

# MEADOW LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Annual Report For 2018*



## **Introduction**

It is my pleasure to submit the City of Meadow Lake Fire Department's Annual Report for the year of 2018. The following pages are a summary of the fire department's activities and statistics of the last year.

A major trend in the fire service is toward a more proactive way of thinking. "Prevention" is now, rightly, considered to be as important as "response". Preventing a calamity is always better than dealing with the aftermath, and it is worth investing time and resources to achieve a safer community.

Prevention comes in many forms, and it is my hope that we can find ways to do more, and do better, regarding:

- Public awareness - helping residents understand how they can be safer at home, at work, on the road and in the community
- Safer buildings through more frequent inspections and fire code enforcement
- Protection of firefighters and other emergency workers from injury at the scene
- Protection of firefighter health through efforts such as
  - more rigorous decontamination and other measures to prevent exposure to toxic substances at fire scenes
  - increased emphasis on critical incident stress and mental health care
  - promotion of physical fitness

We endeavour to provide the best possible service to the citizens of Meadow Lake and our wider response area. Everyone deserves to live in a safe community, and the fire service has an important role in both preventing emergencies and responding effectively when they do occur. With the continued support of local residents, employers and Councils, we will continue to do our part!

## Special occasions



Ceremony is important in the fire service. In 2018, we participated in community's Remembrance Day service, and attended a funeral for a fallen comrade in Rosetown.

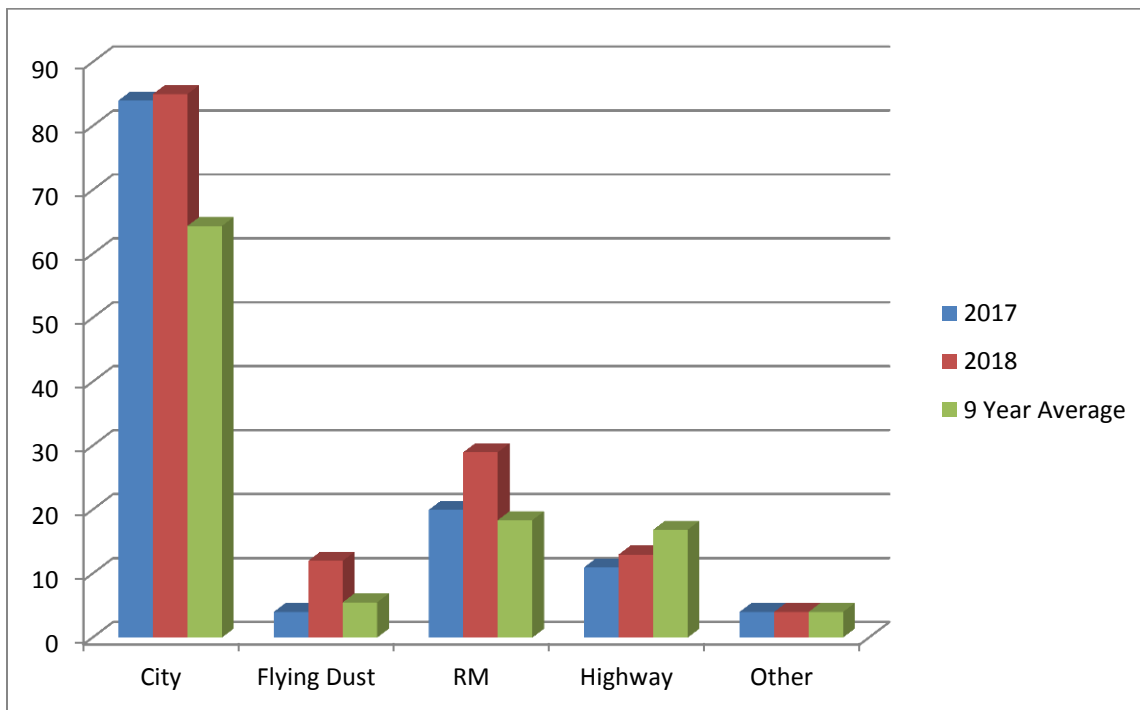
Three firefighters were honoured for their dedicated service. Captains Scott Chuckrey and Kim Sawatzky received the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal, and Assistant Deputy Doug Bennett received his 35-year bar. These awards were presented by Mayor Gary Vidal.

## 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 parts of the Meadow Lake Provincial Park. We respond to rescue calls for a slightly larger area, along provincial highways and in provincial forest areas.

The number of responses to each of these locations is as follows for the last eight years.

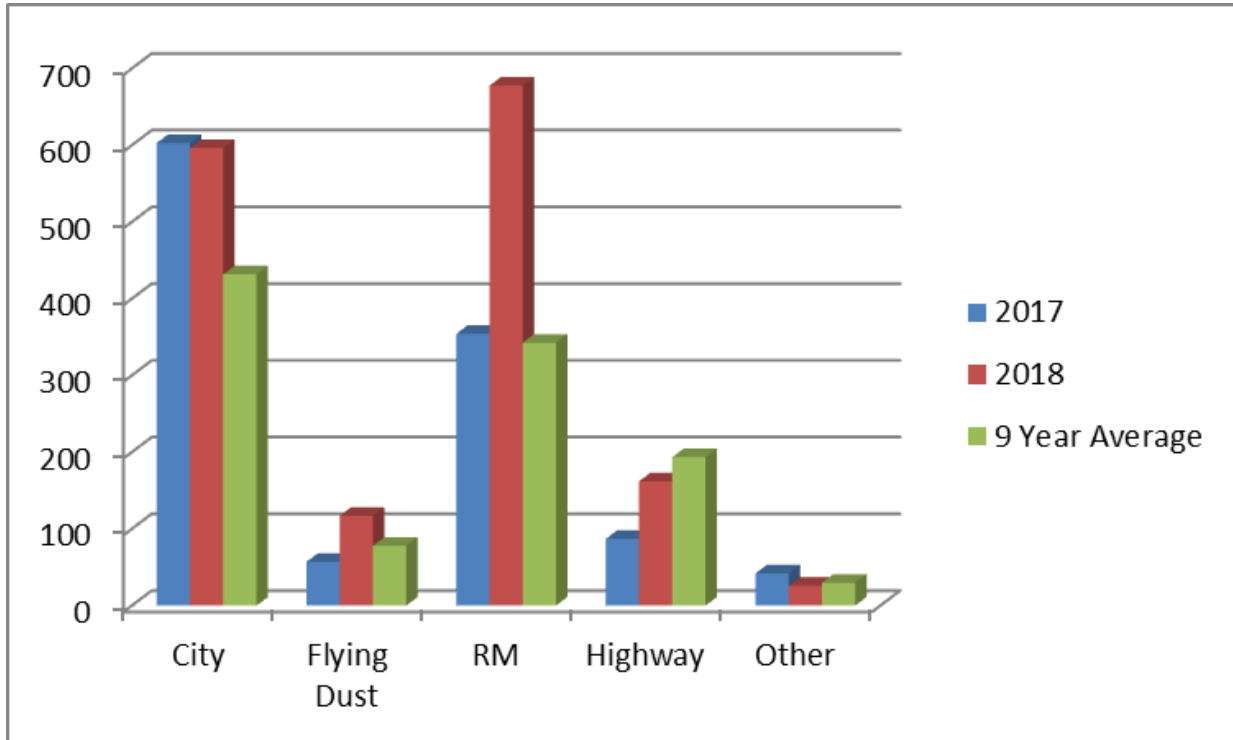
**Calls per Year by Location**



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
City	48	68	75	49	48	74	69	84	85
Flying Dust	7	7	7	5	5	4	5	4	12
RM	10	15	19	19	17	15	32	20	29
Highway	15	11	11	28	21	20	18	11	13
Other	1	5	0	7	2	7	6	4	4

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 and family.

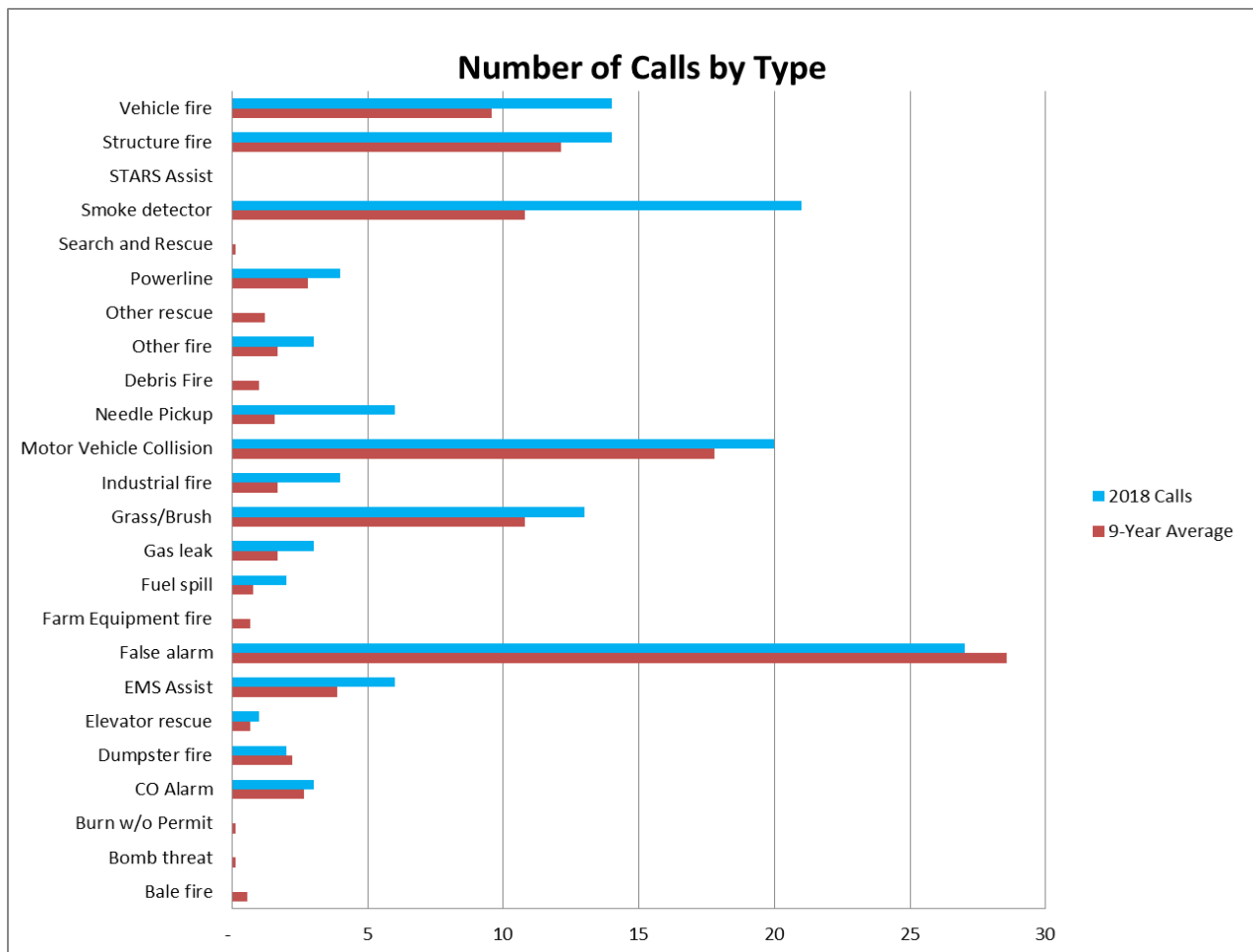
**Crew Hours by Location**



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
City	389	449	528	298	284	364	539.5	603	596.5
Flying Dust	57	136	135	74	68.5	61	35.5	57	117
RM	288	169	272	570	308	261	519	354	677.5
Highway	124	134	94	383	248	222	256	87	162
Other	18	39	8	26	23	68	15	42	26



*A house fire in May was the scene of a daring rescue by a Flying Dust resident. Several young children were safely evacuated from the house thanks to the quick action of their neighbor.*

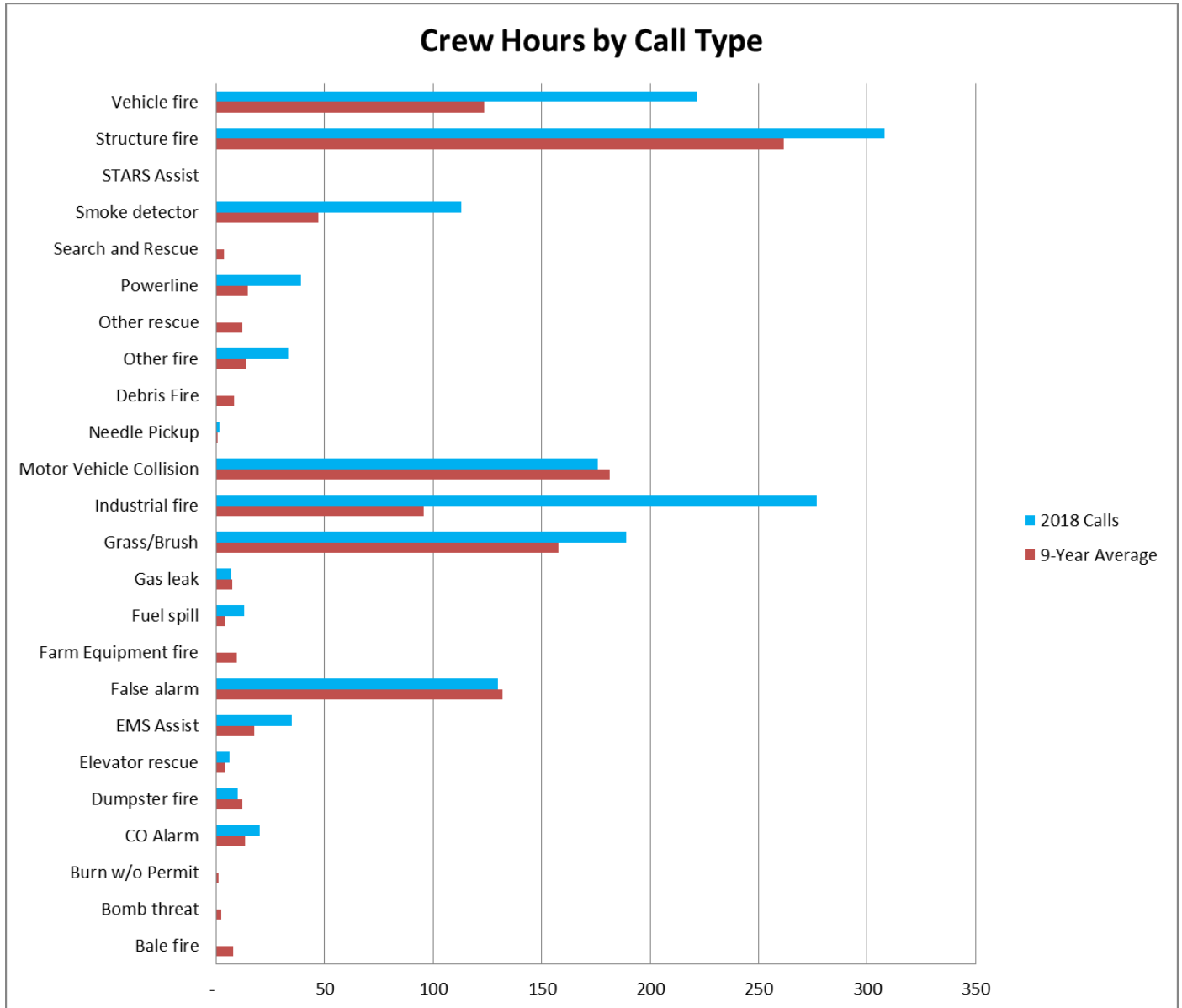


Each year we receive a large number of “Alarms ringing” calls. While most turn out to be false alarms, they do require a response. Repeated false alarms result in fines, as provided by the bylaw, and property owners can take steps to prevent these from occurring.

A frustrating and entirely preventable source of false alarms are “drive-by 911 calls”. People will see smoke, or a vehicle in distress, and they then call 911 without checking to see what the actual situation is. Frequently, the “puff of smoke” is just a diesel engine starting up, or mist rolling off of a roof on a sunny wet morning. That vehicle in the ditch may just need a tow truck, or maybe there *actually is* someone who needs urgent medical care. In all cases, these well-intentioned calls result in a waste of public resources, and can even *delay* the arrival of the proper emergency response.

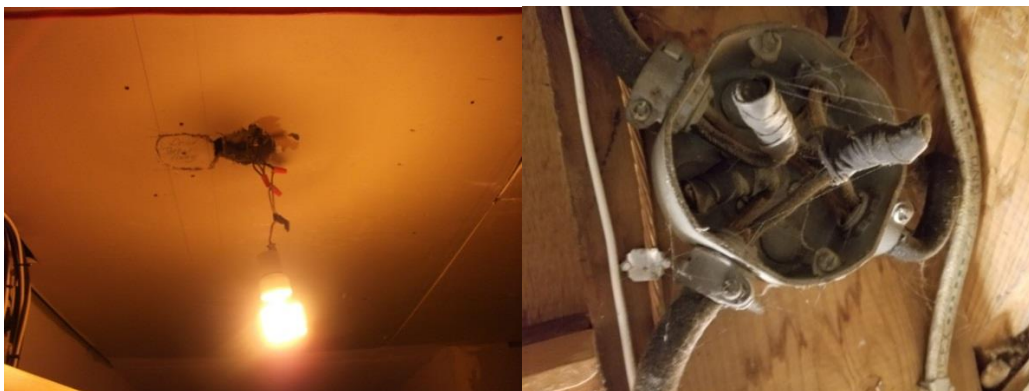
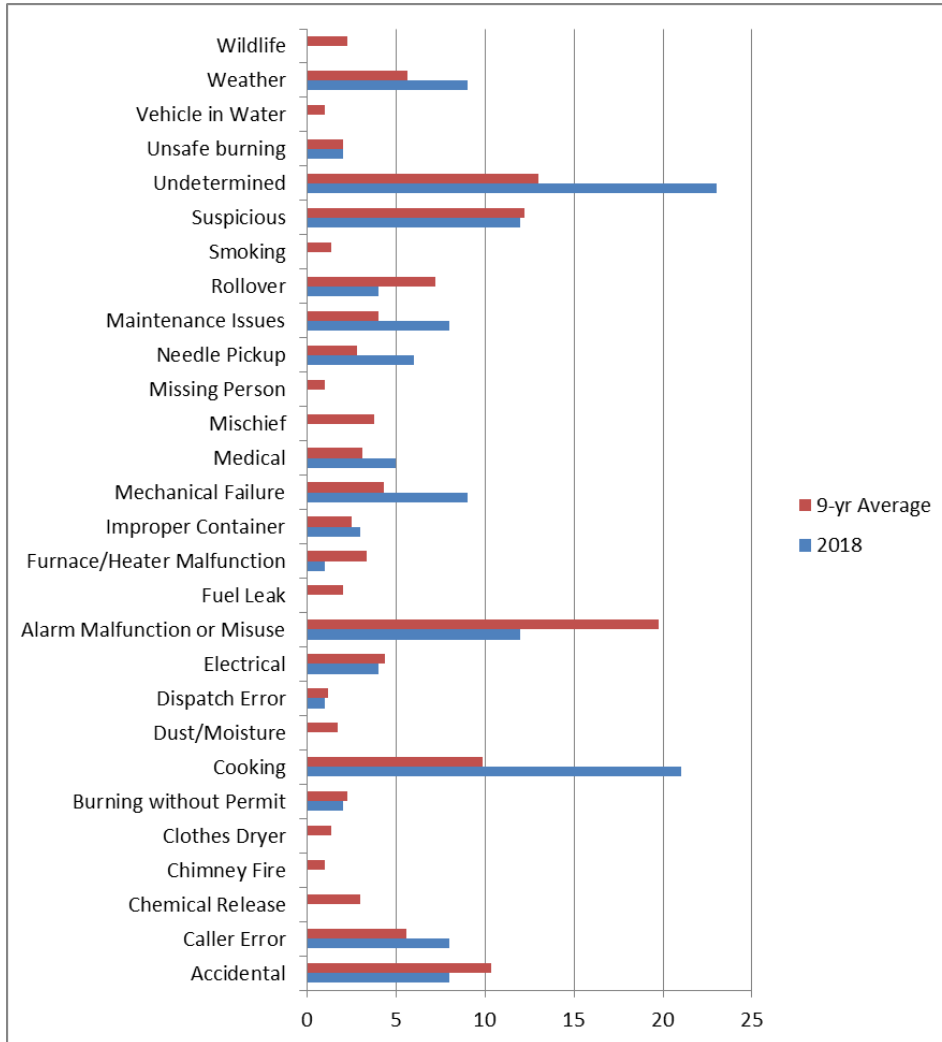
*To put it simply, **“Stop and check first! Then, call 911 if emergency help is needed!”***

The labour requirement 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.

### Calls by Cause



**Incorrect wiring, a common fire hazard. Regular fire inspections help identify and correct these and other deficiencies. (Important note: many fire hazards are not so obvious as these two examples!)**



## 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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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*

<b>City of Meadow Lake</b>	<b>Saskatchewan Health Authority</b>
<b>Meadow Lake Co-op</b>	<b>Meadow Power &amp; Equipment</b>
<b>Extra Foods</b>	<b>Department of Justice</b>
<b>Meadow Lake OSB</b>	<b>Northern Pride</b>
<b>Department of Highways</b>	<b>Hercules Appliance Repair</b>
<b>Thomas Funeral Home</b>	<b>Eagle Creek Motor Products</b>

Several firefighters are self-employed

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

***The fire department depends on the support of  
community-minded employers.***

***An effective fire service is possible only when employees  
can leave work, without penalty, to attend to emergencies  
in the community.***

***Public Safety is a Community Effort!***

## Meadow Lake's Firefighters



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

### **Officers**

Neil Marsh, Fire Chief

Joe Grela, Deputy Chief, SAFC Region 8 Director

Doug Bennett, Assistant Deputy

Kim Sawatzky, Captain

Scott Chuckrey, A-Crew Captain

Chris Warren, B-Crew Captain

Rick Burnett, C-Crew Captain

Michael Wagner, Lieutenant

Ian Kosokowsky, Lieutenant

Cheryl Dodds, Lieutenant

Dustin Thomas, Lieutenant

Frank Richardson, Lieutenant

### **Firefighters**

Yannis Karambetsos

Lyndon Shryko

Andrew Clements

Jaxson Relitz

Chris Gill

Keenan Gill

Arron Toews

Ethan Prete

Joe Hallahan

Andrew Toews

Macylin Relitz

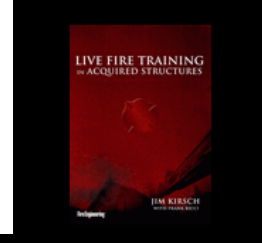
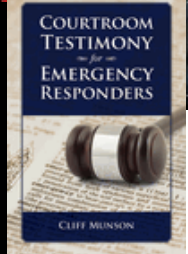
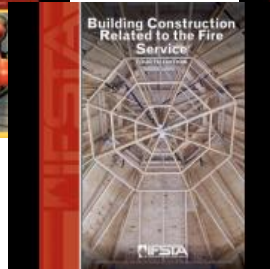
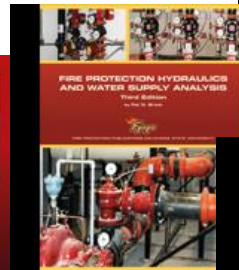
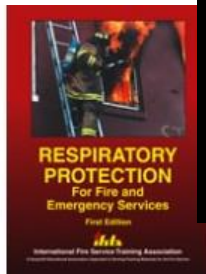
*(Your name here! Recruit applications are available at City Hall and at the Fire Hall)*

## Qualifications

Among our membership we currently have

- Firefighter II professional qualifications (NFPA 1001)
- First Aid instructors
- First Responder/EMR instructors
- Fire Service Instructors, Levels 1 & 2
- Driver/Operator professional qualifications (NFPA 1002)
- HazMat Operations-level responders (NFPA 472)
- Fire Investigators (NFPA 1033)
- Fire Inspectors (NFPA 1031)
- Paramedics
- First Responders & Emergency Medical Responders
- Ice Rescue technicians
- Search and Rescue practitioners

*... plus a wide variety of other skills, certifications and competencies.*



Ethan Prete, our first-ever High School work experience student. Ethan has recently graduated from the Vermillion fire college and hopes to pursue a career in emergency services.



Firefighter Lyndon Shryko had the honour of being selected for the Saskatchewan Firefighters 2019 calendar. "Mr. October" may still have a few copies left to sell (all proceeds go to the Saskatchewan Childrens Hospital Foundation)

## Our Fleet

- **First-line Pumper:** 2016 Fort Garry International fire engine, which carries 1000 gallons of water, 1050 GPM fire pump, Class A foam system, a 6-person crew, SCBA, ground ladders and other equipment. This new truck joined our fleet in July 2017, and replaced the 1987 fire engine which had suffered a serious breakdown



- **Second-line Pumper:** 1999 Fort Garry Sterling 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



Engine 2  
required a  
pump rebuild in  
2018



- **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 Fort Garry 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. It is especially appreciated as a warm-up station on cold winter fire scenes!



- **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.



- Trailers:** Obtained in 2016 and 2017, these trailers help expand the Fire Department's capacity for emergency response, firefighter training and public education.



## Tools and Equipment

Fire and Rescue operations require a wide variety of up-to-date, specialized gear



## Disaster Management

We are pleased to have the opportunity to work with Anne Danielson, our Emergency Planning consultant, through 2018-2019. We are already seeing many resulting improvements in the community's ability to respond effectively to, and recover quickly from, foreseeable large-scale events.

This effort requires the time and talents of a great many people from many different organizations and agencies. Once developed, it will take a sustained effort to continue having effective emergency preparedness into the future.



**Optimism Bias:**  
A common psychological phenomenon that causes a person to believe they are less at risk of experiencing a negative event compared to others.

**Don't be Deceived.**  
Disasters Can Happen Anywhere & Anytime.

**DISASTERS - THEY'RE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK...**

The library has done their research and built a kit to be prepared for even the most unlikely of disasters.

**C.D.P.E.**  
Communicate Organize Prepare Educate

## Hydrants

Each fall the Fire Department inspects and winterizes all hydrants in the city.

Our new Hydrant Flow Testing program was begun in 2018. This will result in better fire response planning, and helps identify weaknesses in the city's water distribution system.





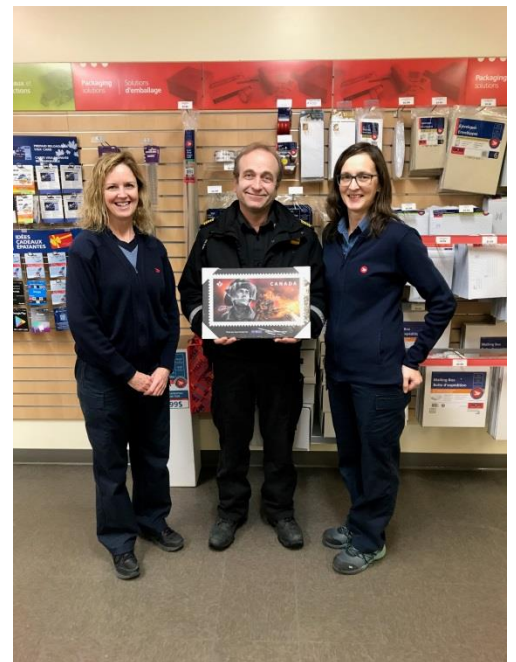
***In summary,*** I would like to express my profound appreciation to the members of the Meadow Lake Fire Department, and especially to their families and employers.

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 the vital services that the public depends on.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Marsh  
Fire Chief

*Proud members of the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Firefighters Association*



Meadow Lake Post Office employees presented the Fire Department with a plaque commemorating the 2018 Firefighter Stamp