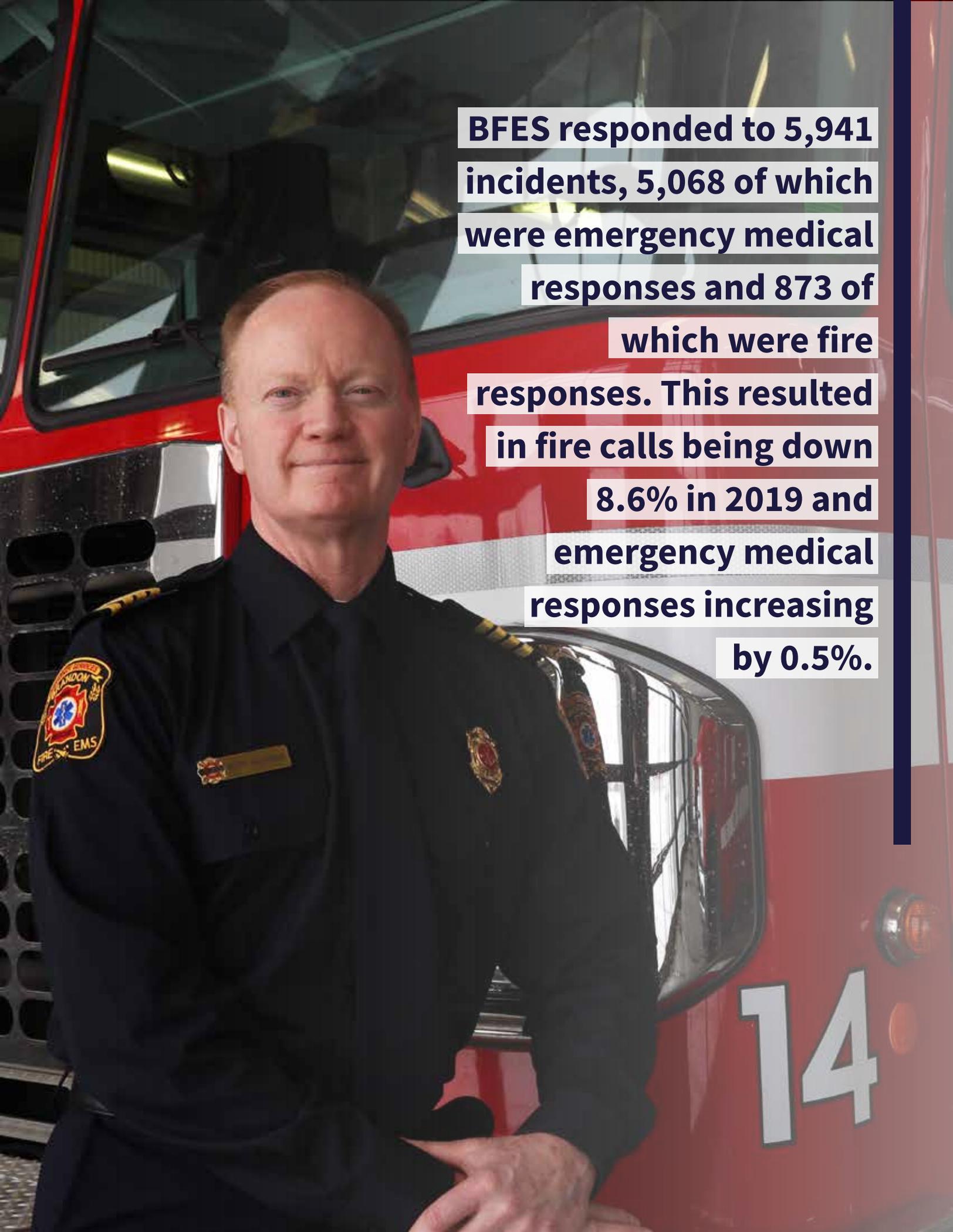




BRANDON FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM *THE FIRE CHIEF*

On behalf of the staff of Brandon Fire & Emergency Services (BFES) it is my pleasure to submit to you the department's 2019 Annual Report.

It was a busy year with the Grand Valley Mutual Aid District hosting the annual Manitoba Association of Fire Chief's Conference at the Victoria Inn. This event brought Fire Chiefs from all over Manitoba for information sessions, a trade show and networking.

The Department hosted a Medal Ceremony, recognizing staff for their years of dedication to the fire service. There were 21 members who received an award at the ceremony.

We were fortunate to receive donations from various businesses including CF Industries, TransCanada Pipeline and the Royal Canadian Legion to aid in training days and equipment purchases to which benefited both Fire and EMS.

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We hope you enjoy the 2019 Annual Report. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Scott McDonald
Fire Chief

STAFFING CHANGES

New Hires

Clark Whelpton	March 18	Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic
Sean Abramovich	September 9	Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic
Kyle Patterson	September 23	Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic
Dillon Furgeson	October 28	Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic

Promotions

Scott McDonald	February 1	Fire Chief
Jason Potter	March 4	Deputy Fire Chief
Shayne Collister	October 31	Captain

A Medal & Award Ceremony was held on May 8, recognizing those who reached a milestone in their career.



AWARDS

GOVERNOR GENERAL AWARDS

Canada's Exemplary Service Medals recognize the men and women dedicated to preserving Canada's public safety through long and outstanding service. Created in 1985 by the Government of Canada, The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal honors members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 or more years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks. Deputy Mayor Barry Cullen presented this award to six eligible employees.

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS FIRE SERVICE AWARDS

In 2005, the Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs created a Fire Service Award recognizing 25 years of dedication and loyalty to the Fire Service in Manitoba. Brad Yochim, President of the MAFC, presented this award to five eligible employees.

FIVE YEAR BADGES

All staff who have achieved the rank of First Class Firefighter, or have put in five years of service in the Training or Inspection division, receive a badge. It includes their name, their start year, and their assigned badge number. It is not only a staff badge, but it is a badge of courage, honor, commitment, and pride. It is a physical piece of their history with Brandon Fire & Emergency Services that can be carried with staff through their retirement. Fire Chief Scott McDonald presented these badges to seven eligible employees.

MB ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS CONFERENCE 2019



The annual Manitoba Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) conference was held at the Victoria Inn June 6-9. Grand Valley Mutual Aid (GVMA) District (consisting of the fire departments from Brandon, Shilo, Carberry, Wawanesa and Souris), organized and hosted the conference.

The purpose of this conference is to bring fire chiefs from full time, part time and rural-based fire services together to share experiences and ideas from all areas of the province.

A large trade show with 38 vendors displaying their various apparatus, equipment and firefighting gear took place during the first two days of the conference.

Dr. David Griffin was one of the keynote speakers, travelling all the way from Charleston, South Carolina. He was the operator of the first due engine on June 18, 2007 when nine of his fellow firefighters perished in the line of duty. His presentation focused on the consequences of the phrase “That’s the way we’ve always done it” and the importance of open-mindedness to progress.

Scott Wilkinson from the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service presented “U.A.V. Programs: Getting Off the Ground” – an informative session looking into how drones are being used in the fire service.

GVMA held a session about knowledge sharing, team building and training. It was discussed how these factors all played an important role in the major fires that seized downtown Brandon on May 19, 2018.

Clubbing Fraggles & the Mark Humphries Orchestra provided entertainment during the evenings. A formal banquet was held on the last evening of the conference; awards were presented to those with longstanding years in the fire service.

Over 130 delegates attended the conference. Partners of the delegates were able to participate in the Partner Program. This consisted of fun times at the Sand Hills Casino, touring the Prairie Firehouse & participating in a make and take activity at the Prairie Firehouse. There were 50 partners who participated in this program.

Brandon last hosted the MAFC Conference in 2011.

FIRE PREVENTION

Learn Not to Burn

Canada became the first country in which the Learn Not To Burn® program was implemented nationally. The Learn Not To Burn® program teaches fire and burn prevention behaviours to elementary school children. Based on the National Fire Protection Association's curriculum, it includes songs, stories, puppets, games and other activities to teach fire safety behaviours (e.g., Stop, Drop and Roll, crawl low under smoke) in a way that children can understand and remember.

The Learn Not to Burn® program reached 1,915 students in 19 schools in 2019. BFES graciously accepts generous donations from Kiwanis International, Firefighters' Burn Fund, Dick Agencies Insurance Brokers and Guild Insurance Brokers Inc. for operating the program in our community.

Fire Prevention Stats

- 173 fire pit permits were issued
- Staff attended to approximately 20 fire pit complaints
- 1,016 inspections were completed by Fire Inspectors and operations staff
- Fire Inspectors inspected over 60 properties in the rural municipalities of Cornwallis and Elton
- Over 6,000 students attended school presentations delivered by the Public Educator
- Over 1,500 students attended Road Shows and Rodeos at various schools
- The Public Educator provided 14 sessions of fire extinguisher training
- There were three babysitting courses held throughout the year, with over 60 students receiving their babysitting license. We are fortunate to receive funding from the Kiwanis Club of Brandon, ensuring there is no cost to attend the course.

FIRE

BFES took possession of the Incident Command Unit in October of 2019. The purpose of this unit is to attend to emergency scenes and provide a functional operating location for the emergency scene incident commander while managing the incident. Previously, the incident commander has operated out of the back of the Command half-ton truck, exposed to the elements.

BFES and Departments within the Grand Valley Mutual Aid District took part in several tabletop exercise scenarios at the Office of the Fire Commissioner. The purpose of this training is to ensure all

departments are better prepared and more familiar with working together in the event of an actual joint response.

There were 873 fire responses, 25 of which were structure fires.

Total building loss came to almost \$1.5 million (this does not include contents of fire losses).

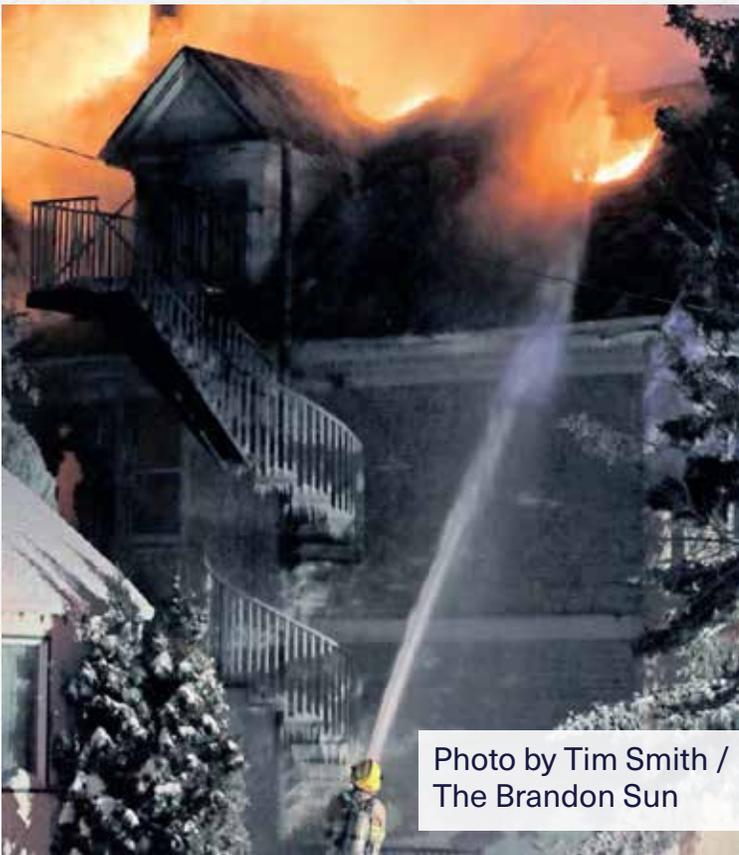


Photo by Tim Smith /
The Brandon Sun



Photo by Tim Smith /
The Brandon Sun



Photo by Melissa Verge /
The Brandon Sun

A photograph of a white ambulance parked in a garage, viewed from the front. The ambulance has a red cross on the hood. The background shows a window with a grid pattern and a red fire truck partially visible on the right.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ambulance calls consist of:

- Primary emergency and non-emergency responses (this is the majority of the ambulance calls).
- Long distance interfacility transports (for example, taking patients from the Brandon Hospital to the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg).
- Local inter-facility transports (for example, taking patients from a personal care home to the hospital.)
- Assisting other agencies including supporting rural emergency medical services.

There were

5,068

ambulance calls,
an average of **13**
per day.

Staff participated in approximately

2,000 hours

of EMS training to ensure their
skills are up-to-date in the latest
pre-hospital patient care skills.



TRAINING



Decontamination

A formal gross decontamination procedure for post fire on-scene cleaning of firefighter gear and skin contact areas was introduced. Studies have shown that firefighter gear continues to off-gas carcinogens well after the fire is extinguished. On-scene gross decontamination with cleaning agents, scrub brushes and hose lines can reduce contaminants by up to 85%. The process also requires firefighters to wipe down their face, neck, arms and

hands with wet wipes to help reduce the absorption of these cancer-causing carcinogens into their systems through open pores due to sweating.

Special Rescue Teams

Haz-mat

This team has the capability to respond to fuel spills, oil spills, and any other incident where there is a known or unknown hazardous substance.

The hazmat team was able to participate in a full exercise this year with a local industrial partner and the City of Brandon's B.E.S.T. program. The exercise facilitated a mock chemical leak that the Hazardous Material Team responded to and assisted the company's product specialists to mitigate the chemical leak emergency. This tested both the local company's emergency response as well as interagency cooperation with BFES.



Water Rescue

The Water Rescue Team held a joint training exercise with the Oakland-Wawanesa Fire Department at Pelican Lake. The Oakland-Wawanesa Fire Department was introduced to and given the opportunity to train with Brandon's Rapid Deployment Craft (RDC) while BFES was introduced to Oakland-Wawanesa's drone and the advantages it provides in water search and rescue.

The Water Rescue Team also trained throughout the remainder of 2019 on the Assiniboine River. The team uses immersion suits and a Zodiac inflatable boat with 25hp motor to transport the team on the river.

In June, the team assisted surveyors from the City of Brandon Engineering department to shoot levels along the location of the 3rd Street rock dam.



Tech Rescue

The team purchased some new rescue equipment including ropes, rope bags, a Multi-Purpose Device (MPD), carabiners, rescue harnesses, and an Arizona Vortex Multi pod (AZ). The AZ replaced the traditional tripod, which could only be used for confined space rescues. The AZ can be used in many different configurations as a rescue tool and can be used in high angle or confined space rescue situations.

The team utilized Manitoba Emergency Service College's training sites as well as the #1 Fire Hall.



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