

MEADOW LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report For 2019



Introduction

It is my privilege to submit the City of Meadow Lake Fire Department's Annual Report for the year of 2019. The fire department's activities and statistics are summarized on the following pages.

This was a year of new challenges and growth. We developed several new response agreements, we provided some new training opportunities, and we were faced with some larger-than-usual emergency response situations.

Meanwhile, we continued the work begun in previous years, such as pre-incident planning, fire inspections and hydrant flow-testing, all with the goal of improved public safety.

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!

2019 At a Glance

- Our first-ever Junior Firefighter program introduced several high school students to the world of emergency services.
- The City's May 11 "Meet Your Neighbor" event was well attended, and featured guest speakers such as Fire Commissioner Duane McKay, Lac La Biche fire chief John Kokotilo and our own Mayor Seymour.
- Five firefighters represented Meadow Lake in the Calgary Stair Climb Challenge.
- Emergency Management training for staff and volunteers included an ICS200 course and several Emergency Operations Centre workshops and exercises.
- Also in May, we hosted a Wildland Investigation seminar, featuring internationally acclaimed (and Meadow Lake resident) Ken Ness. This was attended by fire officials and investigators from across Saskatchewan and beyond.



Junior Firefighters Tackle a Car Fire



Calgary Stair Climb Challenge participants

- We said farewell to Tara Gower, our first Protective Services Clerk, and welcomed Kaila Lefort to the role.
- Two large fires in the RM on the May long weekend stretched our capabilities to the limits.
- The June tornado event at the Murray Doell campground was a further test of our abilities.



Wildland Fire Investigation Seminar

- We were pleased to work with the July 2019 First Nations Summer Games organizers as their well-planned event unfolded. Firefighters provided daily safety visits to some of the venues, and reported zero incidents.
- Captain Kim Sawatzky, a 22 year member of the Fire Department, passed away in late August following surgery in Ottawa. Firefighters provided an honour guard for the funeral.
- Our first-ever Regional Firefighters Training Weekend was held in September, featuring two 16-hour courses. Firefighters from several departments in the area took part.
- Our annual Fire Prevention Week Open House was held on Saturday October 6th.
- Firefighters volunteered their time for numerous school fire hall tours and visits to schools. These are great opportunities to inspire fire safety awareness.



- In November we joined our emergency services partners in mourning the death of paramedic Leigh Schroeder, a member of the Meadow Lake Ambulance service. Leigh was killed in a collision near Beauval, while responding to a 911 call.
- The City signed fire protection agreements with three new communities: the resort villages of Turtle View and Greig Lake, and the Eagles Lake First Nation. All of these are a significant distance from Meadow Lake, and so we will be working with these communities over the coming years to develop effective fire prevention and response strategies.

- The fire hall's facelift was completed, with the remaining doors being painted.
- December featured the start of Meadow Lake's new community communication system, Voyent-Alert, which promises to be an excellent means of keeping residents informed of both routine and emergency events, and has various other useful capabilities.
- Several fire department members received new certifications:
 - Dustin Thomas: NFPA 1002 Pumper Operator, High Angle rescue, Swift Water rescue, Confined Space rescue
 - Yannis Karametsos: NFPA 1002 Pumper Operator, High Angle rescue, Swift Water rescue, Confined Space rescue
 - Ethan Prete: NFPA 1002 Pumper Operator
 - Scott Chuckrey: NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector Level 1
 - Neil Marsh: Canadian Certified Building Official (Housing)

Plans for 2020

- Firefighter Training: Ice rescue, Confined Space, Fire Officer 1, round 2 of the Regional Training Weekend, and more!
- Further Emergency Management staff & volunteer development, such as ICS 200, ICS300, various online courses, plus EOC and ESS exercises. While community Disaster Planning and Preparedness is now headed up by the city's Community Safety Officer, the Fire Department will continue to be heavily involved.
- We look forward to our new Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, delivery expected in the spring of 2020.
- Further work on fire prevention and preparedness including continued fire inspections, pre-incident planning, and implementing the new Fire Safety and Fire Response Bylaw.



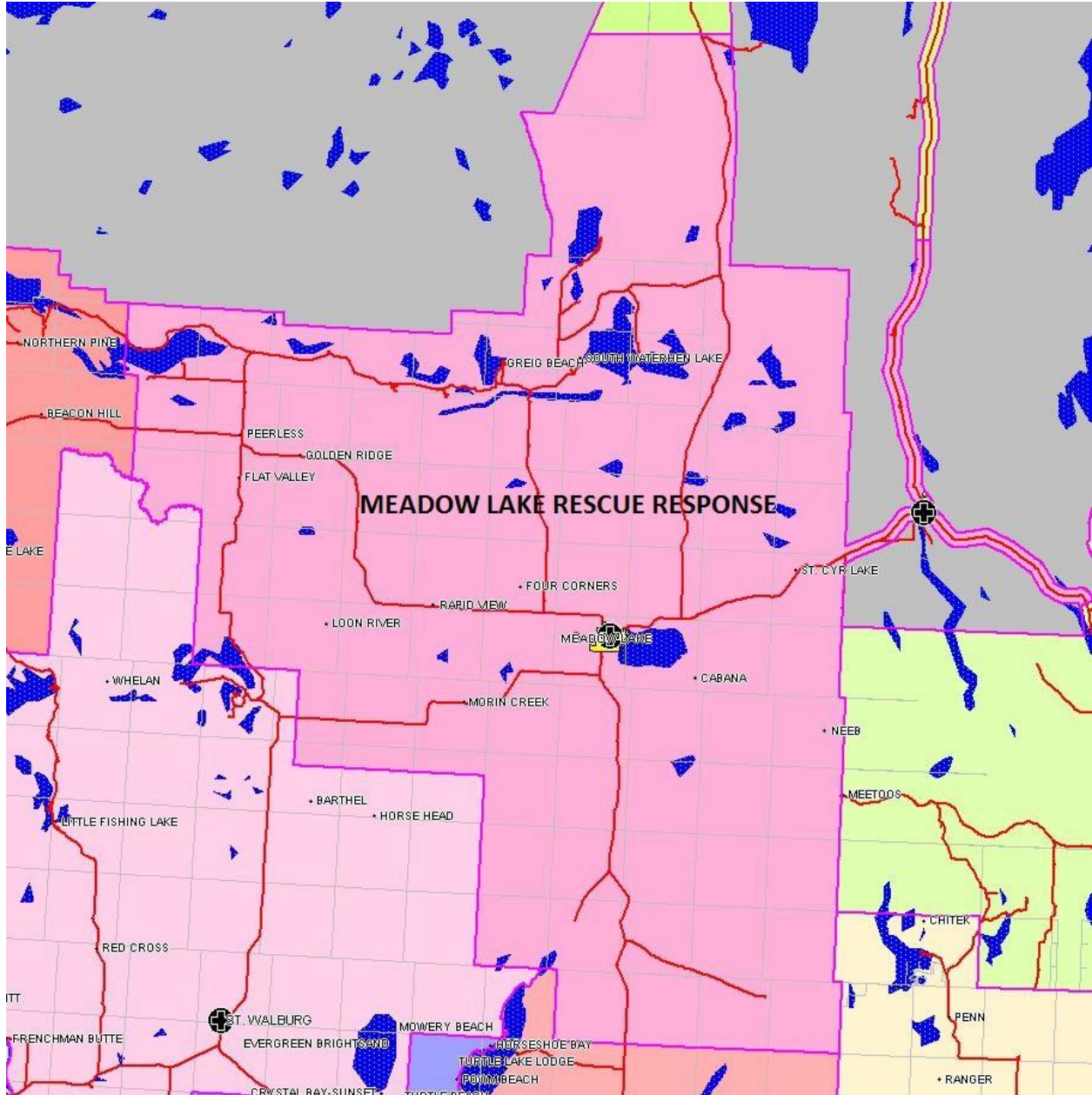
Firefighters assist with fireworks
(Canada Day and Winter Festival)



Prize winners for a "Shovel your Hydrant" contest

Incident Summary

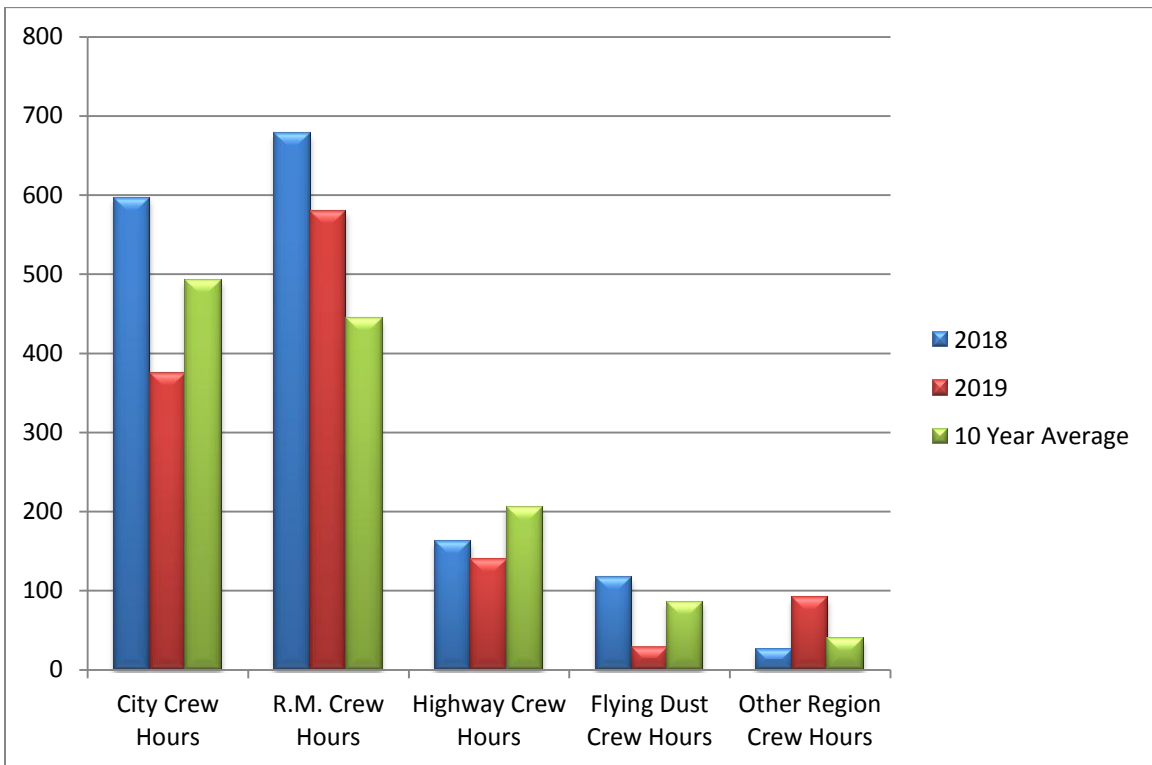
The Fire Department responds to emergencies within the City of Meadow Lake, the RM of Meadow Lake, Flying Dust First Nation, Dorintosh, Eagles Lake First Nation and parts of the Meadow Lake Provincial Park. We respond to rescue calls for a slightly larger area, along provincial highways and in provincial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



Meadow Lake Rescue Response Map
(The dark-pink shaded area)

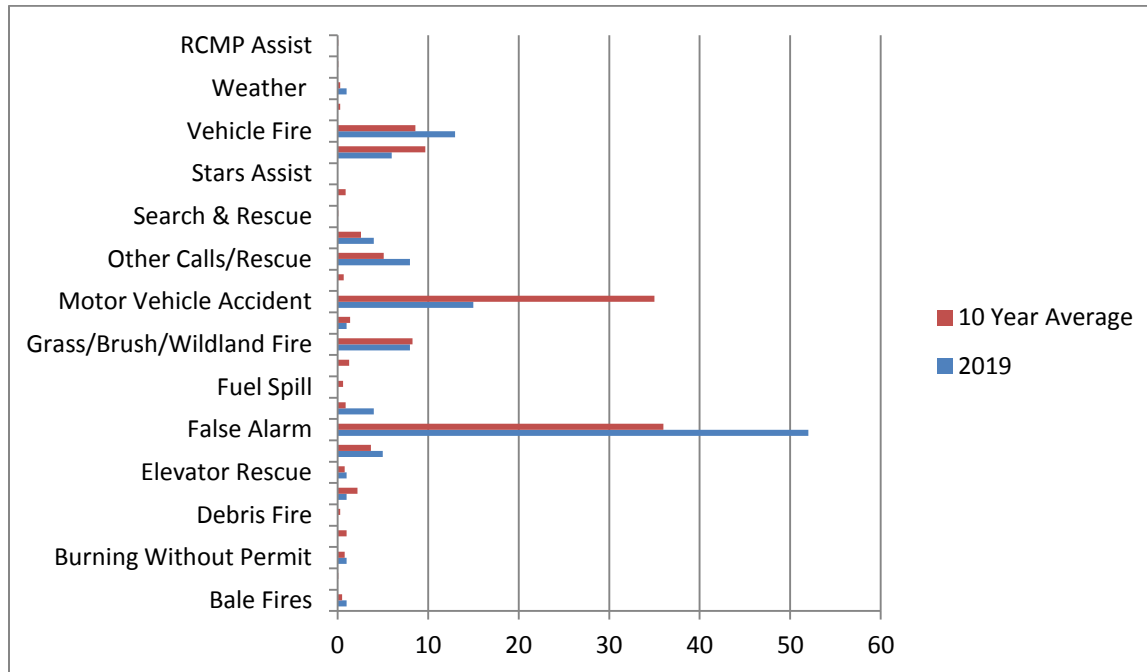
It is useful to consider the person-hours spent at incidents, as crew wages are a significant part of the cost of firefighting. Costs include not just wages paid to firefighters, but less tangible effects such as time away from firefighters' regular jobs and family.

Crew Hours by Location



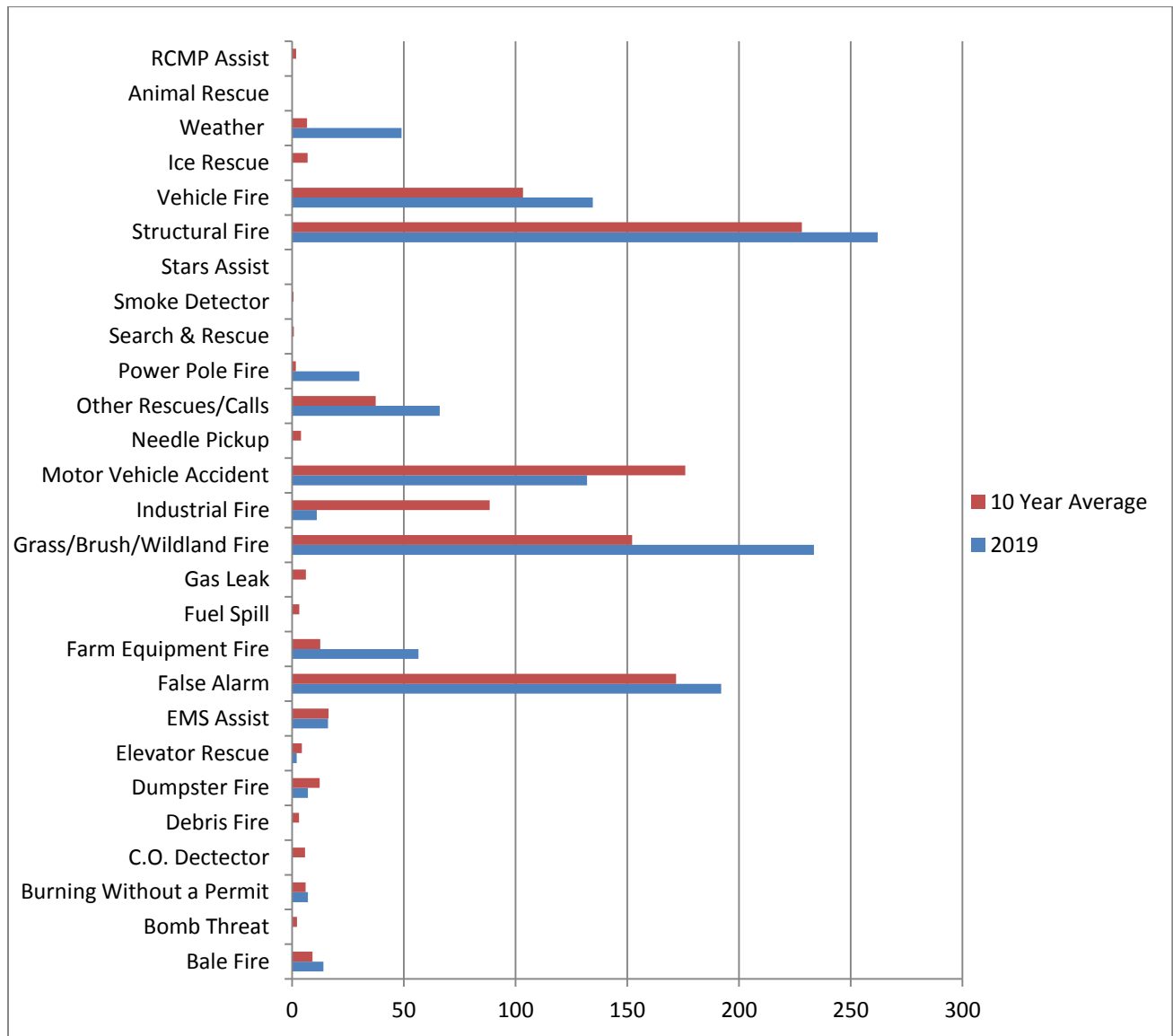
Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
City	389	449	528	298	284	364	539.5	603	596.5	374.5
Flying Dust	57	136	135	74	68.5	61	35.5	57	117	28
R.M.	288	169	272	570	308	261	519	354	677.5	579.5
Highway	124	134	94	383	248	222	256	87	162	139.5
Other	18	39	8	26	23	68	15	42	26	91

2019 Number of Calls by Type



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.

2019 Crew Hours by Call Type



Employers

The employers of our firefighters deserve recognition, and these include:

**City of Meadow Lake
Meadow Lake Co-op
Extra Foods
Meadow Lake OSB
Hercules Appliance Repair
Thomas Funeral Home
Shkopich Enviro
Anglican Church**

**Saskatchewan Health Authority
Meadow Power & Equipment
Department of Justice
Northern Pride
CB Custom Contracting
Eagle Creek Motor Products
Northern Diesel Services
Eatery on Main**

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
are allowed to 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

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

Ethan Prete

David Goertzen

Chris Gill

Keenan Gill

Arron Toews

Clint Ruston

Joe Hallahan

Andrew Toews

Macylin Relitz

Wendell Brock

Recruits, Trainees & Auxiliary

Brandon Lacendre

Carlos Bulao

Christine Sawatzky

Nora Bowerman

Keltie Coupar

Carah Oftedal

Jason Schenk

Your name here! *Recruit applications are available 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
- Technical Rescue technicians
- Search and Rescue practitioners

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

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



- **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.



Disaster Management

Anne Danielson worked with the City as our Emergency Planning consultant through 2019-2020. With her expert assistance, the community's ability to respond effectively to, and recover quickly from, foreseeable large-scale events has improved dramatically.

Now that Anne's term has been completed, it is up to City staff to maintain and continue building on what we have begun. This effort requires the time and talents of a great many people from many different organizations and agencies to continue having effective emergency preparedness into the future.

Hydrants

Each fall the Fire Department inspects and winterizes all hydrants in the city. In 2019, we also assisted Public Works with the annual inspection and minor maintenance of hydrants.

20 more hydrants were flow tested in 2019, and we expect this program to continue each year. The results are used for fire response planning, and are also useful to the Public Works Department.



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

