

brandon
fire
& emergency services

2007
annual report





A MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF DANE

On behalf of all employees of Brandon Fire and Emergency Services, it is my pleasure to submit the 2007 Annual Report. Throughout the year we continued to improve the high level of service we provide to the citizens of Brandon. The department succeeded in renewing a three (3) year contract with neighboring Rural Municipalities for Fire and Emergency Services, providing staff with new portable radios, securing four (4) provincially funded positions for our suppression division and choosing the location for a new fire hall at 19th Street and Maple Avenue among other accomplishments outlined throughout the report.

Our training initiatives were extensive and included participating in a live burn exercise, sending members of our specialty rescue teams for training throughout the country, adding confined space to our rescue capabilities, and taking part in a mock disaster at the Water Treatment Plant.

The following report identifies some of the changes and improvements that have taken place in the past year as part of our ongoing commitment to excellence. We hope you find the 2007 annual report interesting and informative. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Brent Dane
Fire Chief



Mission Statement
"To protect life, property and the environment through education, prevention, emergency communications, firefighting, rescue and medical services."

Vision Statement
"Making a difference to the people we serve."

E-911 / POLICE COMMUNICATIONS

We concluded the year with a service population of 426,194 and 170 Fire Departments across the Province. More Provincial Parks are coming on-line with 911 which will continue in future years.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

2007 started off with our Official 10th Anniversary Celebration. On January 12th, City Officials, employees, Fire Commissioners, Brandon Fire and Emergency Services, dispatchers and local news media were on hand to mark this occasion. In appreciation of the assistance the 911 Centre gives them, the Office of the Fire Commissioner bestowed an engraved clock for the Communication Centre.

MTCC

The year has been a learning experience for both the Medical Transportation Coordination Centre (MTCC) and 911. The routing of emergency calls and information to and from both centres, although arduous at times, has become more efficient and stream-lined. Provincial Fire Departments and our Dispatchers are working hard to ensure multiple responses to emergencies are occurring in a timely and informed manner.

TRAINING

We've had five new employees join our staff at the E-911 Communications Centre. Some have been from EMS and Fire backgrounds.

Two of our dispatchers, one from Police and one from 911 have switched PSAP's and started cross-training. This is to increase knowledge in the different aspects of each type of dispatching, as well as provide more staff available to work at each centre.

Our general Staff training this year included: CPIC, WHMIS, Respectful Workplace and four of our Dispatchers were able to attend the Field Coaching Course facilitated by Brandon Police Service.

STAFFING

The following five new employees join our staff at the E-911 Communications Centre.

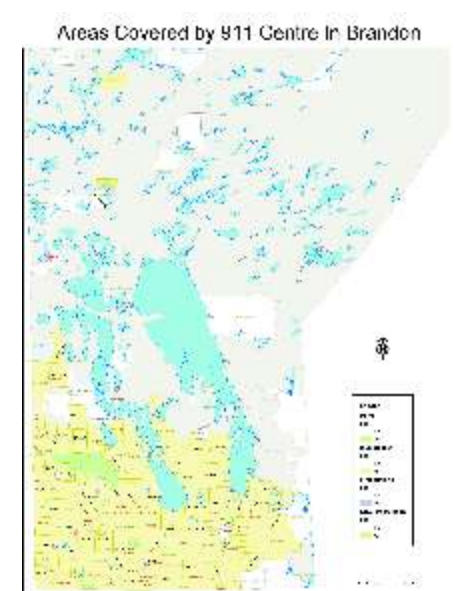
Carly Wark has a background in media communications.

Chrystal Strachan has an EMS background from Hamiota.

Tanya Cobb joined us from the Carberry Fire Department.

Jennifer Dyck has media background from Winnipeg.

Karen Erskine previously worked in communications at the Brandon School Division.



STAFFING

In 2007, we were approved for funding from the provincial government to increase our suppression division by four (4) members. These new positions were implemented at the beginning of 2008. This brings our full time operations staff complement to 52.

RETIREMENTS / RESIGNATIONS

- Fire Inspector Gary Mitchell retired on June 1st after 34 years of service.
- Training Officer Dave Lind resigned on June 7th to join the Cranbrook Fire Department in the position of Deputy Fire Chief.
- Firefighter/paramedic Jason Remillard resigned on January 2nd.

We wish all these members well in their future endeavours.

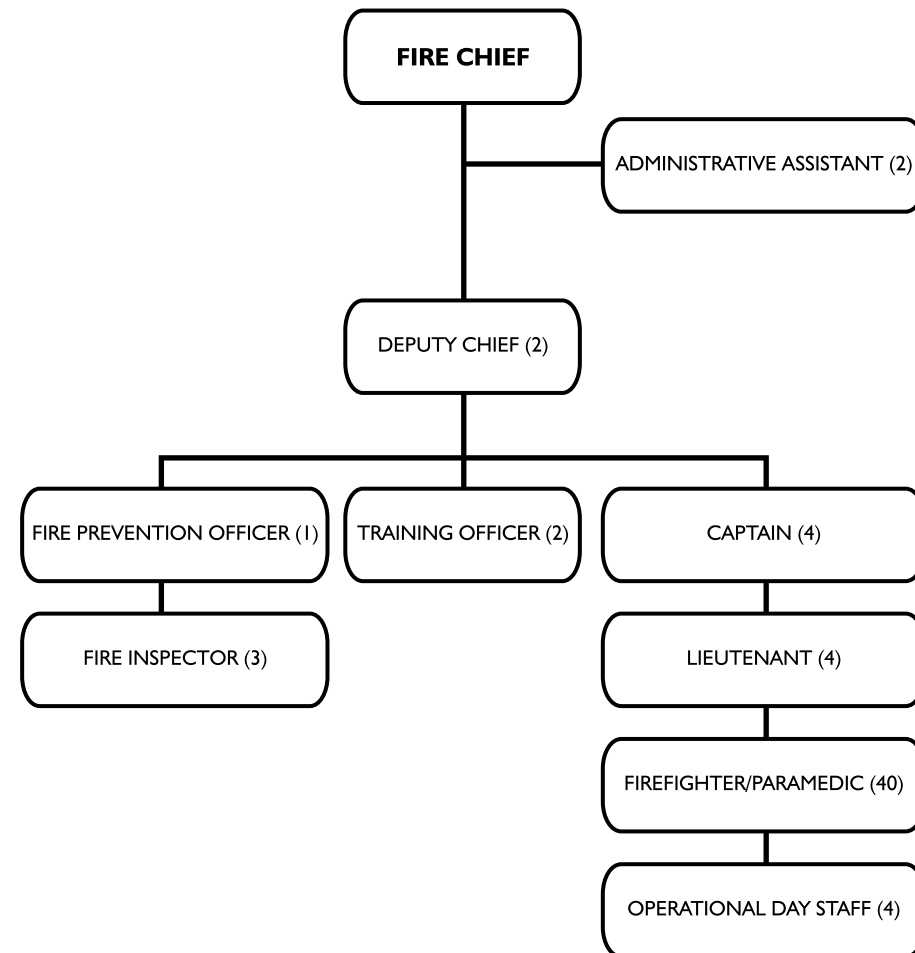
PROMOTIONS

Scott Hemstad was promoted to Medical training Officer on September 10th. Scott has been with the department since 2001.

NEW HIRES

- Russ Friesen was hired in the position of Public Education Officer. He joins our department from the Thompson Fire and Emergency Services.
- Sean Klemick and Shane Thomas both joined our Operations Division from the Winnipeg Fire/Paramedic Service.

2007 ORGANIZATION CHART STAFF COMPLEMENT – 63



FIRE SUPPRESSION

TECHNICAL (High Angle) RESCUE

In 2007, our department continued to develop our Specialized Rescue teams. We sent our two Technical Rescue team leaders to a three-day training session with the Calgary Fire Department. Members of the Tech Rescue team also travelled into Winnipeg for a two-day training session with the Winnipeg Fire Department.

CONFINED SPACE RESCUE

The department added Confined Space Rescue to our rescue capabilities. The required training has numerous similarities to Tech Rescue training. To take advantage of previous training, the nine members of the Tech Rescue team received the additional training and are now responsible for the delivery of both services. Our confined space rescue team was equipped with a new trailer stocked with a variety of equipment specific to this type of technical rescue.

WATER RESCUE

The Water Rescue team held an open-water training session at Pelican Lake early in 2007. The team also attended a joint training session with the Souris Fire Department at the Souris Dam. The team was equipped with a new Zodiac Boat to assist them with their rescue efforts.

CBRNE & USAR TEAM

We added two new members to the National Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosive Team. These members attended the first level of training in Ottawa. The second level of training was held in C.F.B. Suffield which requires our staff to train with live agents.

Our team members of Provincial Urban Search and Rescue Team attended two training events in 2007. We sent two members to Toronto to attend a National mock training exercise and two members travelled to Churchill for a Provincial mock training exercise.

The Provincial CBRNE and USAR teams are very pleased to have our staff participate because of the dual skills (firefighting and paramedic) that they provide to the team.



2007 CALL TYPE BREAKDOWN	
Ambulance Response	2925
Structural Fire	18
Other Fire	131
Rescue - MVA	299
Investigation	154
Alarm	340
Hazardous Materials	9
Other	80
Total	3956



AMBULANCE

Our staff are highly skilled in many lifesaving techniques such as spinal immobilization, fracture management, childbirth, cardiac emergencies, breathing problems and drug administration to name a few.

The number of ambulance calls the department responded to in 2007 increased by over 400 compared to the previous year. This significant increase was seen in all facets of the ambulance service including routine transfers, emergency calls and long distance transports (Winnipeg, Winkler, etc.). In 2007, we responded to 2,925 ambulance calls, and completed 3,732 patient care reports.

TRAINING

The province sets the minimum licensing requirement using call volume as one of the criteria. Due to the number of calls BFES responds to, all staff must be licensed to the Technician-Paramedic level.

BFES operations staff exceed the minimum licensing requirement as set by the province with the adoption of selected Transfer of Function skills. There are 3 medical skill levels that our staff may be trained to: basic, enhanced or ACLS (advanced cardiac life support). The members trained to the basic level have 9 additional Transfer of Function Skills. In 2007, all staff acquired a new Transfer of Function skill for taser dart removal.

Our enhanced licensed staff has an additional 3 Transfer of Functions, for a total of 12. These include starting IV's and drug administration for pulmonary edema and seizure management.

Our ACLS members are our highest trained medical personnel. They are certified in a total of 23 Transfer of Function skills. ACLS staff administers the same cardiac drugs a person would receive in the hospital, only they administer them in the field. This allows the patient to receive the medication sooner allowing for the best chance of survival.

All staff is certified annually on our Transfer of Function skills under the direction of BFES's Training Officer and Medical Director, Dr. C. Norman.

BFES continues to monitor its ambulance service and will continue to modify it to meet the needs of our community.



FIRE PREVENTION

Throughout 2007, our Fire Prevention Division continued to provide the City of Brandon with a variety of valuable services including the following:

- Property Fire Inspections
- Fire Investigations
- Fire Pit Permits
- Burn Permits
- Learn Not to Burn Program
- Junior Fire Setter Program
- Brandon Youth Firestop Program
- Babysitting course (along with the Kiwanis Club)
- S.A.F.E. Baby Program
- School Fire Drills
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Fire Chief for a Day

The department conducted 1,647 Property Fire Inspections. We also utilized the Arson Task Force to conduct 10 Fire Investigations. The Public Education Officer delivered 207 class room presentations, 22 schools fire drills and 4 road shows. As well, the division delivered 27 fire extinguisher presentations to the community.



BADGE PRESENTATION

On May 3rd, the department honoured thirty-seven members with new badges, each one a unique and permanent emblem of their service. The wallet badges are inscribed with each member's name, the year they joined the department and their employee number.

This presentation was significant because it gives each member a piece of the department to take with them when they retire. It is preferred to the badge system that the department used in the past. The badges were worn on their hats, and were specific to what rank you currently held within the department. So when a member left, or was promoted, the badges would be adjusted accordingly. These are permanent and unique to each member.

In the future, every member of the department will receive their own badge after being with the department for five years.

