



Brantford

Fire Department
Annual Report 2020



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All photos without COVID-19 public health guidelines in place were taken prior to March 2020.

Only working smoke alarms save lives.

WELCOME



Message from Brantford Fire Chief Todd Binkley

On behalf of the Brantford Fire Department I am pleased to present the annual report for 2020.

Last year, was an extraordinary year for the world, as society was immersed in the Global pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic presented several challenges for the City of Brantford and the Fire Department. Similar to many organizations, we needed to implement organizational changes and policies to protect First Responders and to ensure the continued delivery of essential services.

The Brantford Fire Department continued to deliver exceptional Fire Protection Services to the community, through public education, prevention, code enforcement, and emergency response.

I am extremely proud of the members of this Department, not only for rising to these challenges in difficult times, but for their unwavering commitment to this Department and City.

In 2020, the Department was able to

- Pursue advancements in technological solutions
- Continue to modernize our Fleet
- Enhance personnel training and leadership development
- Improve Firefighter Health and Safety
- Complete construction on new Station 2

Additionally, the Emergency Management division of the Fire Department, in particular Deputy Chief Everett, played a significant role in the management of the City response to this emergency, as the City's Community Emergency Management Coordinator. I would like to recognize and thank her for her leadership and guidance in this ongoing pandemic.

I would like to thank the Mayor, Council, CAO and Senior Leadership for their continued support of the Fire Department, it would not be possible to accomplish our goals and objectives without it. Lastly, I would like to thank the Citizens of Brantford, for their dedication and commitment to a fire safe community.

Please enjoy our annual report, and I encourage you to stay connected with us on Twitter: @brantfordfire, Instagram: @brantfordfire and Facebook: @brantfordfiredepartment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Binkley".

Todd Binkley
Fire Chief



Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



5 Chief Officers

completed training and received certification in the Blue Card Program. Blue Card establishes standard command practices for strategic and tactical emergency operations.



Responded to

4,369
emergencies
in 2020



Conducted Fire Code inspections of
52 schools and 31 licensed
day cares in 2020
in an effort to ensure the safety of our city's youth.



Participated in
51 public education
and public relations
events/lectures
(reduction due to covid-19)



Firefighters attended
602 homes
in 2020
as part of the Smoke Alarms
Save Lives campaign



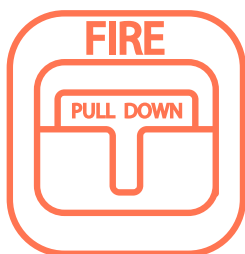
37 Officers
completed and are
Certified in the NFPA 1521
Incident Safety Officer
Course

Get out alive - Plan and practice your escape.



CITY OF
BRANTFORD

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



Participated in
38 fire drills
completed each year
at vulnerable occupancies
with facility staff.



Trained **4 new**
Firefighter Recruits
and **1 Communications**
Dispatcher in 2020.



Members completed
26,530 and a half
hours of training
in 2020.



Twitter

Tweets & Replies: 4,921

Followers: 6,334



Facebook

Page Likes: 3,6865

Followers: 3,942



Instagram

Followers: 2,384

Posts: 317

Never leave cooking unattended.



ADMINISTRATION

Department Organization

Contact Information

Administration 519-752-4122
Fire Prevention 519-752-0540
Facsimile 519-752-7083
E-mail fire@brantford.ca
Internet www.brantfordfire.ca
[@brantfordfire](https://twitter.com/brantfordfire)
[brantfordfiredepartment](https://www.facebook.com/brantfordfiredepartment)
[brantfordfire](https://www.instagram.com/brantfordfire)

City of Brantford Data

City Population: 102,257 (2019 estimate)
Area: Est. 102.46 km²

Appointments

The following appointments were made during the year 2020 to fill various vacancies:

Communications Centre Operator - Tammy Hamilton
Firefighter - Gerrit Branderhorst
Firefighter - Hanna Bailey
Firefighter - Philip Stephens
Firefighter - Josh DeKay

Retirements

The following retirements took place during 2020:

Platoon Chief - David Mills
Captain - David Duckworth

Promotions

Deputy Chief Todd Binkley to Fire Chief
Captain Normand Lemay to Platoon Chief
Firefighter Patrick Vincze to Captain
Firefighter Chris Hesmer to Captain

Department Staffing Assignments – Dec.31, 2020

Administration

Todd Binkley	Fire Chief
Anna Everett	Deputy Fire Chief
Vacant	Deputy Fire Chief
Courtney Harbin	Administrative Assistant
Carly Murray	Support Services Assistant
Ken Pottruff	Emergency Management Program Manager
Chris Bowen	Fire Technical Systems Engineer

Fire Prevention

Dwayne Armstrong	Chief Fire Prevention Officer
Bob Sproul	Fire Prevention Officer
Scott Hardwick	Fire Prevention Officer
Julie Drong	Fire Prevention Officer
Darren Zettler	Fire Prevention Officer
Elise Oxford	Fire Prevention Officer
Michael Owen	Fire Prevention Officer

Professional Qualifications and Standards

David Barton	Chief Training Officer
Aaron Barker	Training Officer

Fleet, Facilities and Equipment

Shawn Cavin	Mechanic
Jesse Rowntree	Assistant Mechanic

Suppression

Platoon Chiefs	
Glen Sitzer	Platoon A
Scott Foster	Platoon B
Wray Brimmer	Platoon C
Normand Lemay	Platoon D

Keep storage clear from your furnace, water heater and electrical panel.



CITY OF
BRANTFORD

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS DIVISION

Overview

The Professional Qualifications and Standards Division develops, facilitates, and coordinates the training requirements for all divisions. The Chief Training Officer and Training Officer ensure that personnel develop and maintain core competencies in Suppression, Prevention, Public Education, and Communications.

Additionally, this division; with the assistance of certified department instructors, provides specialized training in Auto Extrication, Hazmat, Ice/Swift water rescue, and Slope Rescue.

Core Functions

- Ensures the department completes ongoing curriculum training as part of the NFPA Standards, Ontario Standards, and job specifications
- Provides new recruits with knowledge, skills and tools to be successful in their careers
- Identifies and evaluates training programs and makes recommendations to comply with industry best practices
- Develops training classes for new equipment, changes to building code, and firefighting techniques
- Maintains all training records

2020 Accomplishments

- 17 promotional exams for Suppression and Communications
- One recruit class for 1 communicator
- One recruit class for 4 suppression firefighters
- Continuing certification for First Responder Program
- Recertification for EPI/Naloxone/Defib
- 37 Officers Completed and are Certified in the NFPA 1521 Incident Safety Officer Course
- Blue Card certification for 5 Captains



Practice your home escape plan with every member of your family.

SUPPRESSION DIVISION

Overview

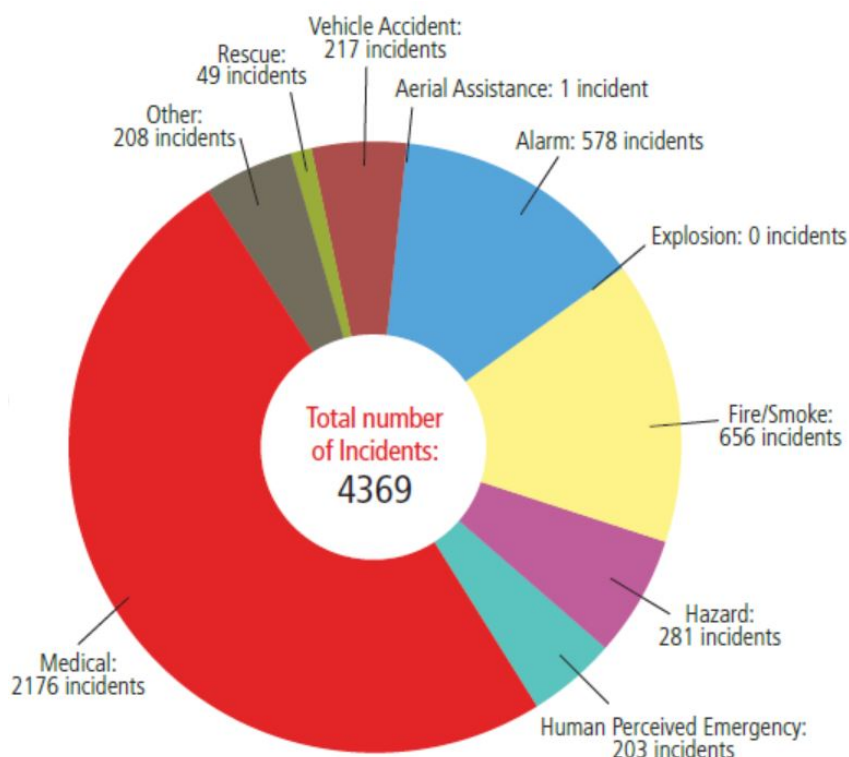
The highly skilled Suppression Division of the Brantford Fire Department provides emergency response to the citizens and visitors of this community. 108 dedicated Firefighters operating on 4 Platoons respond to a variety of emergency situations, including fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous material releases, and motor vehicle extrications. In addition, our Firefighters provide specialized rescue for ice/water, slope, and confined space. Firefighters also play a major role in public education, public relations activities, and community engagement.

Core Functions

- Emergency Response
- Operation of Specialized Apparatus and Equipment
- Public Fire Safety Education
- Home Fire Protection Inspections
- Public Relations
- Community Engagement
- Preplan/Building Profile
- Equipment Testing and Maintenance
- Station Maintenance



2020 Incidents by Type Report



Major Structure Fires

- 21 Frank Street - January 30, 2020
- 64 Colborne Street - February 11, 2020
- Bilanski Farm Rd. - April 29, 2020
- 11 Ludlow Crescent - August 20, 2020
- 21 Wellington Street - December 29, 2020

In case of emergency - make sure your house number is clearly visible from the street.



FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

Overview

The Brantford Fire Department provides high quality emergency telecommunications for The City of Brantford and Six Nations of the Grand River. Every emergency call and request for service is entered into and processed by a Computer Aided Dispatch system by trained Fire Communications Dispatchers to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of fire protection services to emergencies in the community.

The Communications Division processes approximately 6000 calls annually in a highly skilled and professional manner. Our 8 Communications Dispatchers endeavor to be industry leaders through extensive training, quality assurance, routine testing of equipment and exceptional customer service.

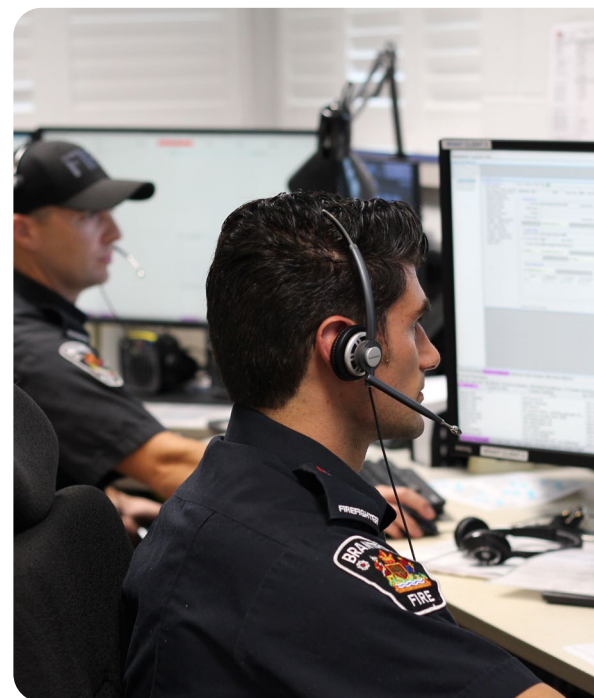


Core Functions

- Effective and efficient dispatch of fire apparatus in accordance with department procedures
- Communications with apparatus during an incident with Command
- Coordination of external agencies, and utility companies
- Maintenance of incident records
- Maintaining apparatus status information
- Maintenance of emergency contact information and maps
- Resource tracking
- Back-up mass notification system for City's Emergency Operations Centre
- Receive emergency and non-emergency calls and record significant information

2020 Accomplishments

- 2000 hours annual training exceeding NFPA 1221 & NFPA 1061
- Annual evacuation and testing exercise to back-up communications centre



Have your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms expired? Check the date on the device.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Overview

The City of Brantford Emergency Management Program provides the framework on how the City of Brantford will prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency in the City by providing all departments with proper direction, training, and guidance. By preparing for emergencies, individuals and communities can reduce the impact emergencies have on their lives and property.

Core Functions

The City of Brantford Emergency Management Program meets the following standards:

- Designation of a Community Emergency Management Coordinator and alternate
- Formation of an Emergency Management Program Committee
- Publication of an approved Emergency Response Plan (By-Law 11-2013)
- Establishment of an appropriate Emergency Operations Centre
- Identification of critical infrastructure and hazards identification risk analysis
- Annual training for the Municipal Emergency Control Group
- Conduct an annual exercise to evaluate the Emergency Response Plan
- Identification of individuals to act as Emergency Information Officers
- Development and implementation of an Emergency Management Public Awareness Program
- An annual review of the City Emergency Management Program

2020 Accomplishments

- Activated Emergency Operation Centre and managed a global pandemic locally since March 2020
- Continuously Updated City of Brantford Website with COVID-19 information
- Civic Centre converted to a COVID-19 assessment centre
- Supported Phase 1 COVID-19 vaccine distribution
- Conducted a public awareness messaging through the City's website, and social media platforms
- Municipal Critical Infrastructure and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment updated
- Emergency Management Program received compliance under Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act for 2020
- Implemented the City's first virtual Emergency Operations Centre
- Helped establish the Joint Emergency Operation Centre that is made up of organizations within the City, The County of Brant and Six Nations of the Grand River, working together to reduce the risks posed by community spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 in our region
- Supported Joint Emergency Operations Centre public messaging
- Woodman Community Centre converted to a flu clinic



Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.



CITY OF
BRANTFORD

FLEET, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Overview

Our Emergency Vehicle Technicians (EVTs) continue to stay up to date with industry standards and the advancing technology in the fire service. This ensures that our fleet is ready to respond to the call of duty when required and allows our personnel to perform their job in an efficient and safe manner. Our fleet and facilities go through a routine scheduled maintenance program to minimize the impact on department operations. We pride ourselves with the Health and Wellness of our fire fighters. We have an intense decontamination policy to ensure our apparatus, equipment and personal protective equipment are clean, safe and ready to operate.

Core Functions

- Performing in depth annual and six month inspections on all apparatus and support vehicles to minimize impact on the Department's operations
- Annual testing of the fleet's ground ladders
- Annual testing of fire pumps
- Non Destructive Testing (NDT) of elevating devices
- Maintaining of the facilities for optimum operation
- 6 month and Annual SCBA bench testing
- Complete required testing (NFPA, ULC, Highway Traffic Act)

Fire Department
Apparatus

Emergency Vehicles

12

Non-Emergency Vehicles

11

Rescue Equipment

3

Trailers

7



Accomplishments 2020

- Unit 911 updated to blue lights
- New pumper in service at the new firehall
- Restoration of steam engine
- Purchase of Hybrid vehicle for Fire Prevention



Keep matches and lighters out of reach from children.



STATIONS

Stations

The Brantford Fire Department has four full-time fire stations operating 24 hours a day.



Central Services- 60 Clarence Street



#2 Station- 21 Fairview Drive



#3 Station- 7 Lynden Road



#4 Station- 400 Colborne Street West

Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home.



CITY OF
BRANTFORD

STATION 2

Overview



The City of Brantford and Brantford Fire were proud to officially open the City's new Fire Station No. 2 located at 21 Fairview Drive in October 2020.

Beautifully designed to mirror the façade of historical Fire Stations, the new fully accessible AODA compliant facility was built to replace the existing 60-year-old Fire Station located at 311 St. Paul Ave. At 10,600 sq. ft., not only does the new station meet the City's current and future fire service needs, but it also uniquely celebrates Brantford Fire's rich history, diversity and connection to the community - predominantly on display throughout the design of the building, most notably in the Heritage Room.

Graciously on loan from the Brantford Historical Society, a distinct feature of the Heritage Room is the 1890 Ronald, one of the original steam engine pumps, and carefully repaired and refurbished by members of the Brantford Fire Department. Also featured across two walls of the Heritage Room is a comprehensive visual historical timeline that describes key events, milestones and technological enhancements specific to Brantford Fire services from the 1830's – 2000's.

The building also houses a "Community Room" planned with members of the community in mind who can use the room for training purposes or workshops.

The apparatus floor of the new station features three drive-through bays operated by electrical remote door openers. The floor was designed for housing, cleaning, maintenance, and repairing firefighting apparatus and rescue equipment, as well as serving as a place to train firefighters out of the elements.

The Kitchen/Dining/Lounge area is a multi-functional space featuring technology enabling remote access to training sessions. This advancement in technology allows Brantford Fire members to connect with any division or City staff for meetings, workshops and training opportunities while maintaining operational demands.

Candle with care. Always blow out candles when leaving the room.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Overview

The Fire Prevention Division strives to prevent fires within the City of Brantford through public education initiatives, fire inspections, active code enforcement and fire investigations in order to reduce the loss of life and property as well as to protect the environment.

Core Functions

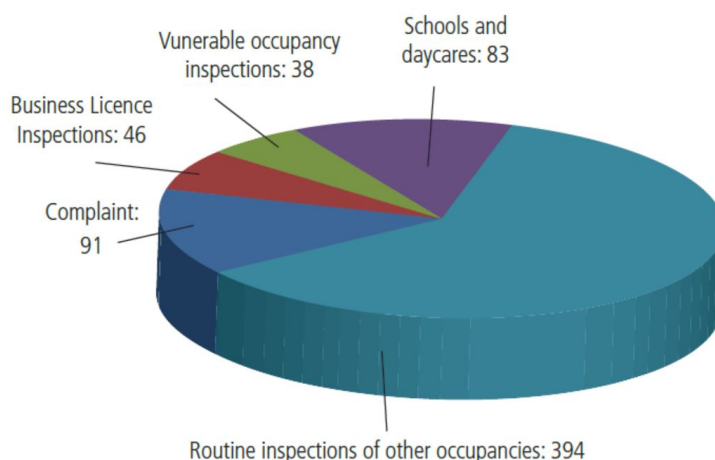
- Provide fire and life safety information to the citizens of Brantford
- Inspection of buildings and premises for fire safety
- Enforce Municipal Bylaws, Federal and Provincial Acts, other applicable acts and legislation or parts thereof, in respect to Fire Prevention, Investigation and Education
- Examination of plans for: site plan applications, zoning changes and building permits, with regard to fire safety
- Keeping records of all inspections, investigations, fire alarms and fire incidents and complaints, together with details of the measures taken to correct any defects or inadequacies found
- Investigation of fire incidents to determine cause and origin



2020 Accomplishments

- Participated in 51 public education sessions, including teaching fire safety to 1,040 students at the Children's Safety Village (due to covid).
- Conducted 38 vulnerable occupancy inspections and timed evacuation drills (in care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies, and retirement homes) to protect the most vulnerable residents in the city and to meet provincial requirements annually
- Investigated the circumstances surrounding 47 structure fires in order to determine cause and origin
- Increased our social media presence on Facebook and followers on Twitter, allowing our safety messaging to reach a greater audience

Number of Properties Inspected

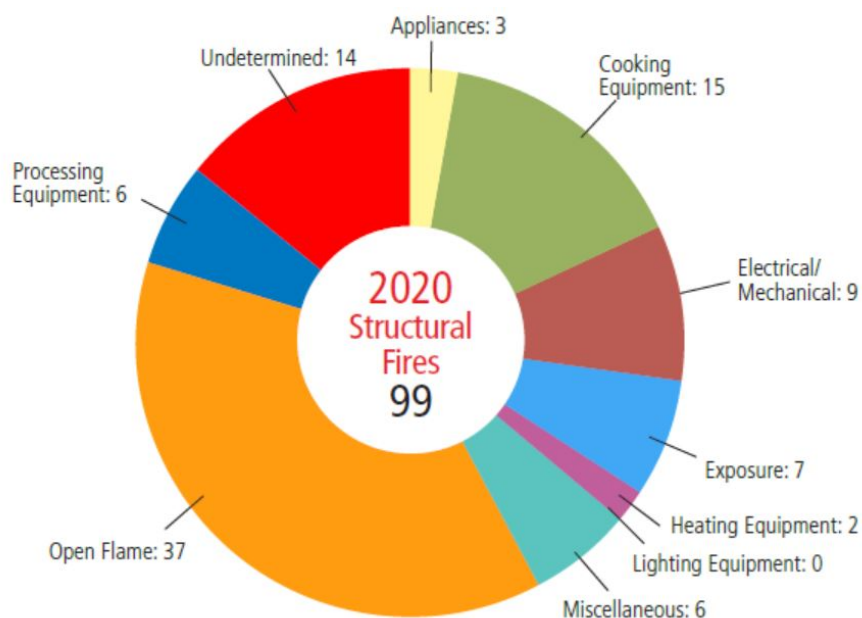


When driving – if you see flashing lights, pull to the right.



STATISTICS

Fire with Loss - Structure Fires – Ignition Source



2020 Fire Loss Summary by Occupancy

Occupancy Type	2020 # of Losses	2020 Total \$ Loss
Assembly Occupancies	4	\$2,825,000
Business and Personal Services Occupancies	4	\$48,605
Industrial Occupancies	13	\$493,005
Institutional	1	\$50
Mercantile	6	\$16,725
Residential	71	\$5,356,713
Structures/Properties not classified by O.B.C.	50	\$64,770
Vehicles	35	\$310,800
Totals	184	\$6,293,493

Year	Dollar Loss	Number of Incidents
2020	\$6,293,493	4,369
2019	\$7,077,474	5,856
2018	\$2,290,689	5,355
2017	\$7,750,321	4,087
2016	\$4,112,055	2,835
2015	\$3,646,011	3,830

Inspect extensions cords for damage before use.

STATISTICS

2020 Fire Loss Summary by Cause (Structure Fires Only)

Fire Cause Classification	2020 Losses	2020 Dollar Loss
Intentional	10	\$335,030
Vandalism	18	\$2,435,806
Undetermined	15	\$1,356,440
Misuse of Ignition Sources/Material First Ignited	34	\$771,447
Mechanical /Electrical Failure	9	\$827,500
Design/Construction/Maintenance Deficiency	7	\$77,950
Other Unintentional	6	\$113,250

"Smoke Alarms Save Lives Program" 2020

Number of Visits

Total number of visits: 602

"Smoke Alarms Save Lives Program" 2020

Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Batteries Installed

Smoke Alarm(s): 237
Carbon Monoxide Alarm(s): 184
Batteries: 116



Have fuel fired appliances inspected by a qualified contractor annually.

