

# **FORT FRANCES FIRE RESCUE SERVICE**

## **Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service**

### **First Half Report for 2016**



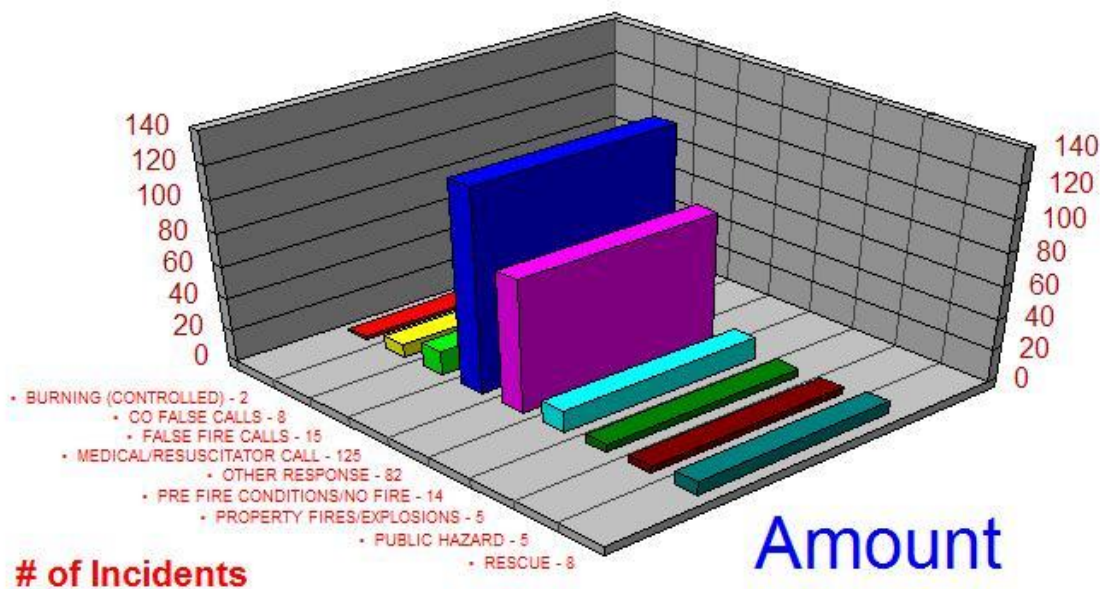
Presented by: Fire Chief Frank Sheppard

# FORT FRANCES FIRE RESCUE SERVICE

## Fire Chief's Report from January 30<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Your worship and members of Council, I would like to present the Fort Frances Fire and Rescue Service annual report for the first half of 2016. The first half of 2016 has been unusually quiet from an active fire perspective and the call volume reflects that. We have had 265 calls for service to the end of June 2016. Only one of these was an active fire with an approximate dollar loss of \$100,000.00. There was one additional fire caused by a home owner thawing pipes, which resulted in a minimal dollar loss, and two grass fires with no dollar loss. The bulk of our calls are still medical in nature, and I have begun to discuss the concept of a fire medic model with DSSAB along with updating our tiered/first response agreement. These discussions are part of the corporate strategic initiative for 2017.

**Totals by Type (grouped)**  
*From Jan 1 16 to Jun 30 16*



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## Administrative

In addition to the fire medic strategic initiative, we additionally are in the process of updating our E&R bylaw, however not having a clear picture of the future of the mill has generated some consternation related to requirements for service delivery. We will have to complete this initiative in 2016, with the current understanding of the occupancies existing position if a status change is not made shortly. The final strategic plan initiative includes completing negotiations with the fire fighters union, however we are still currently meeting to resolve positions as of the end of June.

Rod Davis retired as of the end of June and his position has been filled by an internal candidate. The successful applicant is experienced part-time fire fighter, Gavin Payne. Gavin will be a positive addition to the organization and we welcome him in his new role.

Staffing limitations from a career perspective are problematic, and with the changing demographic related to work positioning in the district, our volunteer force does not have the same robust capacity that it once had. Other options may have to be explored to engage personnel to a level required to respond in a consistent manner.

## Public Education

Public education activities in the first half of 2016 includes, school programming, hall tours, senior visits, and media campaigns over the course of emergency management week and the spring burn season. We have continued to develop public private relationships that can be built to support the interest of fire safety, and public education, and these opportunities are critical to the development of a fire safe community.

The preplanning regimen allowing us to have a sound knowledge of the building stock in the community is underway, with data being gathered and imputed to achieve our end goal. Our second initiative to expand the use of home alarms has not been started yet as the intent is to

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complete this in conjunction with a home inspection program. This will be an incentive program, which will promote the installation of monitored alarm systems in all occupancies in the community. The intent will be to start this project in September of 2016 once we understand the entire impact of the Fire Underwriters Survey.

## Emergency management

The Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service had a quiet first half of the year year related to emergency management activities so far in 2016. The only activity slated for the year so far is an exercise and training session that will bring us into compliance for 2015 and complete a portion of the criteria for 2016. All compliance activities will be completed by October of 2016. This will provide a complete compliance record for 2015 and 2016

## Training

As of the end of June in 2016 all of our personnel are compliant the requirements of the National Fire Protection Standard (NFPA) professional qualification standard for firefighting, and we have an effective advanced level of training development for personnel related to truck operation, incident safety and supervision. Training will continue for new recruits under the direction of Fire Fighter Dokuchie.



Active call, however these are the types of Incidents that we train for

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## Summary

In closing I would like to thank Council for their ongoing support of the Fort Frances Fire & Rescue Service, the firefighters for their dedication and commitment to fire and life safety, and to the residents and businesses in Fort Frances for practicing fire safety, and working cooperatively toward the goal of making this a fire safe community. Challenges consistently are emerging, however we are committed to providing information and reports related to any of the risks that exist within this community. I am confident that they will be addressed with the same level of consideration, leadership, and good judgement that Council has demonstrated in the past. Council has the ultimate responsibility to set the level of protection based on local needs and circumstances, and I trust this will be done in the same prudent manner as done in the past. My commitment to Council will be to ensure that all information necessary to make good decisions is provided in a timely and concise manner and to support the needs of the community.

Thank you



Frank Sheppard BSc MS MB  
Fire Chief/CEMC  
Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service