

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2016 August 23

FROM: JOE ROBERTSON
FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

REPORT

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

MAJOR INCIDENTS

- 1) July 12, 2016 – 03:09 hours
- Commercial building fire



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- 2) July 12, 2016 - 04:14 hours
- Residential house fire



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Jang, CTV

- 3) July 23, 2016 – 14:02 hours
- Condominium fire



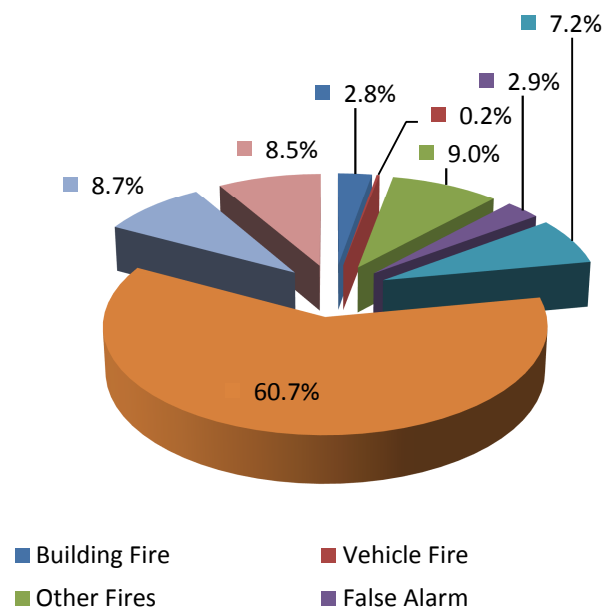
- 4) August 8, 2016 – 22:02 hours
- Commercial building fire



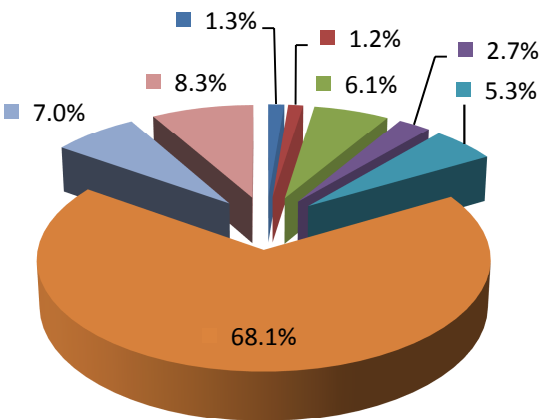
Photo Courtesy of bcfiretrucks.com

SUPPRESSION DIVISION

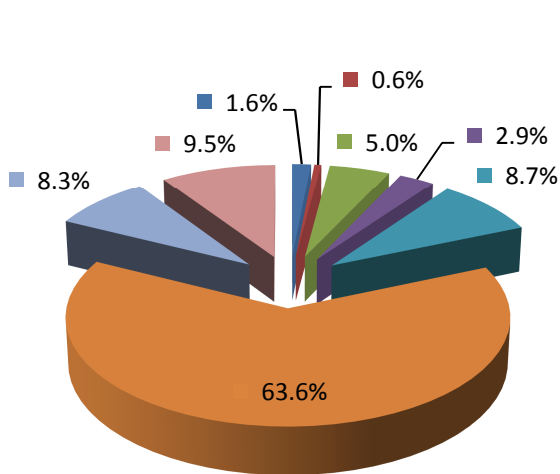
May 2016 Incidents



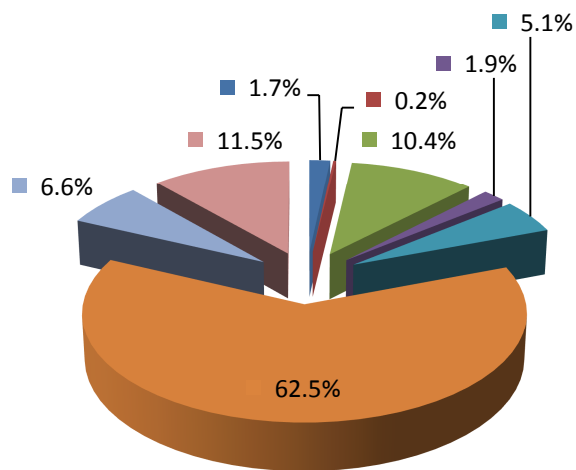
May 2015 Incidents



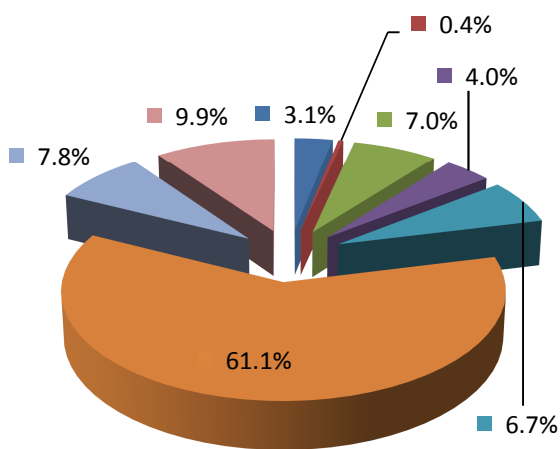
June 2016 Incidents



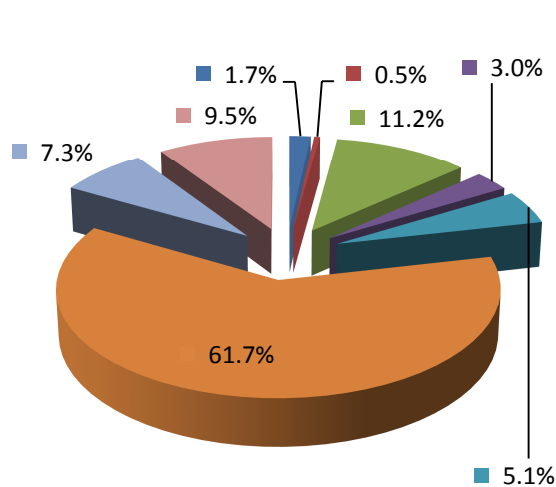
June 2015 Incidents



July 2016 Incidents

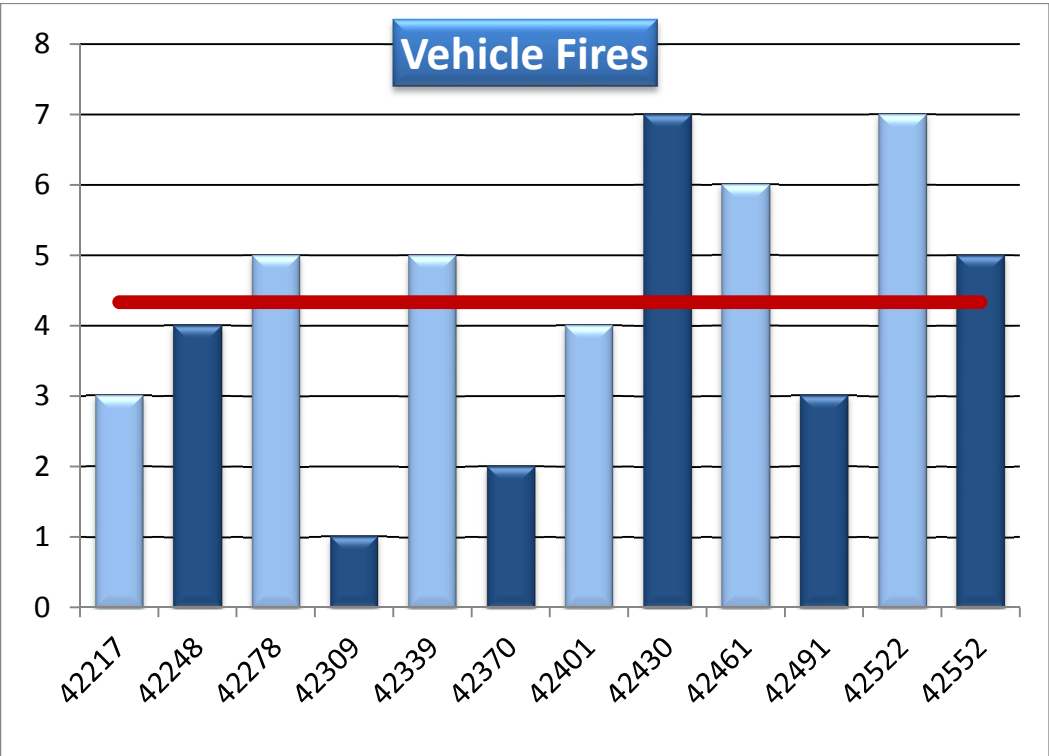
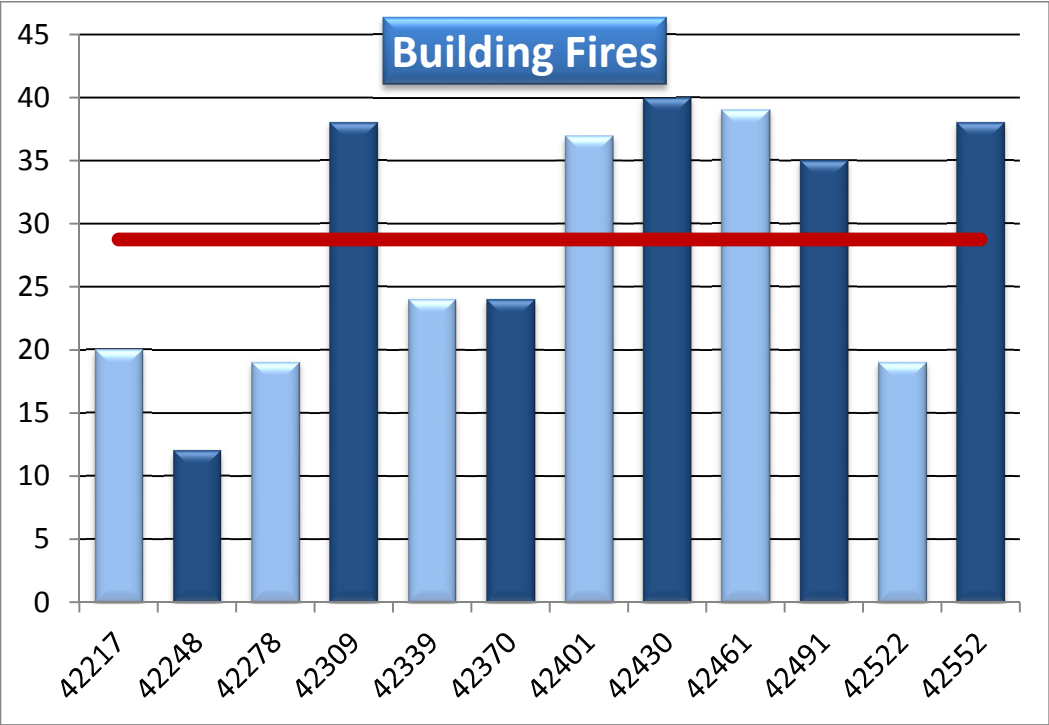


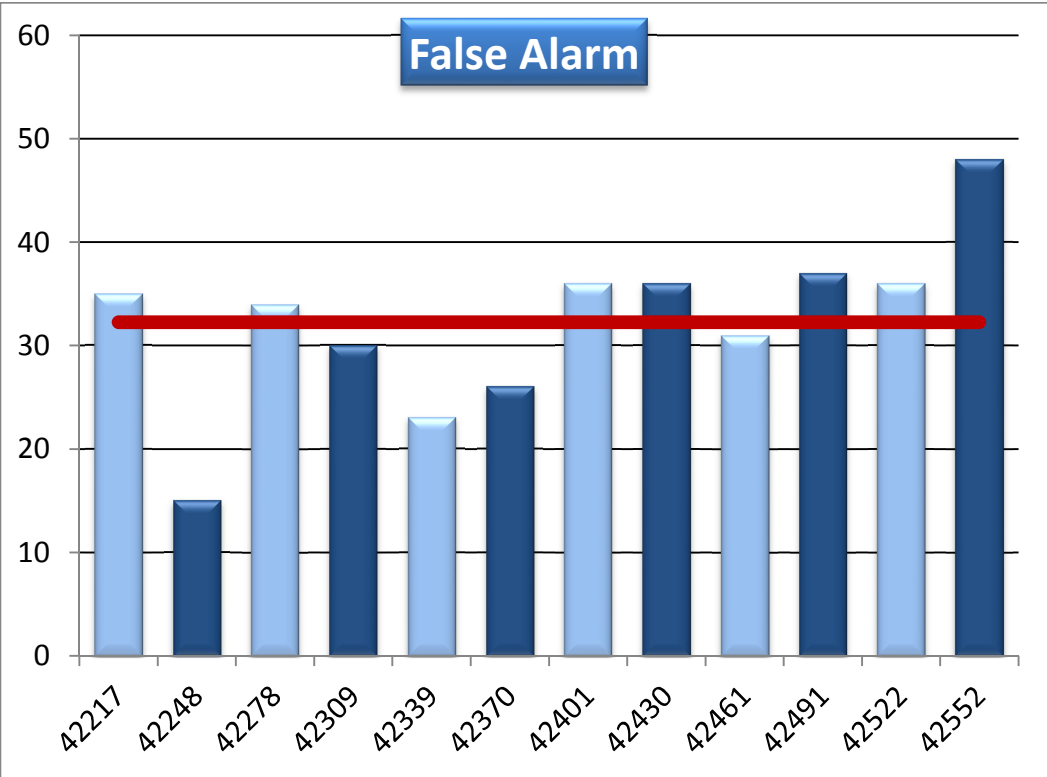
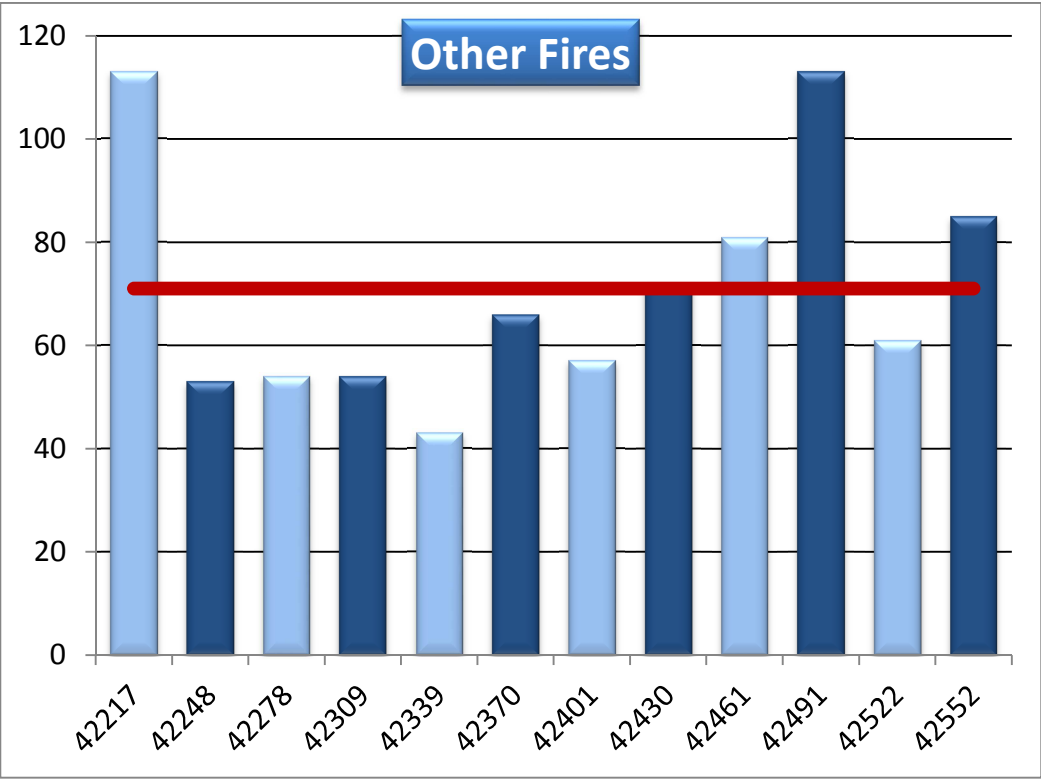
July 2015 Incidents

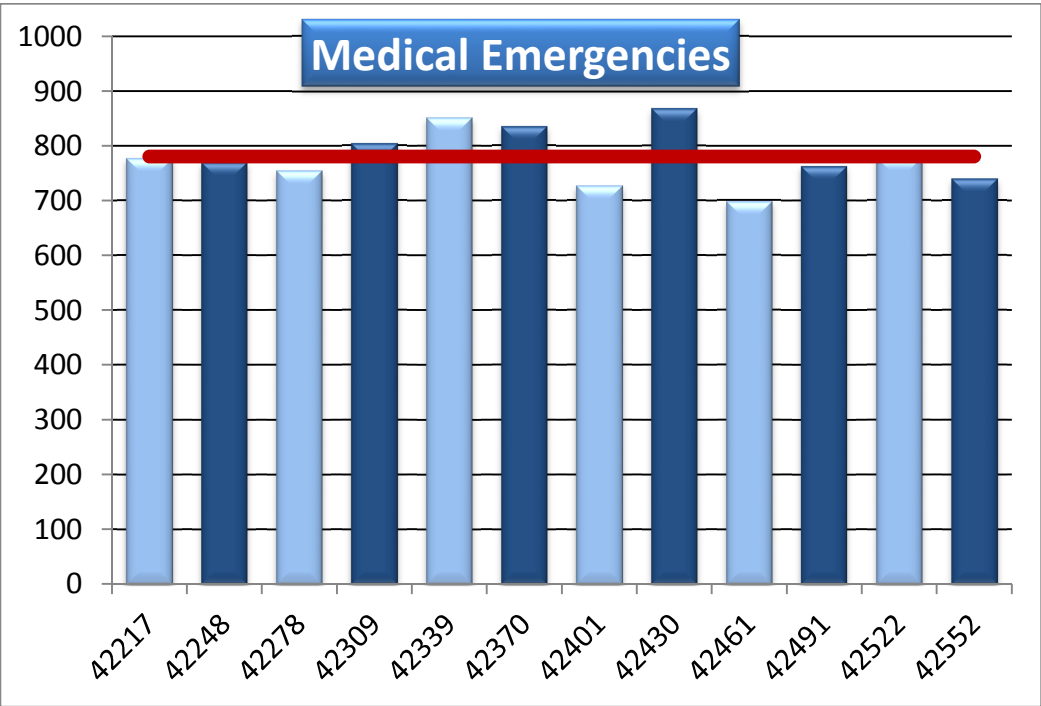
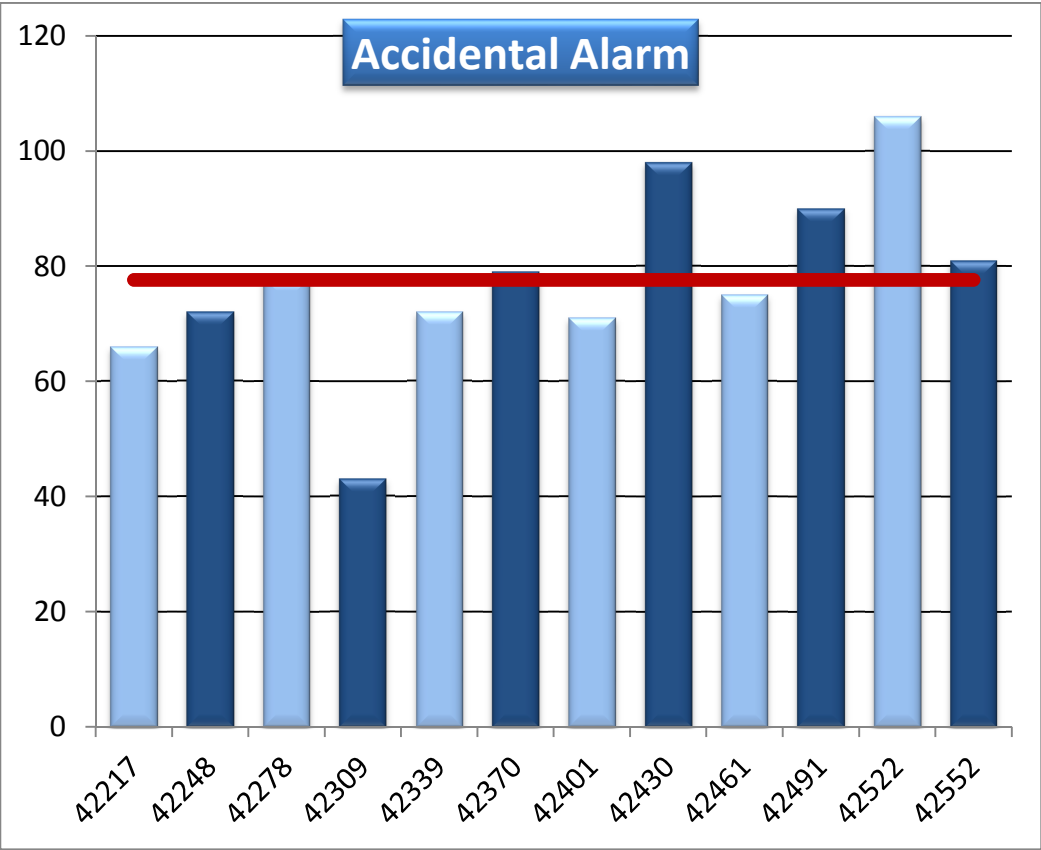


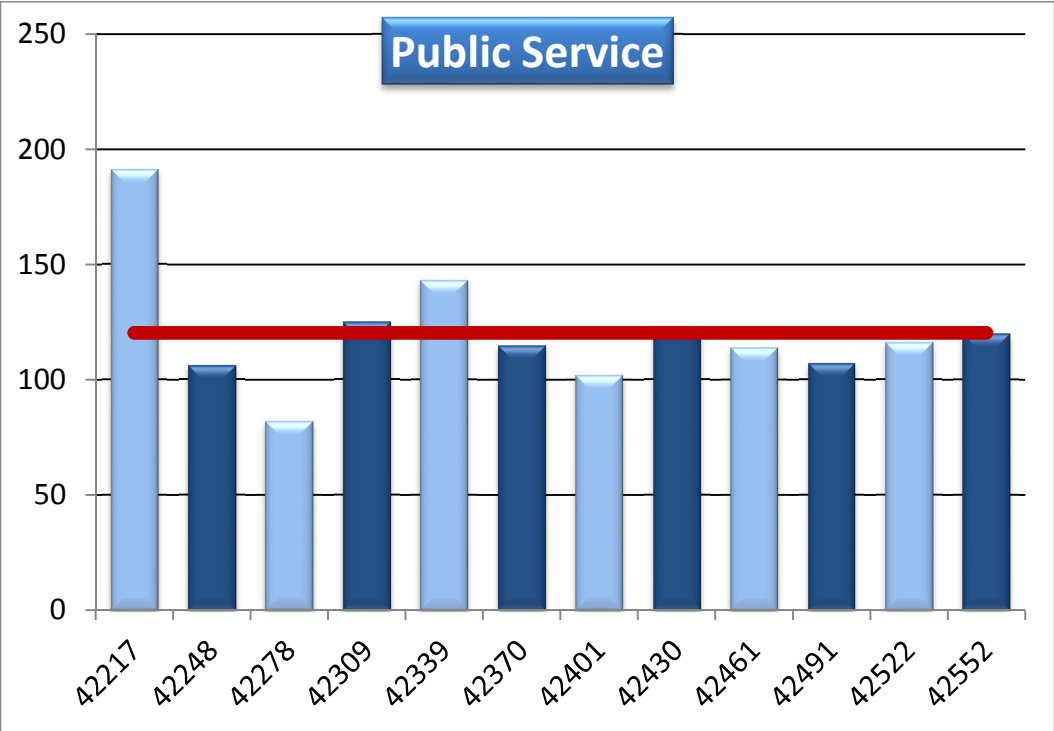
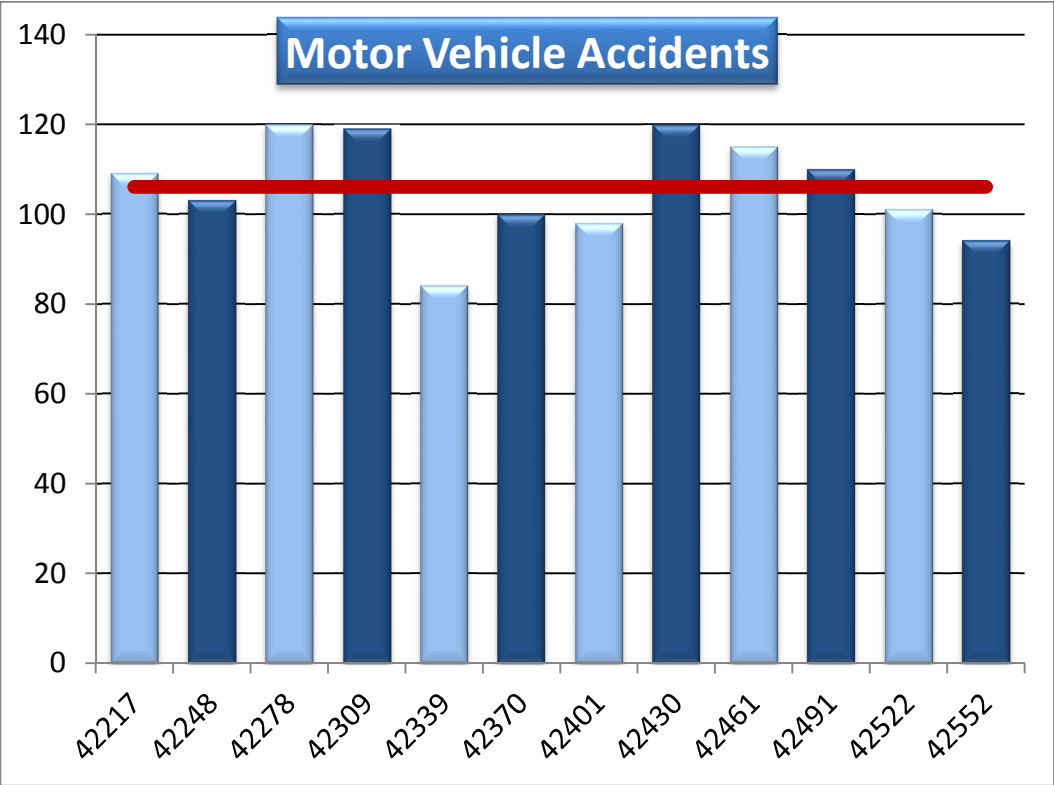
■ Building Fire ■ Vehicle Fire
■ Other Fires ■ False Alarm

INCIDENT TYPE STATISTICS OVER 12 MONTHS









TRAINING

The Training Division is responsible for the scheduling, implementation and recording of all training within the Department. Here is a summary of the training that has occurred over the last few months:

High Rise Pumping/High Pressure Hose – with a significant increase in the number of high rises over 40 stories, special two stage pumps and high pressure hose are required to ensure enough pressure for firefighting on the higher floors. Crews attended the Station 1 training grounds to get hands on experience using this equipment.

Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials teams continued their training to maintain the necessary knowledge and skills for these unique roles.

Fire Scenarios (Strategies and Tactics) – Training took place at Station 7 for eight Fire Officer 1 candidates. Students were instructed how to manage a fire scene as the Incident Commander through the use of video simulations. ProBoard certified evaluators then assessed the practical exams. Following successful completion of the Strategies and Tactics course, candidates moved on to our very successful Preceptorship program, where they were assigned to a Fire Engine to learn from a Senior Officer for four weeks. Candidates also learn to deal with various challenges of being an officer through assignments set out by National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 1021 – Standard for Fire Officers. The program concludes with a practical exam where candidates are in charge of a mock up fire scene with multiple trucks to command.

Wildland training – before the start of the dry season all crews practiced with our forestry pumps and hose to ensure readiness for wildland fires in our community.

Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) – crews train annually on techniques required to rescue a fallen or trapped firefighter. These are high intensity practices and are necessary to ensure firefighter safety and to maintain NFPA standards.

Public Education - Fire crews provide safety talks and demonstrate our equipment to many groups throughout the year. This is done both in the station and at local events. There are usually 2 or 3 demonstrations or station tours per week in the city.

Youth Outreach Program - The Training Division has forwarded a proposal that will encourage diversification of the fire department by allowing the youth in our community to understand the role of fire fighters. This would include a “firefighting camp” with our firefighters teaching various firefighting skills in a safe, positive, and fun environment.

The Training Division has been working hard to train our firefighters to a level that exceeds NFPA standards. Our goal is to improve as a division and in turn improve the knowledge and skills of the firefighters going forward.

FIRE PREVENTION (FPO)

In May we hired two new inspectors to fill vacancies in the FPO. Their first five weeks were primarily spent learning the BC fire code, Fire Services Act, BC Building code and other relevant codes and standards. Once this training was complete, they began the process of conducting routine inspections on the 852 low-rise buildings we have in Burnaby. Low-rise routine inspections were handled by the fire suppression crews for the past few years but training schedules and emergency calls make it too difficult for the fire crews to schedule inspections with building or property managers and they were falling behind. To date Sanjay and Braden have conducted initial inspections on 145 low-rise buildings.

Another inspector has just returned to work from a lengthy illness and he will be responsible for all routine Business License inspections. There are currently nearly 250 of these inspections outstanding and this number is growing. More complex inspections for body shops, restaurants, high-rise, pharmaceutical, warehouse, care facilities are the responsibility of a fourth inspector, who is also one of our fire investigators (fire investigations take precedence over any scheduled inspection).

There are two people acting in the role of Captain in the FPO, while one Captain has been absent on sick leave for an extended period. One of the acting Captains conducts sprinkler inspections, tenant improvement progress inspections and finals, new construction progress inspections and finals, movie studio business license inspections, assisting the new inspectors with ongoing training, fire investigation and any complex inspections that may come up at any given time. He is also one of our fire investigators. As part of the long-range planning for this Division, he has begun the extensive process of learning how to review rezoning, PPA and building permits as well as fire truck access plans.

The other Captain is tasked with reviewing and approving Fire Safety plans, the Pre-incident Plan program and vital information. He also assists in more complex business licenses applications and with the training of the two new inspectors, and he is a fire investigator as well.

The Acting Chief of Fire Prevention reports to the Deputy Chief Administration and oversees the administration of the office. He is responsible for the continual training of Division staff, scheduling and personnel issues. He deals with rezoning, PPA and building permits and sprinkler plans along with the Fire Truck access plan program, reviewing building code reports and scheduling Fire Prevention week. In the past four months he has reviewed approximately 300 building plans for the city, many of which are complex new construction plans.

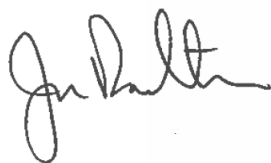
Recently the FPO completed a program where they inspected all 61 public and private schools throughout Burnaby. They will next focus on the 45+ Care facilities throughout Burnaby and then the 150+ high-rise buildings.

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RADIO COMMUNICATION

The proliferation of high rise buildings in Burnaby presents unique challenges for first responders such as Fire, Police and ambulance crews. The components of construction such as concrete, rebar, metal-coated insulation, low-E glass and the size of the buildings all combine to block radio signals (known as signal attenuation), which means that emergency service personnel may be unable to communicate using their hand-held portable radios.

Radio amplification equipment and systems can be installed to eliminate this problem, and the Fire Department is working with the RCMP and E-Comm to examine the feasibility of a bylaw which would require the installation of such systems in new high rise or large commercial structures where signal attenuation is an issue. The City of Surrey already has a similar bylaw, and the Provincial government has indicated it will allow a variance to the BC Building Code to permit such bylaws when it standardizes the Code in 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Robertson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Joe Robertson
Fire Chief

JR:as