

2021 Year in Review Saskatoon Fire Department

ISSUE

Information in this report is to highlight the work completed in 2021 by the Saskatoon Fire Department (the SFD) and provide an overview of the structure, response, and service to the residents of Saskatoon.

BACKGROUND

Over the last several years, the SFD has achieved a great number of initiatives, successes, partnerships, and increased levels of response. Reporting to the community is an important component of communication to those we serve. The SFD's proactive and reactive model remains in a state of constant evolution, and it is valuable that residents are provided the information related to the commitment of our staff to the community.

CURRENT STATUS

Over 340 staff continued to deliver all-hazard responses with exceptional service that remained focused on public safety, risk reduction, and emergency management.

Relationships and partnerships remained a priority, to promote community safety and well-being, engaging the Saskatoon Tribal Council, Provincial Ministries, Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency, Regional Municipalities, and other partners.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The SFD is viewed as a lead agency in the community; working together to meet the needs of residents with a priority for those that are most vulnerable. The SFD saw increases in all areas of business but especially those connected to unsafe housing, mental wellness, and addictions.

Operations, Emergency Management Organization, Community Relations, and Fire Prevention & Investigation worked together, in a whole-community response, to serve the most vulnerable by initiating ongoing wellness checks within the community. Actions included handing out water, warm clothing, or teddy bears to children.

A proactive response to manage life safety and health issues, to unhoused individuals, provided emergency wrap-around resources that included food, mental health and/or addiction support, access to safe emergency shelter, and most importantly the connection to services.

Multiple nationwide successes were celebrated as well as key achievements within the community.

The SFD hosted the first ever virtual Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs' (SAFC) Conference on April 20 – May 1, 2021. Adapting to the global limitations from the pandemic, the SFD brought fire services across Saskatchewan together again to

discuss important issues that services are faced with such as HazMat Awareness, Mental Health, and Incident Safety. John McKearny, President of the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, co-presented with Fire Chief Morgan Hackl and SAFC President Mike Kwasnica, to deliver a presentation on the shared evolving role of the fire service across Canada.

The SFD was featured in the September 2021 edition of *FIREfighting in Canada* featuring the commitment of resources ranging from dispatch, apparatus response, and inspectors identifying safety concerns, to presentations and client follow ups for those who have fallen. This overall program, led by the SFD, completes referrals to partnering agencies and continues to see success, through many working together, including a group of committed volunteers within the SFD team. Lift assists continue to rise each year. In 2021, the SFD responded to 1,339 lift assist requests.

A Transport Canada Boater Safety Program ran during the summer of 2021. From July to October, four safety ambassadors patrolled boating access areas, educated the public about river use safety, and collected data including feedback on the program.

Strategic Planning & Policy is currently developing the Strategic Plan through to the year 2025. This level of planning sets priorities and will guide the SFD forward as a Community Risk Assessment, and a long-range Master Plan, is completed.

IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial, legal, social, or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

There is no follow up required.

APPENDICES

1. Saskatoon Fire Department 2021 Year in Review

Report Approval

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