



The Corporation of the City of Courtenay

Briefing Note

To: Council

File No.: 7200-01

From: Fire Chief Kurt MacDonald

Date: July 31 2024

Subject: Courtenay Fire Department 2024 Semi-annual Activity Report

PURPOSE:

To provide Council with a brief recap of fire department activity between January 1 2024 and June 30 2024.

BACKGROUND:

The following is a summary of fire department activities performed during the first half of 2024.

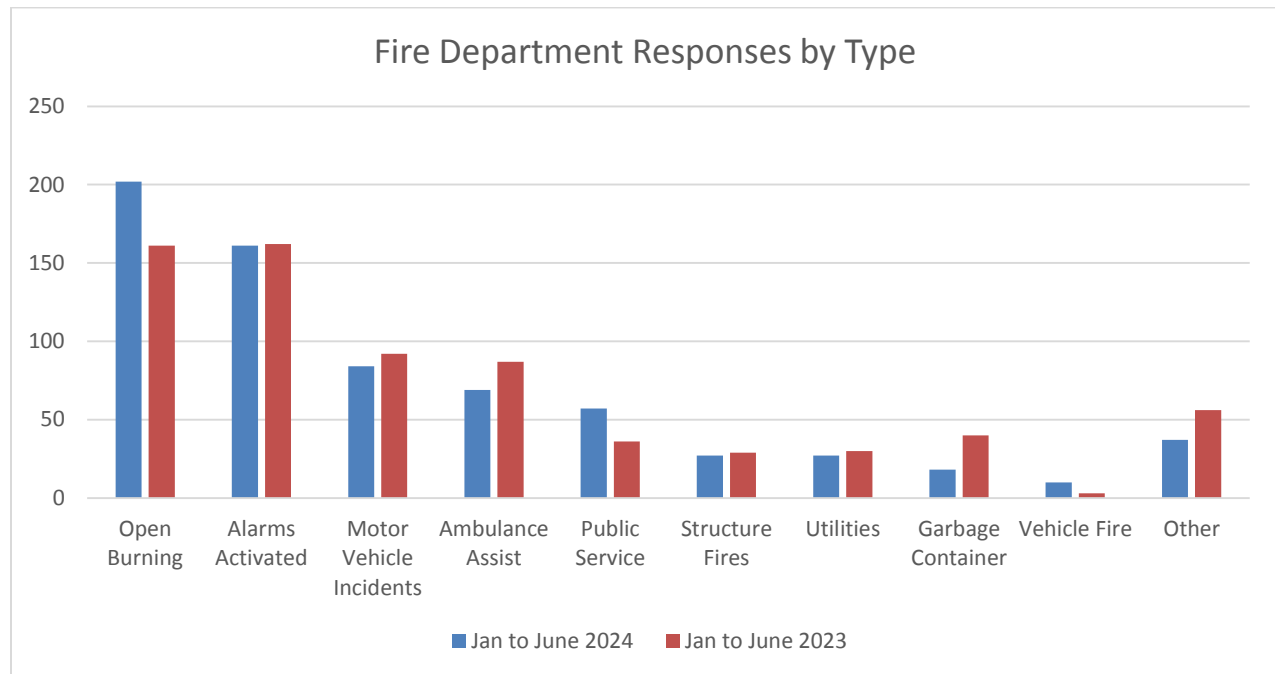
Fire Department Responses

The fire department responded to 692 incidents between January 1st and June 30th 2024, which is 4 fewer calls than we responded to in the same time period in 2023. Many of the responses made by our crews were to open burning (202), alarms activated calls (161), motor vehicle incidents (84), and ambulance assists (69).

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024 Total	2023 Total	+/-
Non-Emergency Calls	170	148	-	-	318	244	+74
Emergency Calls	192	182	-	-	374	452	-78

Changes in our dispatch procedures for open burning calls and ambulance assists have resulted in a decrease in emergency responses, as these calls are now handled by our weekday staff and our weekend coverage shift, which is staffed by our volunteer members. This reduction in general callouts for these types of calls has greatly improved the work-life balance of our volunteer members.

Responses to open burning issues and public service requests are the categories that have the largest increases in comparison to the same time period in 2023, while ambulance assists and garbage container fires are the categories that have the largest decrease when compared to last year.



Training

The volunteer members of our organization invested 870 hours on training subjects including firefighter survival drills, live fire drills, auto extrication and high angle rescue. Our members also participated in joint emergency vehicle operations training with Oyster River Fire Rescue, Merville Fire Rescue, Cumberland Fire Rescue and Comox Fire Rescue, as well as wildland firefighting training with Oyster River Fire Rescue and Merville Fire Rescue.

Fire Inspections and Prevention

Our fire inspectors performed 919 fire inspections of commercial properties in both the City and the fire protection district. We are pleased to report that most of these properties were compliant and only a small number of violations were found. Prevention staff participated in 96 public education events during the first half of the year. These events included fire extinguisher training, FireSmart education sessions, fire hall tours, and smoke alarm checks in residential properties. The feedback received from the participants of these activities has been positive and rewarding for the staff who have delivered the training.

Strategic Priorities

- 1) Chevy Tahoe Replacement – project completed
- 2) Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement – research completed, tender is being created
- 3) Training Officer Assistant Position – position filled
- 4) Emergency and Disaster Management Act Implementation - Feedback paper sent back to Province, waiting for regulations that will guide the CVEM to be written by the Province.

Prepared by: Kurt MacDonald, ECFO, Fire Chief

Concurrence: Geoff Garbutt, M.Pl., MCIP, RPP, City Manager (CAO)