



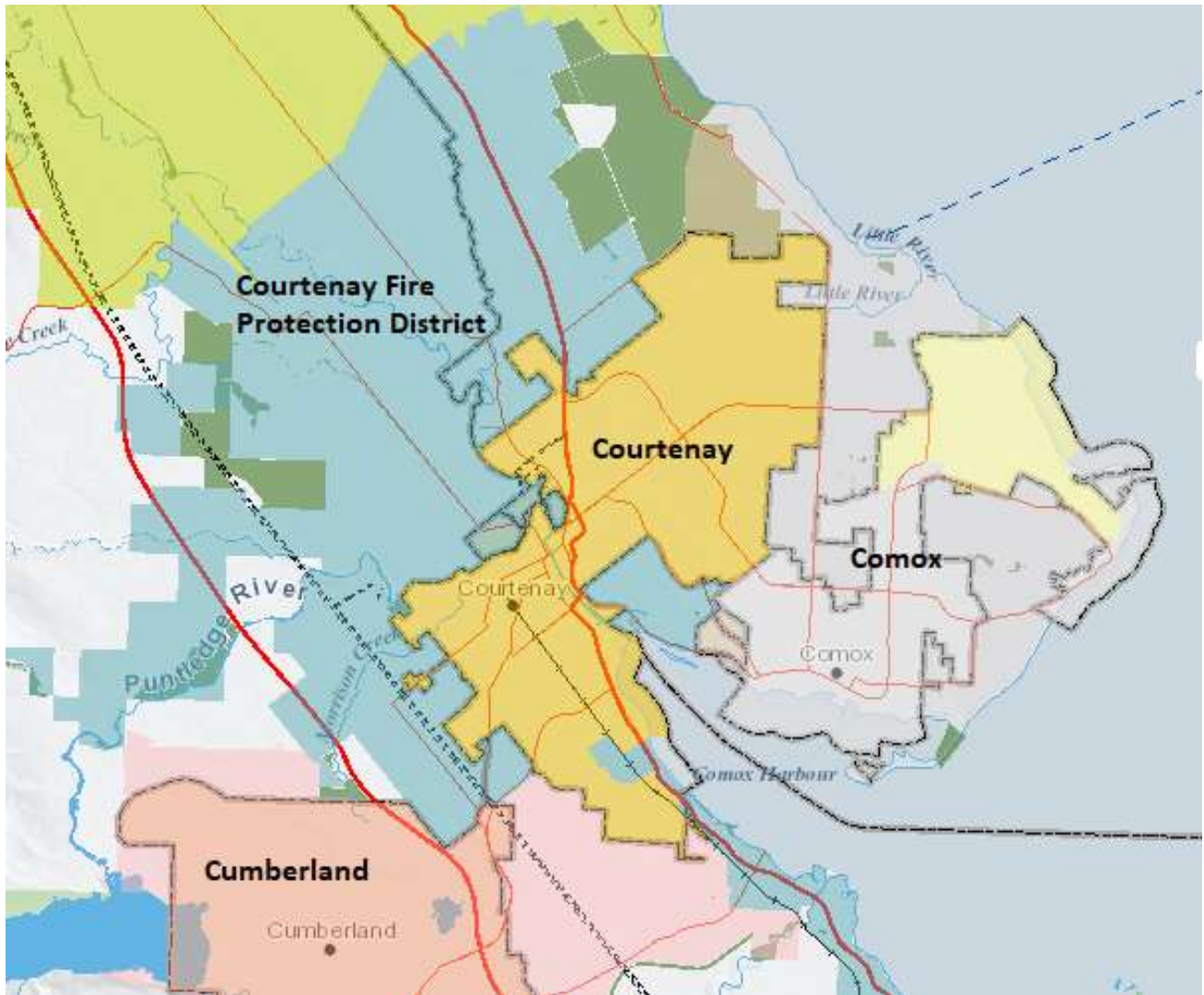
2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Courtenay Fire Department



FIRE PROTECTION AREA

The Courtenay Fire Department provides service to the City of Courtenay, the Courtenay Fire Protection District and neighboring jurisdictions through reciprocal mutual aid agreements.



	Population (estimated 2021)	Properties Protected (2021)
City of Courtenay	28,000	13,006
Courtenay Fire Protection District	6,500	2,929
Totals	34,500	15,935

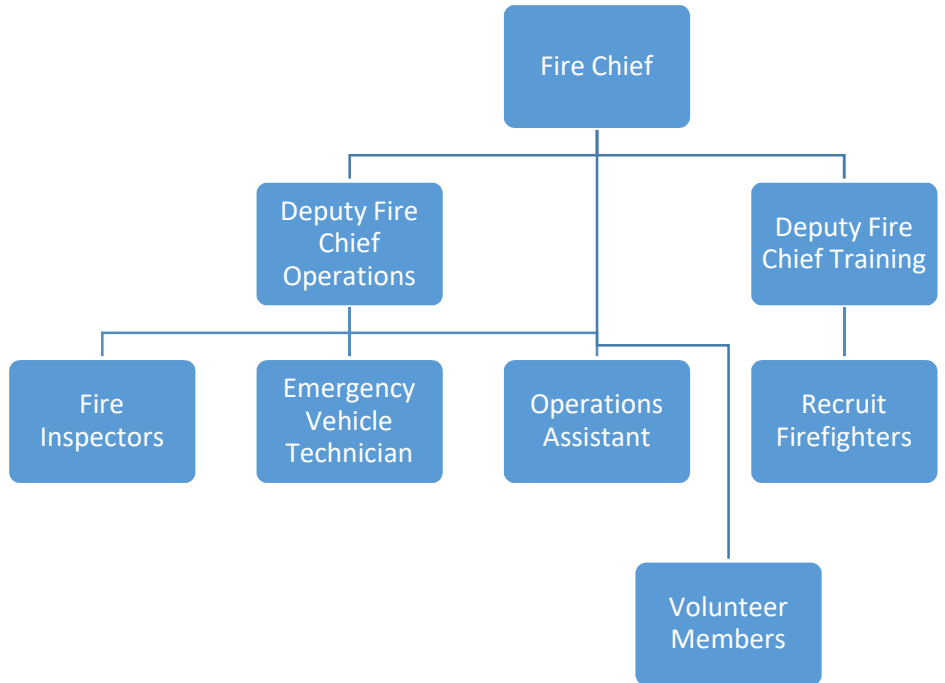
FIRE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Career Staff

- Fire Chief
- Deputy Chief Operations
- Deputy Chief Training
- Fire Inspectors (2)
- Operations Assistant
- Emergency Vehicle Technician

Volunteer Members

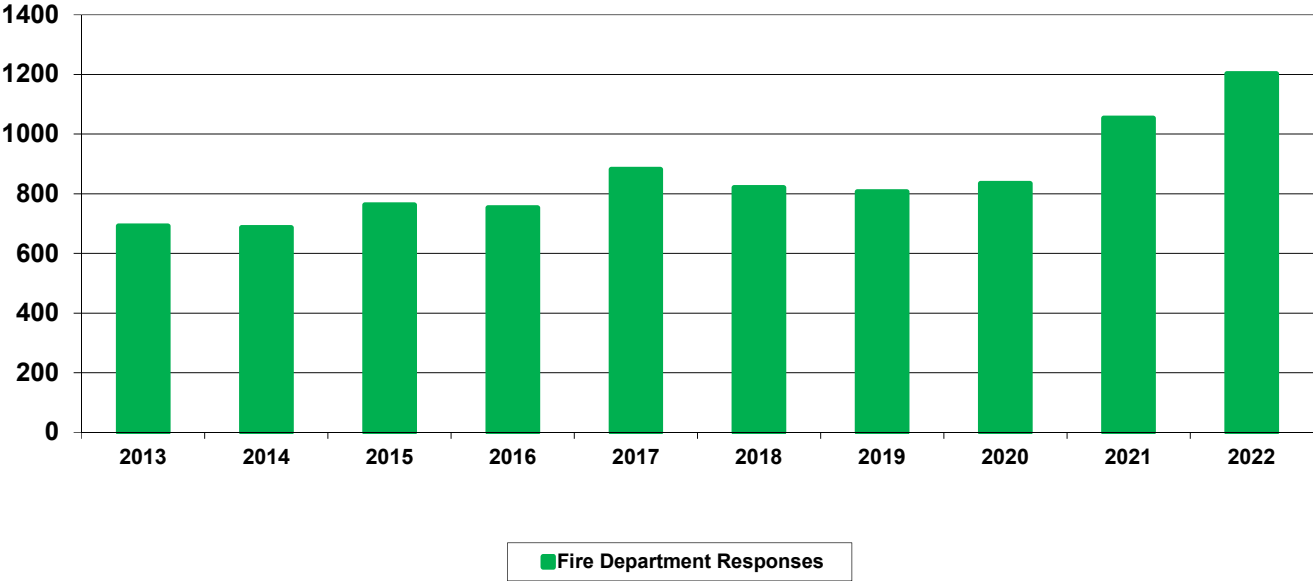
- Fire Captains (4)
- Fire Lieutenants (8)
- Firefighters (38)
- Recruit Firefighters (18)



FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS

The Courtenay Fire Department responded to 1202 incidents in the City of Courtenay and fire protection districts in 2022, breaking the previous record of 1053 fire department responses which was set last year.

Chart 1: Fire Department Responses by Year 2013-2022



Our call volume for the first six months of 2022 was very similar to the same time period in 2021. The hot dry weather and drought like conditions we faced starting in July resulted in a significant increase in calls for service, the majority of them being to concerns about open burning as well as grass/bush fires.

Responses to fire alarm activations and open burning issues were the two call types that had the biggest increase overall in comparison to 2021, with the remaining responses to all other types of incidents staying consistent with years past. The majority of the increase in the fire alarms activated category were responses to single room occupancies, while the increase in open burning was to urban related issues such as campfires in the downtown core and various forested areas in and around the city.

In total, our volunteer firefighters spent over 14,000 hours responding to incidents within the City of Courtenay and the Courtenay Fire Protection District. This works out to each member volunteering to respond to 280 hours' worth of incidents in 2022, which does not include the additional time commitment of training, maintaining certifications, public education, etc.

Chart 2: Fire Department Responses by Month

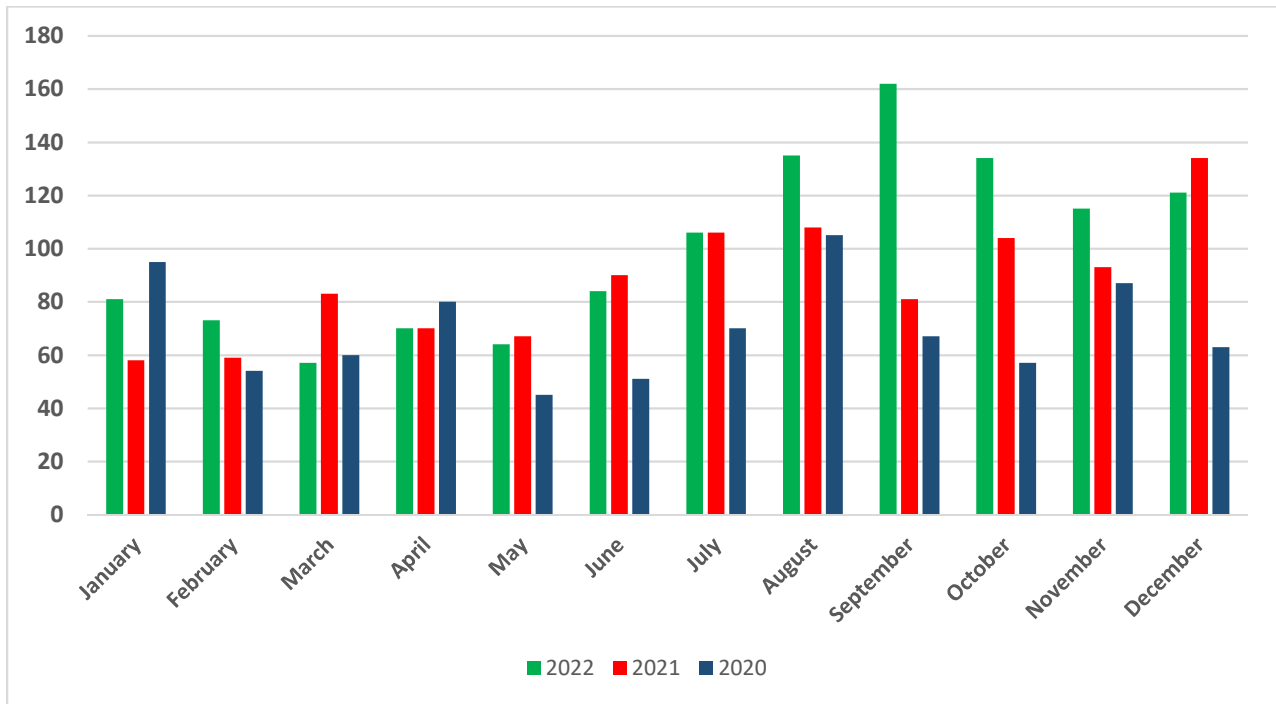


Chart 3: Fire Department Responses by Type

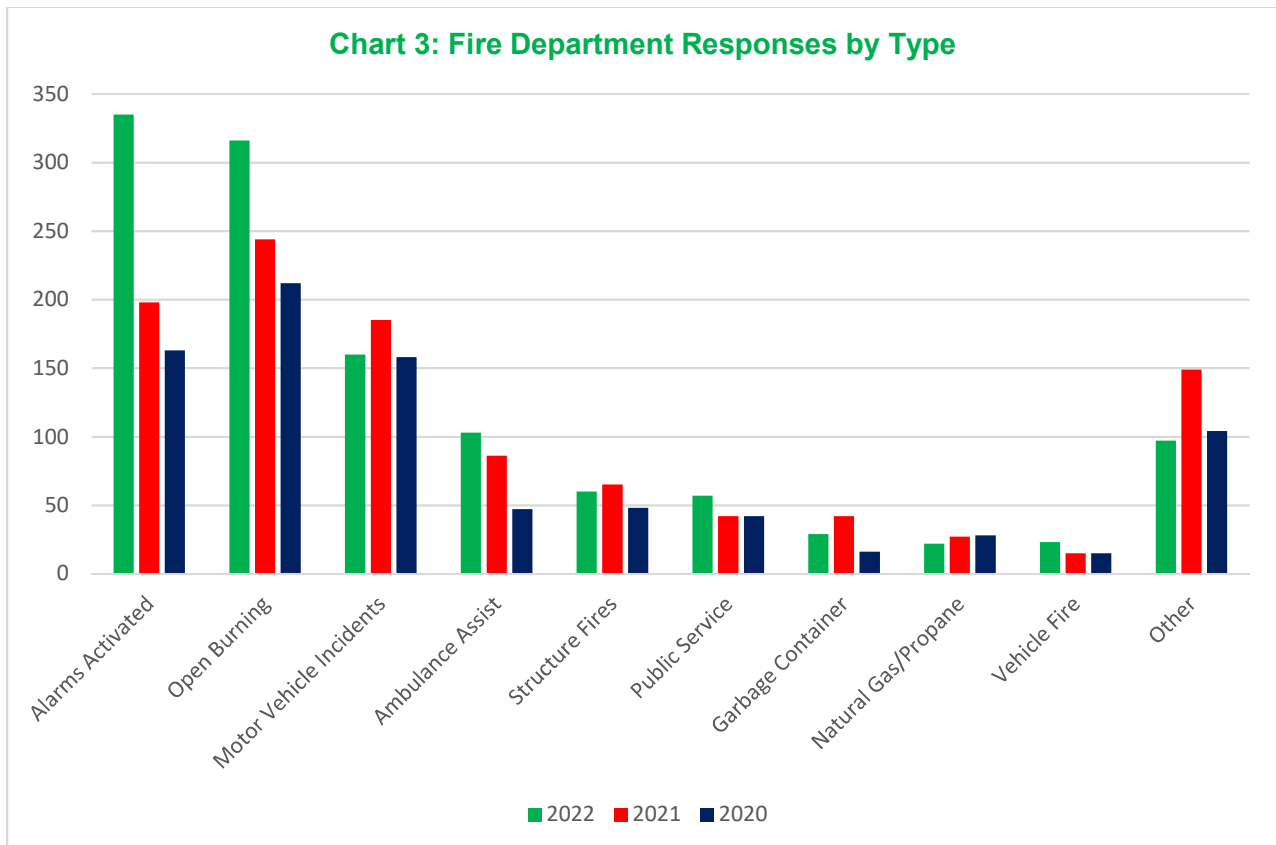
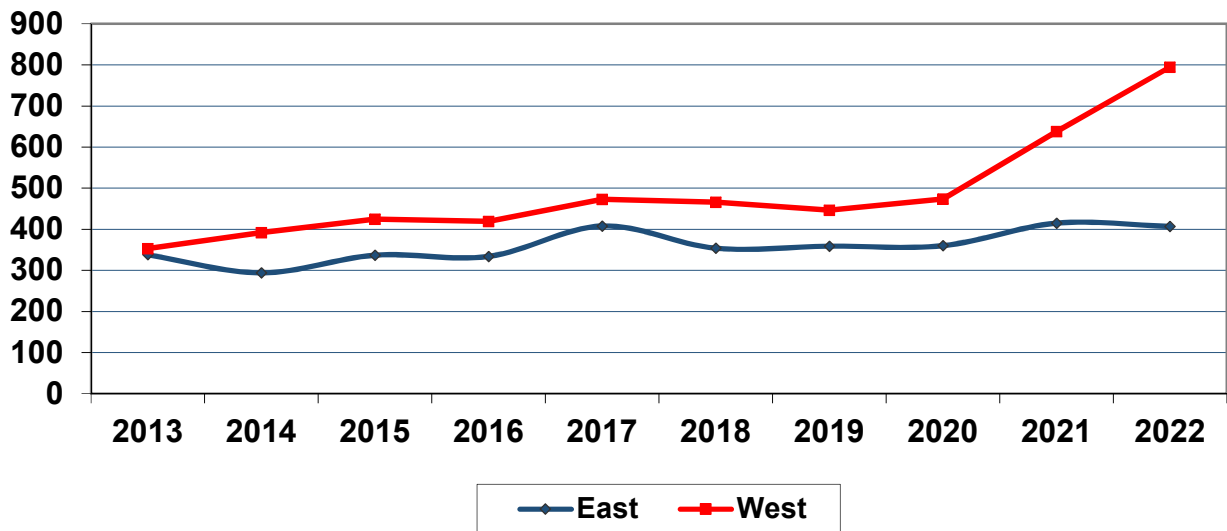


Chart 4: Fire Department Responses East vs. West 2013–2022



FIRE DEPARTMENT DEPLOYMENTS

Even though the 2022 wildfire season in British Columbia was not as destructive as past seasons, the length and intensity of the fire season increased considerably due to the historic drought conditions that plagued the province. The Courtenay Fire Department once again assisted the Province of BC fight these fires, with our crews being deployed to Apex Resort for a total of 14 days.



During their deployments, our crews extinguished hot spots in residential areas, removed fuel loads from homes that had been evacuated, scouted fire activity, and supported the BC Forest Service in their attempts to divert the fires around populated areas.

The experience that our firefighters gained from participating in these operations is an enormous benefit to our community should we ever have a similar situation happen here, and the revenue generated from our assistance will be put towards future fire department capital purchases.

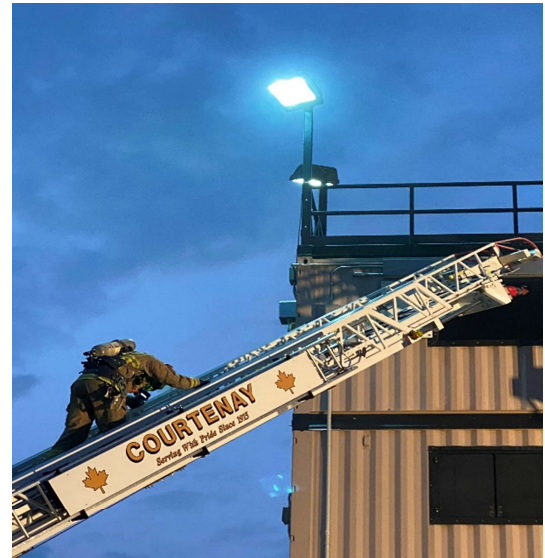
FIRE PREVENTION

The Courtenay Fire Department conducted fire inspections at pre-pandemic levels. Our full-time staff conducted 1761 fire inspections in the city and fire protection district, most of which were found to be free of any major fire code or life safety violations. Of the code violations that we did find, the majority of them were burned out emergency lighting and exit signs or fire extinguishers that required annual servicing.

The public education program was fully operational in 2022, with our full-time staff once again delivering fire drills, smoke alarm checks, fire safety house training to elementary aged children, and fire extinguisher training at pre-pandemic levels. Our members were very happy to be able to conduct fire hall tours again, as we had missed how excited the children get when they come to the fire hall and the big smiles we see when they get to climb on the apparatus and spray water from the fire hoses.

TRAINING

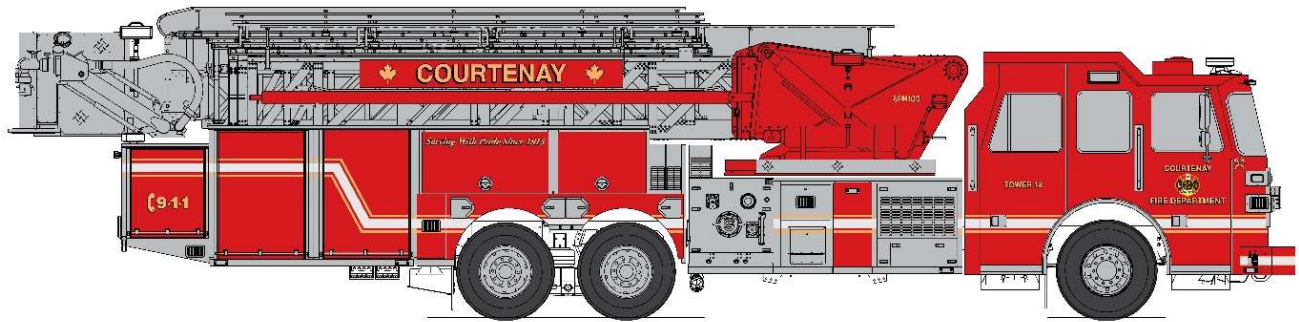
Our regular Tuesday night training program was once again expanded to include approximately one weekend per month. This training consisted of skills development and maintenance of our regular members to the level of full service as outlined in the Structure Fire Competency and Training Playbook, as well our new recruit firefighters' training program, which is an accredited NFPA 1001 FF-2 training program taught in conjunction with the College of the Rockies Fire Safety Division. Our membership invested over 3600 training hours in 2022 on subjects including fire suppression, auto extrication, rope rescue and self-rescue techniques.



We also started a new recruit class in September 2022. This class consists of nine people with no practical firefighting experience and two people who have some firefighting training. Our goal is to have this class “truck ready” in a calendar year, and we are on track to achieve this goal as of the date of this report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Courtenay Fire Department completed the process of replacing our 75-foot aerial ladder truck with a new aerial platform truck built by Sutphen Fire Apparatus. The new truck features a 100-foot reach and three-person platform, 2000 gallon per minute delivery through two aerial waterways, and low-profile construction to help reduce the risk of rollovers when responding to calls. This project was completed on time and under budget, and has been responding to emergency calls since mid-December 2022.



FIRE DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

In addition to the completion of the replacement of our 75-foot aerial ladder project, the fire department completed two significant strategic initiatives in 2022. The first strategic priority was completing the 2021-2022 Recruit Training program, which was finished at the end of September. This recruit class performed very well and worked extremely hard to complete the course on time, and resulted in us having ten fully trained people ready to join the organization as a regular member.

The second strategic priority that we were able to achieve was the delivery of more mental resiliency training to our members. We were able to increase our number of peer supporters who can be called upon in the event that a member needs some assistance, and also have worked with our neighboring fire departments to build a regional mental health resiliency team for us all to share.

In closing, I would like to thank Mayor and Council for their support of the fire department. I would also like to thank the members of the Courtenay Fire Department for their dedication and service throughout the year.

COURTENAY



FIRE DEPARTMENT



CITY OF
COURTENAY

