

MEADOW LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report For 2016



Introduction

It is my pleasure to submit the City of Meadow Lake Fire Department's Annual Report for the year of 2016.

The following pages are a summary of the fire department's activities and some of the highlights of the last year. Your local fire service continues to develop its capabilities, expertise and professionalism, thanks in large part to support from the City and the community as a whole.

Like fire departments everywhere, we face a number of challenges, as well as opportunities to provide even better service to the citizens of Meadow Lake and our wider response area. We look forward to continued advancements in the coming year.

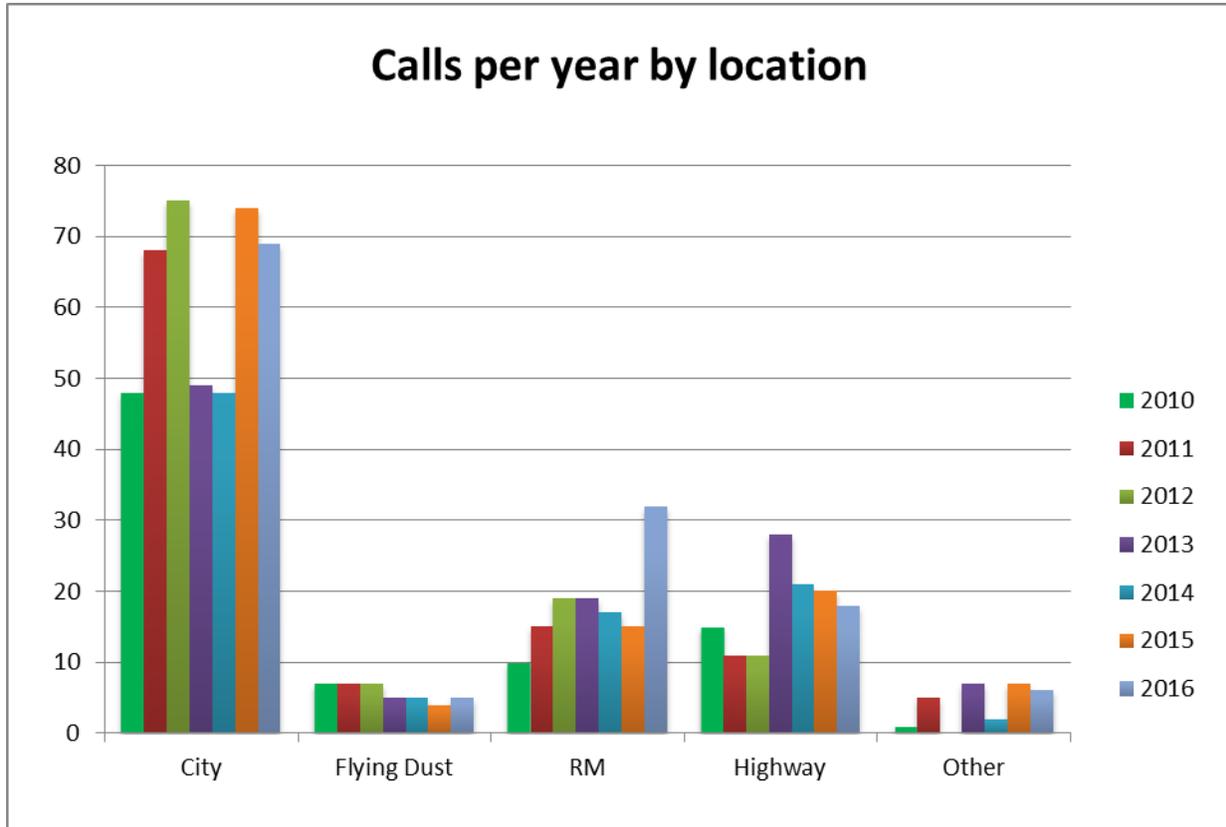
Respectfully submitted,

Neil Marsh
Fire Chief

Incident Summary

The Fire Department responds to emergencies within the City of Meadow Lake, the RM of Meadow Lake, Flying Dust First Nation, Dorintosh and some parts of the Meadow Lake Provincial Park. We respond to rescue calls for a slightly larger area, along provincial highways and provincial forest areas.

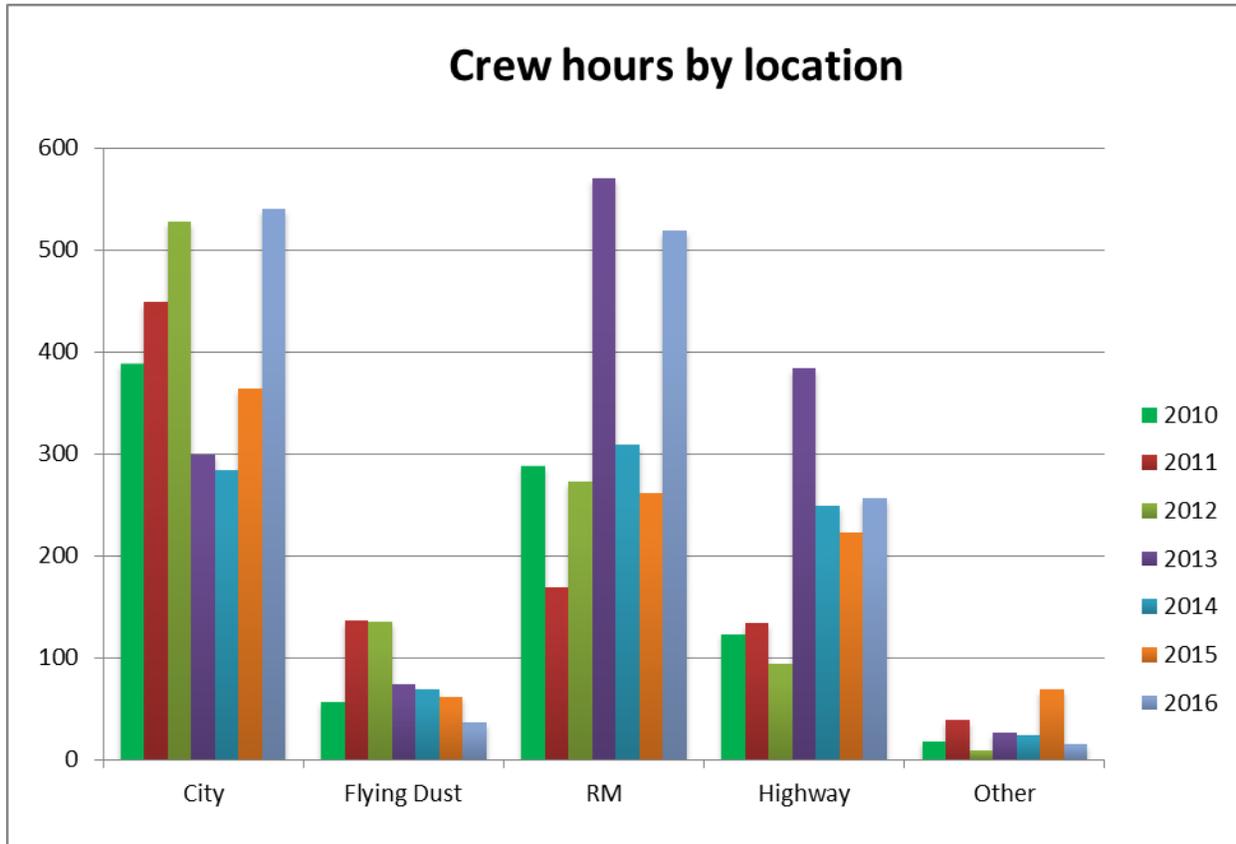
The number of responses to each of these locations is as follows for the last seven years (*2016 is the pale blue bar on the right of each grouping*).



| | Calls | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Totals | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| City | 48 | 68 | 75 | 49 | 48 | 74 | 69 |
| Flying Dust | 7 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| RM | 10 | 15 | 19 | 19 | 17 | 15 | 32 |
| Highway | 15 | 11 | 11 | 28 | 21 | 20 | 18 |
| Other | 1 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 6 |
| | 81 | 106 | 112 | 108 | 93 | 120 | 130 |

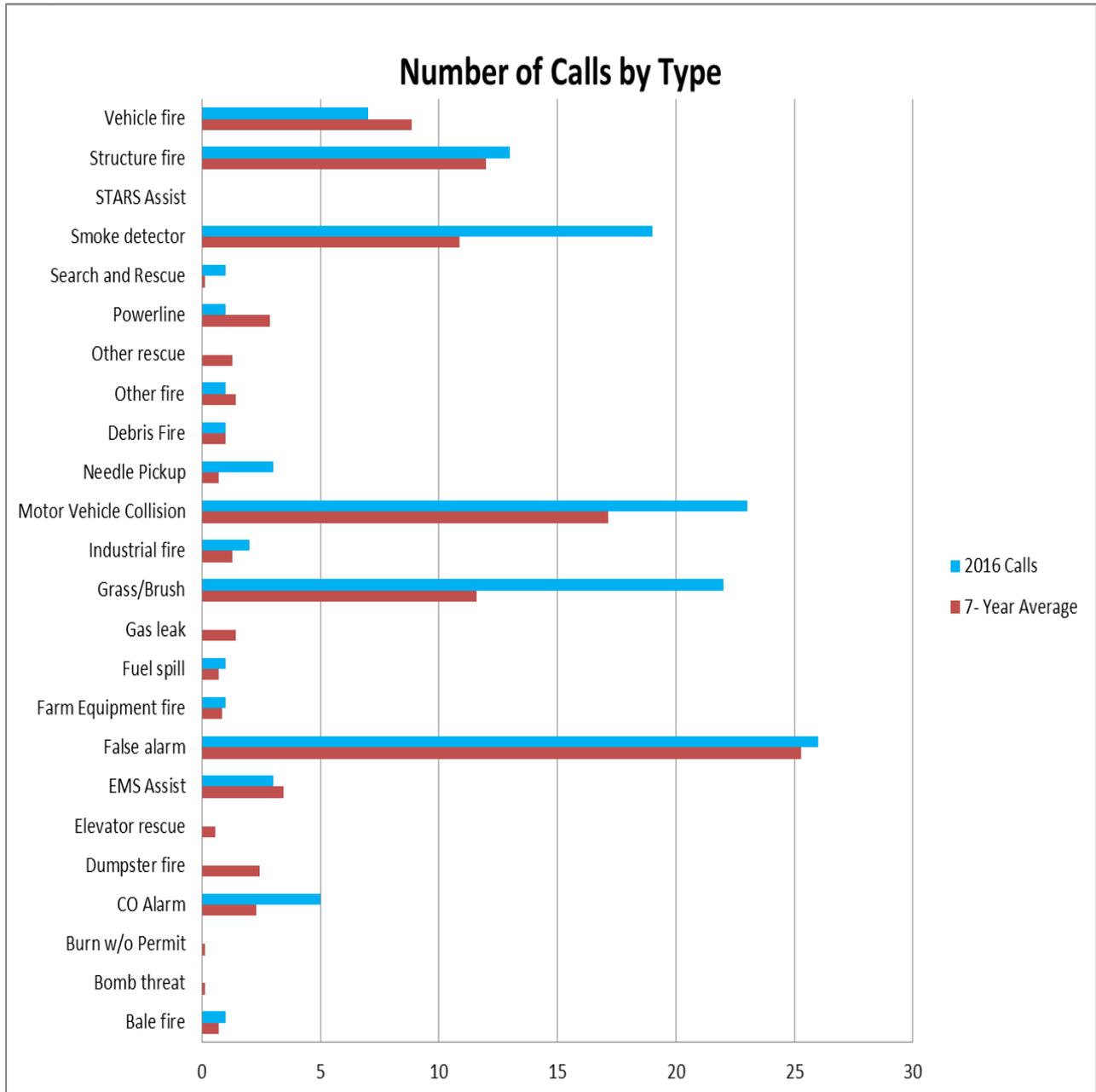
| | Crew hours | | | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| Totals | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| City | 389 | 449 | 528 | 298 | 284 | 364 | 539.5 |
| Flying Dust | 57 | 136 | 135 | 74 | 68.5 | 61 | 35.5 |
| RM | 288 | 169 | 272 | 570 | 308 | 261 | 519 |
| Highway | 124 | 134 | 94 | 383 | 248 | 222 | 256 |
| Other | 18 | 39 | 8 | 26 | 23 | 68 | 15 |
| | 876 | 927 | 1037 | 1351 | 931.5 | 976 | 1365 |

It is useful to consider the person-hours spent at incidents, as crew wages are a significant part of the cost of firefighting. Costs include not just wages paid to firefighters, but less tangible effects such as time away from firefighters' regular jobs.

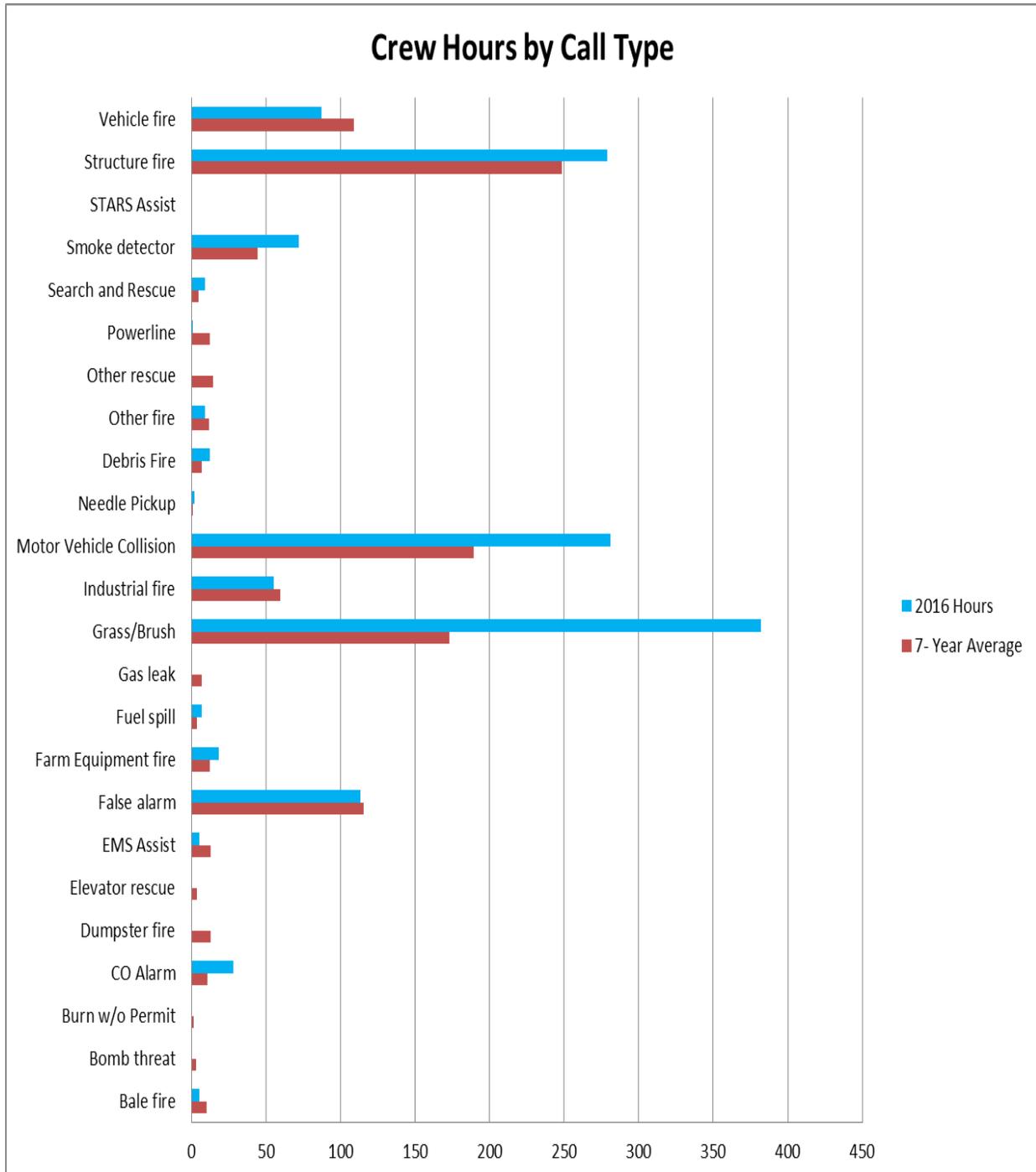


Historical note: The large spikes in hours in the RM in 2013 and 2016 are due to industrial fires. Similarly, the spike in highway numbers in 2013 is due to an unusual number of vehicle extrication calls, many of them involving transport trucks.

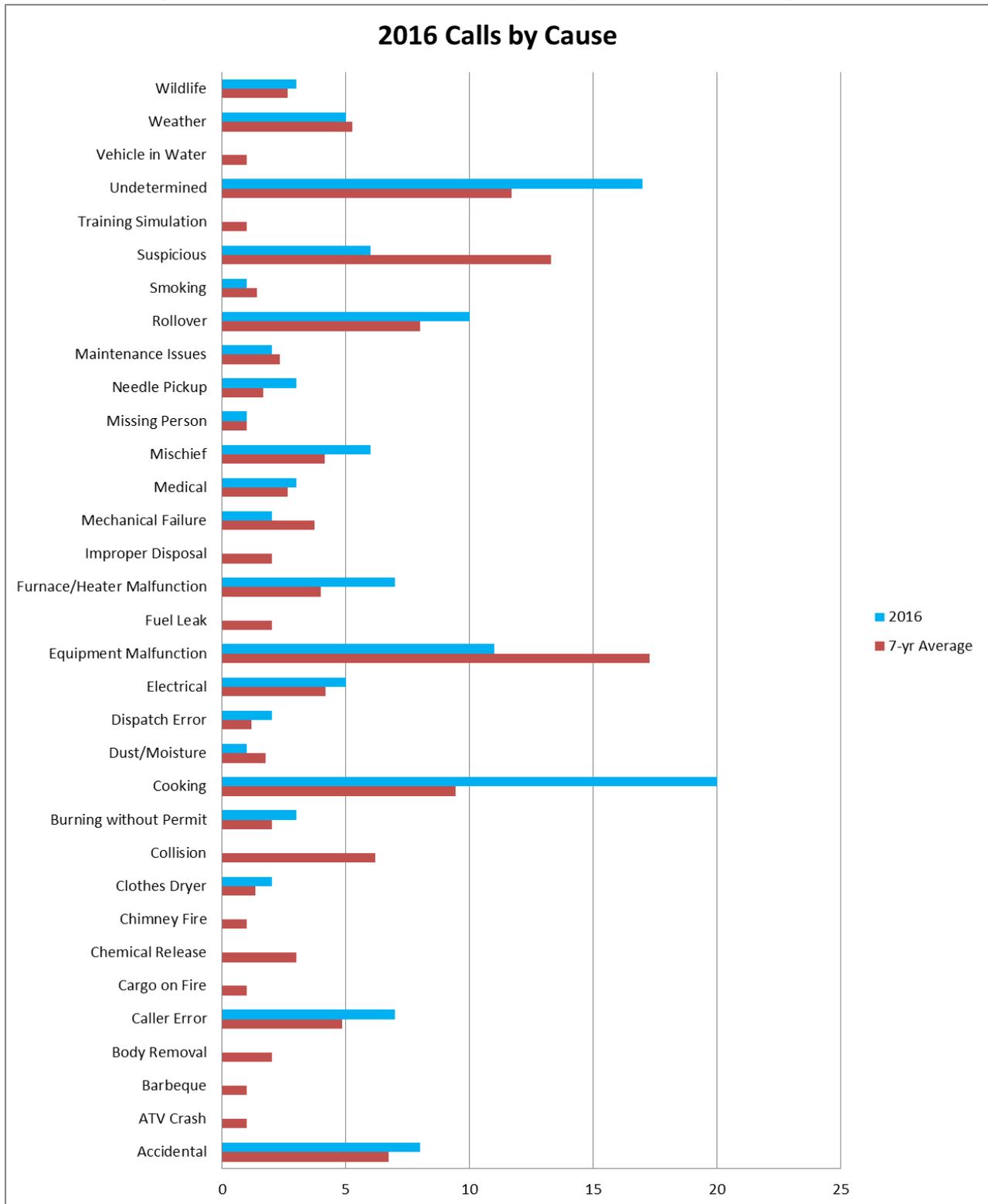
As the next chart shows, we respond to a wide variety of incident types. Structure fires, vehicle fires, wildland fires and motor vehicle rescues continue to be major demands for service. "Alarms ringing" calls account for many calls, and while most turn out to be false alarms, they do require a response.



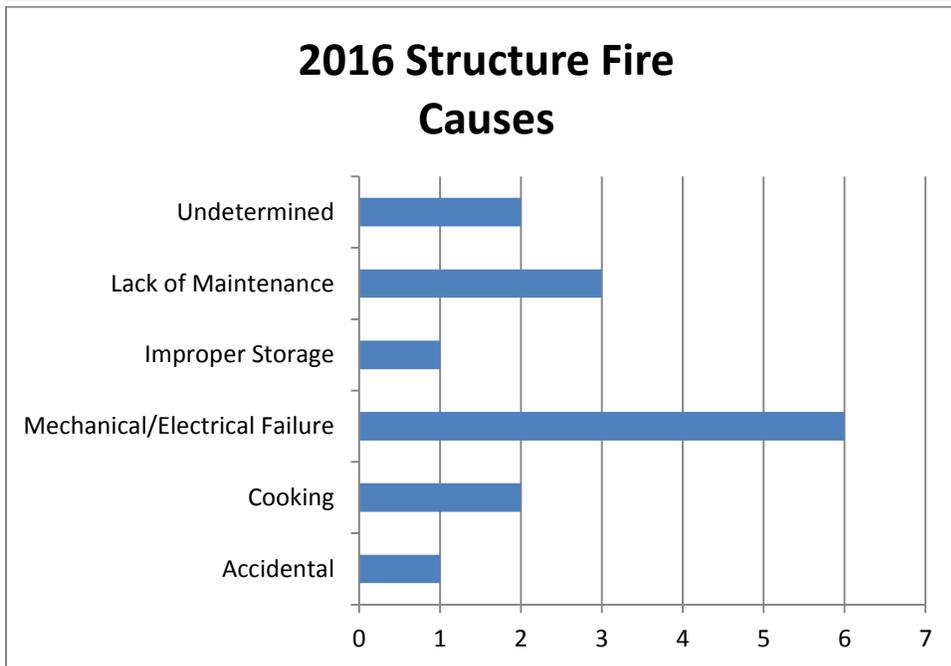
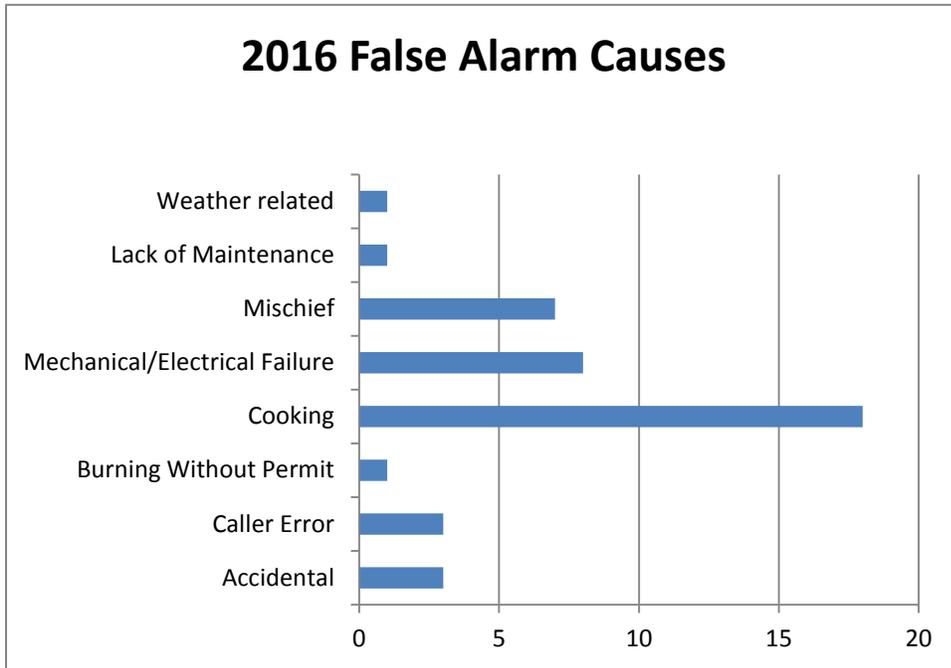
The labour cost of various types of incidents provides a different perspective. Structure fires, vehicle extrication, industrial fires and grass/brush fires are among the most labour-intensive types of calls.



Finally, determining the cause of fires and other emergencies provides valuable insight which can be used for future prevention strategies.



Malfunctioning or poorly maintained heating and electrical systems remain common causes of fires. The majority of false alarms are due to malfunctioning equipment or improper use of these systems.



Providing Services that Meadow Lake Relies On

As the preceding information illustrates, the Fire Department is called to assist at a wide variety of incidents, not limited to putting out fires. We expect to be called on for any of the following events

| Fire Department Services Currently Provided | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------|-------------|-----------|------|----------|
| Service description | City | RM588 | Flying Dust | Dorintosh | MLPP | Highways |
| Structure Fires | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Vehicle Fires | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Yard Fires | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Farm Equipment Fires | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Grass/Brush Fires | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Industrial Fires | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Alarms Ringing | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Motor Vehicle Extrication | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Farm Equipment Entanglement | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Industrial Equipment Entanglement | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ |
| Ice Rescue | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Other Specialty Rescue | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mass Casualty Incident | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| EMS Assist | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| RCMP Assist | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Body recovery | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Needle Pickup | ✓ | | | | | |
| Fuel Spill | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Gas Leak | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Hazardous Material Incident | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Extreme Weather Event | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Evacuation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Disaster Response, general | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Fire Code Inspections | ✓ | | | | | |
| Firefighter Training | ✓ | | | | | |
| Public Education | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Construction Plan Review | ✓ | | | | | |
| Other | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Employers

The employers of our firefighters deserve recognition, and these include

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| City of Meadow Lake | Prairie North Health Region |
| Meadow Lake Co-op | Meadow Power & Equipment |
| Extra Foods | Boston Pizza |
| Meadow Lake Mechanical Pulp | Meadow Lake OSB |
| Department of Highways | Northwest School Division |
| Home Hardware | Thomas Funeral Home |
| Hercules Appliance Repair | Department of Justice |
| BMTR Ventures | |

Several firefighters are self-employed

While most firefighters reside in the City, many are employed elsewhere

The support of community-minded employers is invaluable. A viable fire service is possible only when employees can leave work, without penalty, to attend to emergencies in the community.

Our Motivated and Dedicated Membership

The crew roster, at the time of this writing, is:

Officers

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Neil Marsh, Fire Chief | Joe Grela, Deputy Chief |
| Doug Bennett, Assistant Deputy | Michael Wagner, Lieutenant |
| Kim Sawatzky, A-Crew Captain | Ian Kosokowsky, Lieutenant |
| Chris Warren, B-Crew Captain | Cheryl Dodds, Lieutenant |
| Rick Burnett, C-Crew Captain | Scott Chuckrey, Lieutenant |

Firefighters

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Frank Richardson | Yannis Karambetsos | Dustin Thomas |
| Chris Gill | Ashton Filkowski | Peter Schalm |
| Joe Hallahan | Lyndon Shryko | Keenan Gill |
| Ed Berry | Christine Sawatzky | Alexander Bose |
| Andrew Toews | Andrew Clements | Arron Toews |
| Giulia Ferrari | | |

Trainees & Active Auxiliary

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Hussein Hamud | Jason Schenk | Dion Lacendre |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|

Qualifications

Among our membership we currently have

- First Aid instructors
- First Responder/EMR instructors
- Fire Service Instructors, Levels 1 & 2
- Firefighter II professional qualifications (NFPA 1001)
- HazMat Operations-level responders (NFPA 472)
- Fire Investigators (NFPA 1033)
- Fire Inspectors (NFPA 1031)
- Paramedics
- First Responders & Emergency Medical Responders
- Ice Rescue technicians

And a wide variety of other skills, certifications and competencies

We are especially proud of the firefighters who completed their NFPA 1001 Professional Firefighter qualifications in June 2016. This is a significant accomplishment and represents many hours of training.



Our Fleet

- **First-line Pumper:** 1999 Fort Garry fire engine, which carries 900 gallons of water, 1050 GPM fire pump, Class A foam system, a 5-person crew, SCBA, ground ladders and other equipment
- **Second-line & Rural Pumper:** 1987 Fort Garry fire engine, which carries 900 gallons of water, 650 GPM fire pump, a 2-person crew, ground ladders and other equipment
- **Highway Rescue:** 2000 GMC 1-ton with custom box, which carries a 5-person crew, our hydraulic rescue tools ('Jaws of Life'), scene lighting, basic rope rescue gear and other equipment
- **Rapid Response:** 2015 Ford 1-ton mini-pumper, which carries 200 gallons of water, an 80GPM pump with foam capability, SCBA, spill control supplies and assorted tools. This unit responds to most calls
- **Tanker:** 2015 International, with 3000 gallon capacity and 500GPM fire pump, delivered in May of 2016. Used in areas where hydrant service is inadequate, including significant parts of the city as well as the wider response area
- **Utility:** 2003 Ford ambulance, donated in 2011 by the Prairie North Health Region. This carries most of our first aid equipment and is used as a support vehicle at numerous incidents
- **Chief's vehicle:** 2005 GMC pickup, used by the fire chief for weekday work, and by the chief or on-call officer for after-hours on-call duties. Carries tools and supplies for inspections, incident command, and fire investigations.



Disaster Management

With the Fire Department taking on emergency planning duties, we have an opportunity and a challenge. The experience and expertise of fire service members is an asset in planning for large-scale disasters, and the fire department would be central to the response in most such events. In the disaster event itself, fire department personnel will typically be busy managing the scene, and so the challenge is to develop an effective organization beyond the fire department, that can effectively manage the broader aspects of large-scale emergency management.

So far, we have taken initial steps to update emergency plans, outfit an EOC, and have participated in discussions with NODCA's regional emergency planning initiative. As recent events in other communities make clear, disasters are to be expected. Severe weather, prolonged utility disruption, pandemics, supply chain interruptions, chemical spills, large building collapse... the possibilities are real.

Looking Ahead

- Recruiting and retaining firefighters is a perennial challenge. Relatively few people have the ability, the interest and the support from their family and employer that are necessary in order to become a successful firefighter. Fortunately, we currently have a full roster of firefighters, including five who have joined within the last year. Challenging training, excellent equipment and a supportive community all help to keep our members involved.
- We have been delighted to see many hydrants getting repaired over the last two years, and we hope that the City will continue with a routine hydrant maintenance program.
- We have made inquiries with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Firefighter Association about hosting one of their weekend Fire Schools, perhaps as early as 2018. These events typically bring in several hundred people, including students, instructors and trade show exhibitors.
- We aim to increase the number of fire code inspections for Meadow Lake commercial occupancies. This is the most reliable and cost-effective way to prevent fires and fire-related injury, death and

economic losses. Available time remains the toughest challenge to this important initiative.

- Finally, we welcome the addition of Tara Gower to city hall as our new Protective Services Clerk. With the help of this new position, the fire chief should be able to get away from the office and accomplish more of the tasks on the "to-do" list.

In summary, I would like to express my appreciation to the firefighters and officers of the Meadow Lake Fire Department, and especially to their families and employers. It is a privilege to serve with such fine people. With the continued support of City Council and the citizens of Meadow Lake and surrounding communities, we will ensure that our fire department continues to provide excellent services.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Marsh
Fire Chief