with the Pre-Incident Plan. This will make the information more readily accessible for Incident Commanders and company officers and ultimately allow us to provide a better service to the public.

Joe Robertson  
Fire Chief

JR:as