

SAULT STE. MARIE FIRE SERVICES



City of
Sault Ste. Marie



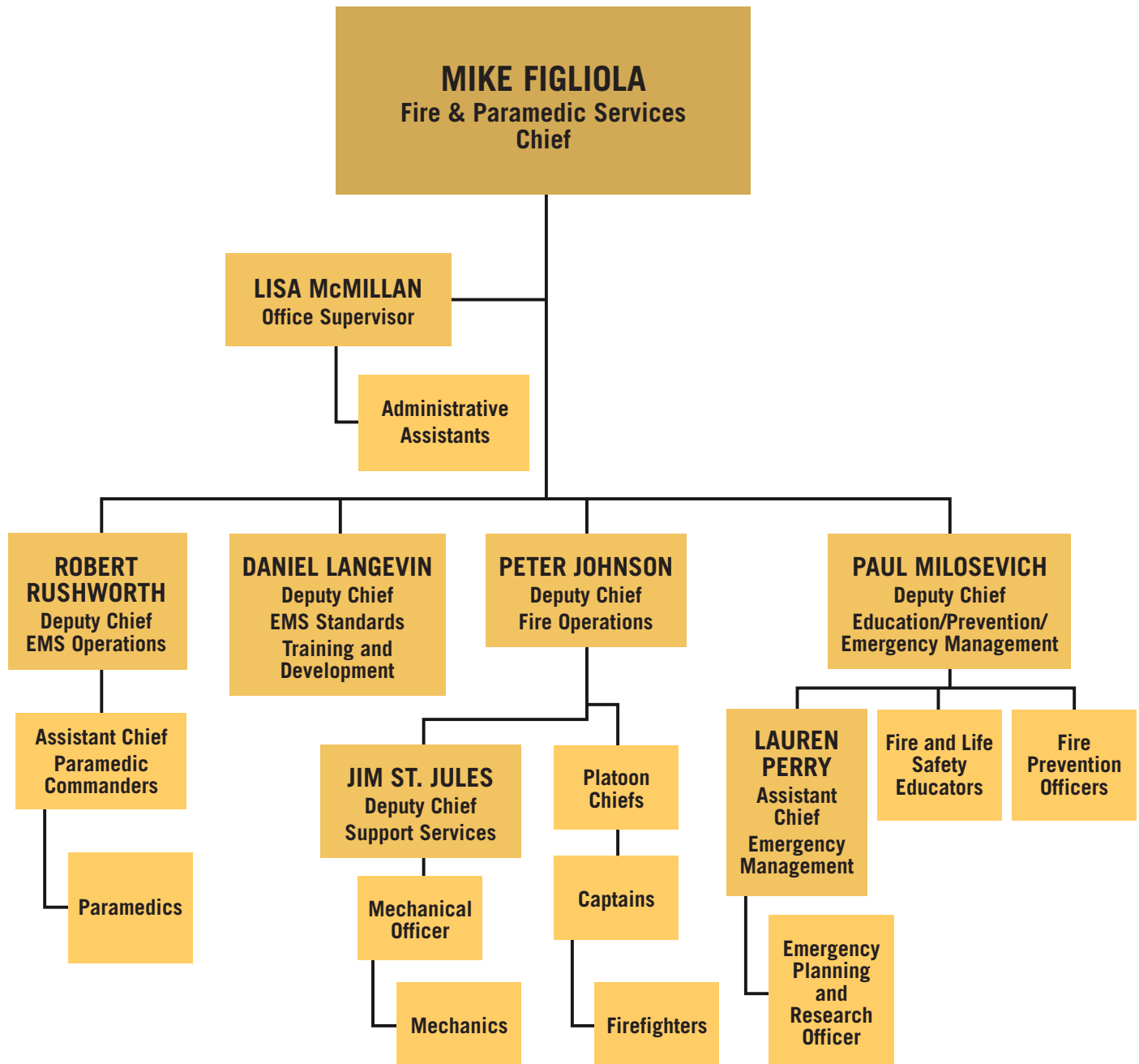
SAULT STE. MARIE FIRE SERVICES 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



“Committed to the protection of Life, Property and the Environment within our community in a responsible and caring manner.”



SAULT STE. MARIE FIRE SERVICES TEAM



FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

In 2016, **Sault Ste. Marie Fire Services** began implementation of the realignment approved by Council in late 2015. The main component of the plan is to shift and reallocate some existing resources from fire operations to Emergency Management Services. These resources are no longer required to the same degree as the number of fires has decreased over the past thirty years and will continue to decline in the future. The area of Emergency Medical Services has been under resourced over the past 10 years and growing at an average of (6%) per year. This poses a very serious liability and shortcoming, which requires significant additional resources. In light of the ever present threat and increasing number and level of natural, human-caused and technological events and disasters, Emergency Management requires additional enhancements and improvements to the preparedness program for the community.

The area of Public Education, the first line of defense for fire protection from a progressive, proactive and practical application and under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, now has a dedicated division solely focused on this important mandate. The 2016 year saw a very large number of fire related deaths across the province as did 2015. It is imperative that that people are given the proper information and education to take responsibility for their safety in their homes when it comes to fire. Fire deaths, while in most cases are totally preventable; continue to be a weekly occurrence in the province. The message while clear, needs constant reinforcing. Smoke alarms and an escape plan will save you and your family's lives, alerting you long before there is a chance of a tragic death.

Change, while needed, does not come without some uneasiness or discomfort but in the end needs to address the current challenges and resources. Tradition which is rich, proud and binds us, should not and cannot be used simply as an excuse or reason not to adapt to the constant change and opportunities that present themselves on a daily basis.

The members of Sault Ste. Marie Fire Services continue to provide an excellent level of service in meeting today's needs of the community through education, prevention and response to keep the community safe.



M. R. (Mike) Figliola B.P.Ed., B.Sc., MBA
Fire and Paramedic Chief

SAULT STE. MARIE
FIRE SERVICES



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FIRE OPERATIONS



The **Fire Suppression/Operations Division** is focused on the delivery of emergency fire protection, emergency medical care and related emergencies to the residents of Sault Ste. Marie. Our goal is to provide quick and efficient emergency service in a compassionate manner. Our highly trained professional Firefighters are equipped with modern fire apparatuses that are strategically located at 4 locations across the municipality. In 2016, the Fire Suppression Division responded to over 2,600 alarms, 12 of which were significant fires that resulted in a loss of more than \$100,000.

Fire Services primary response objectives coincide directly with our Mission Statement - *“Committed to the protection of Life, Property and the Environment within our community in a responsible and caring manner”*. The quick actions of our Fire Operations crews limited the damage and property loss to these incidents. The Sault Ste. Marie Fire Service strives to have a response time of five minutes or less 90% of the time in order to mitigate the property loss to the community.

In 2016 we had one fire related death, as well as, 13 Firefighters and 14 civilians were injured. Moving forward to 2017, our goal will be “zero” deaths and fewer injuries.

Achieving this goal of zero fire related deaths and fewer injuries will be directly related to our commitment to the *“In-Service Smoke Alarm Fire Safety Program”*. This annual program operates in conjunction with our Fire Prevention Division. Over the spring and summer months our Fire Operations crews conduct regularly scheduled visits to various residential areas of the community. Fire Operations personnel provide the public with resources and information on carbon monoxide and home fire safety. In addition, a smoke alarm check is conducted to ensure that residents are compliant with Ontario Fire Code regulations and requirements.

In 2016 a number of Fire Services personnel attended courses at the Ontario Fire College located in Gravenhurst, Ontario. Fire Operations crews are required to maintain their competencies under the direction of the Deputy Fire Chief who sets the parameters for the annual training schedule.



Courses attended and completed:

NFPA 1001 Firefighter Recruit Program (1 member), NFPA 1001 Firefighter II (2 members), NFPA 1021 Fire Officer I (16 members), NFPA 1021 Fire Officer II (4 members), NFPA 1021 Fire Officer III (1 member), NFPA 472 Hazardous Materials Technician (2 members), Ontario Fire College- CBRNE annual training for Provincial Level 2 Decontamination Teams (4 members).

Over the course of 2016 Fire Operations personnel recorded a total of 27,409 training hours, or an annual average of 334 training hours per individual. The hours are accumulated by crews in formal format, group training and individual training.



The following are areas that Fire Operations personnel trained on:

ICE/WATER ICE RESCUE
VEHICLE EXTRICATION
FLASHOVER RECOGNITION
FIREFIGHTER RESCUE
CPR TRAINING



OFFICER TRAINING
OPERATING GUIDELINE AND NOTICE REVIEW
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
PUMPER OPERATION
DRIVER TRAINING

Photo: Michael Purvis/SooToday



This year all Fire Officers attended a tactics course - "Tactical Considerations for Modern Fire Dynamics". This two day course covered the changes in fire dynamics and how Fire Officers should apply these tactical considerations on the fire ground. The course is specifically aimed to increase the understanding of fire behavior and teach proper ventilation operations. Personnel were taught about bridging the gap that exists between laboratory fire behavior and street level application of tactical ventilation operations while attending this dynamic and interactive session. The interactive portion consisted of live burning on modified "doll houses". Members were divided into small groups to burn the "doll houses" and practice and interact with the tactical ventilation techniques.

Looking ahead to 2017, the Fire Operations Division will take part in new initiatives. A new on-line training system - "Target Solutions" will be implemented which will allow all personnel to be trained in a consistent manner. Personnel will be given assignments to complete and submit. This will also provide an efficient method of recording and tracking training for all members of the division. In addition, all personnel will complete Incident Management 200 (IMS 200) training. This is the second module in the IMS program. The goals and objectives are to have all Fire Officers trained to IMS 200 and all Platoon Chiefs trained to IMS 300 level.

I want to thank the members of the Sault Ste. Marie Fire Service for their commitment and dedication to protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie.

Peter Johnson
Deputy Chief - Fire Operations

The Sault Ste. Marie Fire Services Operations Division is a proud partner within our community that strives to provide exceptional service through prevention, education, protection and wellness.



2016 FIRE STATISTICS

TOTAL RESPONSE CALLS IN 2016

2,671

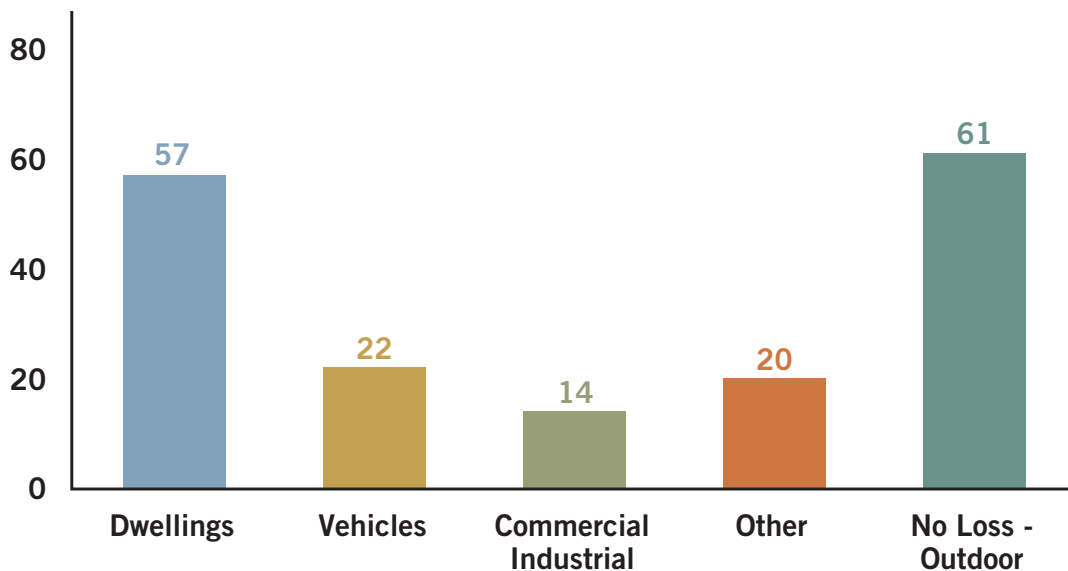
3 YEAR RESPONSE CALL VOLUME

2016 - 2,671

2015 - 2,482

2014 - 2,616

MAIN INCIDENT TYPES - FIRE

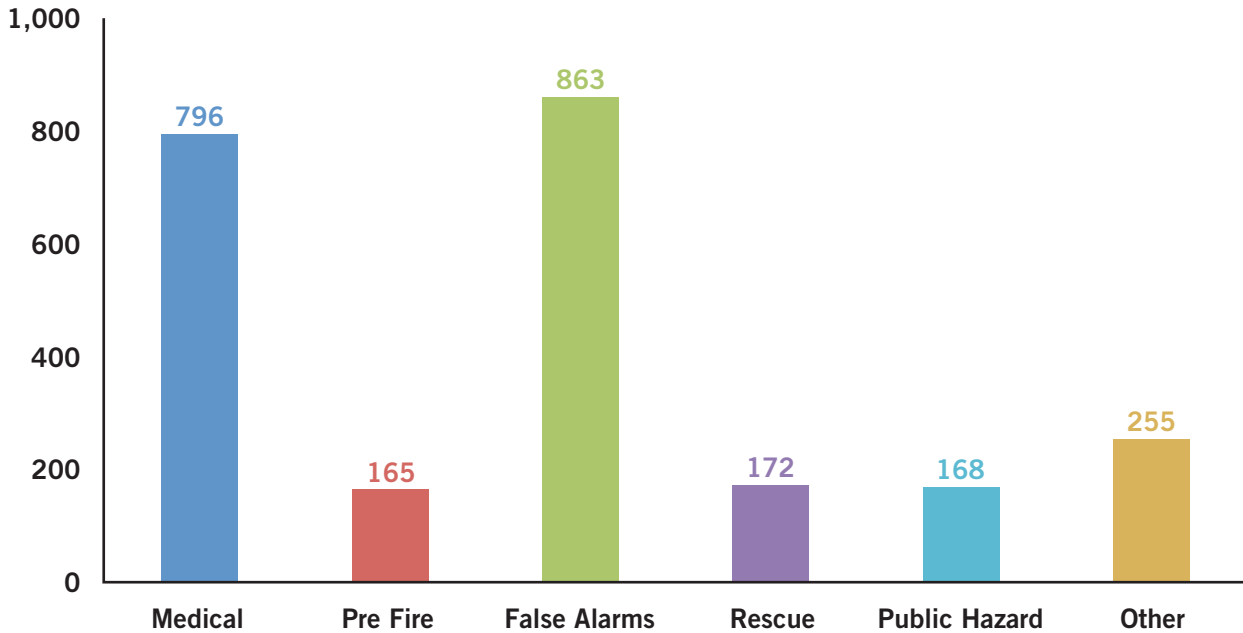


No Loss - Outdoor: Land, trash container, etc.

TOTAL FIRE CALLS: 174

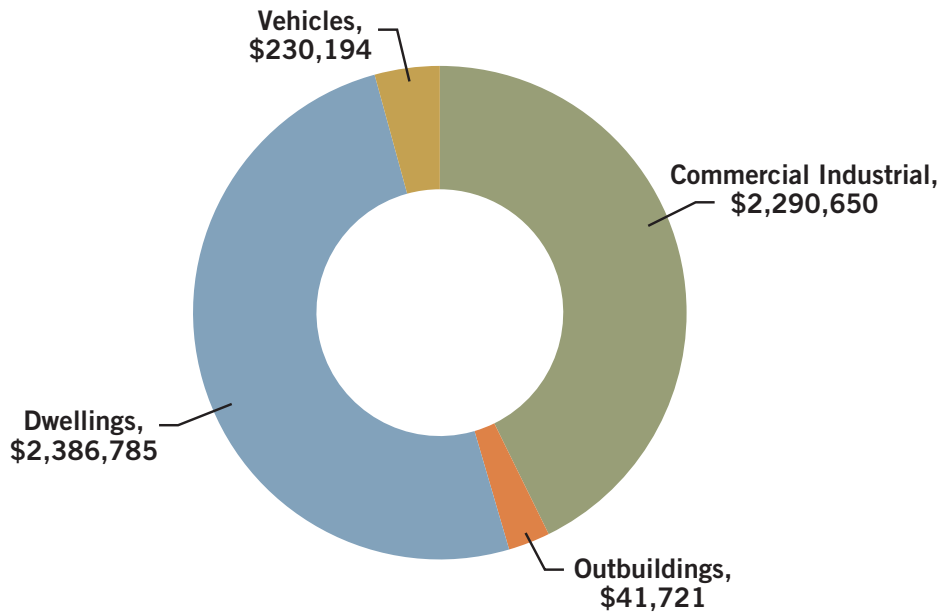
MAIN INCIDENT TYPES - NON FIRE

2016 NON FIRE RESPONSE CALLS



Other: Assisting other agencies, public service, call cancelled on route, etc.

TOTAL NON FIRE CALLS: 2,419



TOTAL LOSS DUE TO FIRE IN 2016: \$4,949,350

FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION

Prevention Division - 2016 Annual Report

As a proactive component of our emergency service, the Sault Ste. Marie Fire Prevention Division prides itself in remaining visible within the community and takes advantage of every available opportunity to educate the public concerning fire safety. When advocating fire safety, the division follows the Provincial mandate, primarily described as the 'three lines of defense'. These lines of defense consist of, Public Education, Fire Safety Standards / Enforcement and Emergency Response. Following this mandate is crucial to ensuring the safety of the citizens and visitors within our community. Since adopting the zero tolerance approach, dating back to 2006, the division has undertaken many initiatives to improve delivery and quality of services to the community. Over this time frame the results of these efforts are clearly indicated through declining incident rates as they relate to fatalities, injuries and property loss values.

With the Provincial mandate and the three lines of defense as our reference, the Prevention Division has exceeded the legal responsibilities placed upon the municipality for 2016. This is accomplished by assessing known historical data from the previous year(s) and developing a 'Simplified Risk Assessment'. Through this process, hazards are identified and risks are mitigated utilizing public education programs and code enforcement methods.



A recent national survey, performed by stats Canada, indicates our community measures exceptionally well against the province and the nation in critical areas of personal fire safety. Within the survey, community compliance concerning smoke alarms, fire escape plans, carbon monoxide detectors and portable extinguishers was compared to Provincial and National statistics. Sault Ste. Marie was above the provincial and national average in all categories. This is a clear indicator that our community is responding positively to public education programs and ensuring personal fire safety is at the forefront.

Despite the decrease in fire related incidents, our simplified risk assessment continues to identify 'Class C-Residential occupancies' as the primary building stock for concern. In

2016, this building class accounts for the largest single property dollar loss at approximately 68% with the next closest building classification being Industrial, at 8%.

As a result, public education and enforcement efforts will continue to focus on class C occupancies, but a balanced effort continues on the remaining building stock.



Public Education Programs - The First Line of Defense



Public education is provided in multiple formats throughout the year. In 2016, various methods involving radio, electronic messaging, social media and hanging sign boards were all utilized. Seniors programs, station tours and numerous lectures to various agencies/groups were taken advantage of, all promoting fire safety, to all building class occupants. Fire Extinguisher training to varying audiences also provides an opportunity to discuss mitigating risks ensuring fires do not happen. Although classified as a reactive tool, extinguishers are primarily utilized by the public and as such they need to be trained on their safe, proper use. Of the many education opportunities the prevention division utilizes, we specifically rely on 3 primary programs to educate the public at large. *They are as follows:*

2016 School Programs

Primary School Program:

Fire Services recognizes our most effective public education initiative is the annual elementary school program. Educating children from JK through to Grade 3 allows the Prevention Division to teach young impressionable children the basics of remaining safe from fire. Over the past several years we have also taken the opportunity to make contact with the Grade 8 class and discuss their role as young adults in fire safety.



In 2016, the Fire Prevention Division presented the “Stop, Drop and Roll” program to our local kindergarten through grade 3 elementary school children. The objective of the program is to have the student develop the confidence in their ability to use the “Stop Drop & Roll” technique effectively if their clothes catch fire. The Fire Prevention Officer explains that removing the oxygen by rolling, actually stops the fire from ‘breathing’. The student also learns that by covering their face while rolling provides protection to their eyes and aids in stopping smoke/heat from reaching their lungs. Each student has the opportunity to demonstrate the proper Stop Drop and Roll technique. This program is fun, interactive and a highly educational step towards fire life safety.

Along with the primary grades, Fire Services also educates grade 8 classes through a program entitled “TAPP-C” (The Arson Prevention Program for Children). Targeting this age group with information is our last formal opportunity to educate prior to secondary school. This program is presented in a very factual and adult manner. The theme of the lecture is that Fire Services does not take “fire play” lightly.

Fire Prevention officers discuss potential consequences, both personally and legally for intentionally lighting dumpsters, aerosol containers and various other dangerous, fire related acts. We ensure the students understand that playing with fire is not “cool” and has serious ramifications.

Over many years, these types of programs have cultivated a fire safe generation. Continuing these programs well into the future will surely decrease fire related injuries, fatalities and property loss, in our community.

Over the months of January to May the Prevention Division managed to educate over 3,000 students.

Secondary School Program:

Although fires are generally a result of human behaviours, our current risk assessment continues to identify cooking as a major cause. When comparing historical data involving property loss, injuries and fatal fires, food preparation has been identified as the major cause of fire incidents. As a result, and in parallel with the primary grade program, the Secondary school level is specifically educated in this regard.

In 2016, participating high school 'foods and nutrition' classes, along with various life skills and career planning classes, were educated on the dangers associated with cooking.

The 'Kitchen Fires or Not' program itself consists of discussing the root causes and mitigation strategies with young adults who are being introduced to cooking and the kitchen area. Tips regarding unattended cooking, distractions, kitchen clutter and how alcohol is often times a contributing factor, are all discussed. Local kitchen fire incidents are discussed via real investigation photos and related narrative. The factors that contributed to the events and opposing views of how the event could have been avoided are discussed. The video "No Time to Spare" is utilized as a teaching medium to also reinforce the importance of smoke alarms and home escape planning when kitchen fires can't be avoided.

Over the course of 15 years, this program has realized positive results as our cooking related incidents have dropped significantly.

In-Service Smoke Alarm Program:



Over a ten year period we are pleased to state that compliance rates have increased exponentially. Statistical data indicates a steady growth from the 82% to 94% from 2007 to the fall of 2016. This can be attributed to overall Fire Service public education efforts and community attitude concerning the importance of working smoke alarms. With the recent Ontario Fire Code amendment concerning carbon monoxide alarms and mandated replacement of smoke alarms within 10 years of manufacture date, this education program will be augmented to reflect these changes moving forward. We anticipate a slight decrease in compliance occurring given these legislated changes.

In 2016, Fire Operation crews again campaigned door to door. Crews engaged homeowners with pamphlet information related to Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide detectors and home escape planning. Approximately 1,600 homes were entered with 1,477 homes having working smoke alarms present. With a 94% compliance rate, the community has again demonstrated they understand the importance of ensuring smoke alarms are present and indeed working. "Working smoke alarms save lives", will continue to be a priority and underlying theme in this and all public education programs.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2016

THE 2016 THEME FOR FIRE PREVENTION WEEK WAS

"DON'T WAIT - CHECK THE DATE! - REPLACE SMOKE ALARMS EVERY 10 YEARS."

This timely theme was in conjunction with the recent Ontario Fire Code amendment mandating the replacement of smoke alarms at ten year intervals from the manufacturer date. Over the week of October 9th through to the 15th, fire services partnered with local merchants, Home Depot, Walmart, Lowe's and Canadian Tire helped us promote this very important fire safety message. While discussing the replacement requirements, fire prevention officers directed attention to the 'manufacture date' on the rear side of the alarm. Educating them, not only from a legal perspective, but ensuring customers understood smoke alarm effectiveness could not be guaranteed if the date had passed. Stores reported banner sales of alarms during this period which again indicates the willingness of the local community to take personal fire protection seriously. In parallel with this program, Fire Services also utilized all forms of local media to promote and further ensure this message was in the public forum.



Inspection and Enforcement - The Second Line of Defense

With substantial amendments to the 2015 OFC, significant change for 2016 focused primarily on 'Class B' - Care occupancies. Buildings such as: Hospitals, Retirement residences, and Care and Treatment facilities being the focus of these amendments. As a result, Fire Service inspectors reached out to ownership groups within these facilities. With the focus on Fire Safety Plan development / implementation at the forefront, inspectors critiqued scenarios which replicated minimum staffing levels and approved mandatory fire drills under these circumstances. The Fire Prevention division has now added these occupancies to a list of building stock that will undergo annual inspections.

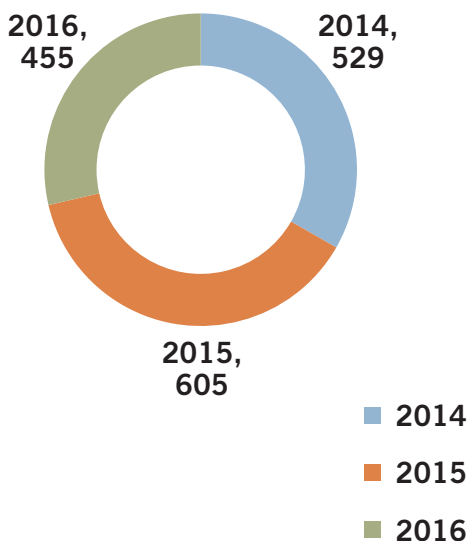
Under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, the Fire Prevention Division is mandated to follow up on all complaint and request inspections. In doing so, officers routinely discover fire code infractions and issue orders as a result. As life safety cannot always be achieved through public education, enforcement methods are often times necessary to achieve compliance. Further 2015 amendments to the OFC resulted in over 40 additional ticketable offences to be used when necessary. Set fines for smoke alarm violations and other typical contraventions have increased substantially indicating the Provincial mandate recognizes the need for enforcement in this regard.

Despite the F.P.P.A. mandated inspection requirement, the Prevention Division remains proactive and continues to perform routine inspections in all occupancies throughout the year. This is achieved by utilizing the Ontario Fire Marshal guideline for enforcement as a reference coupled with an internal schedule which incorporates a balanced inspection approach across all building classifications.

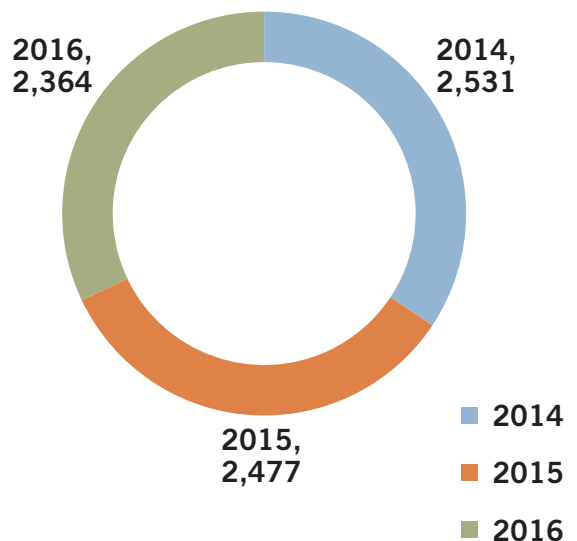
Open Air Burning

As all open air burning requires approval through the OFC, from Fire Services, Fire Prevention officers dedicate considerable hours during the summer months to this process. With a site visit officers also ensure smoke alarms are present and working within the residence. In 2016, FPO's approved 455 new applications and tested 329 smoke alarms during the process. This procedure is mutually beneficial to our efforts concerning working smoke alarms, within the residential sector and further ensures home owners burn safely without disturbing neighbours.

New Burn Permits 3 Year Trend



Burn Permit Renewal 3 Year Trend



Looking Forward

The priorities for 2017 will remain the same. When performing routine inspections, risk based enforcement efforts across all building stock, will remain the norm. Special focus and attention will continue on 'Vulnerable Occupancies' as the newest mandate, but not at the expense of the remaining classifications.

With the addition of a full time 'Public Educator' in the fall of 2016, the Prevention Division will pursue directions not previously possible. Similar to enforcement efforts, program development, implementation and evaluation will be risk based. Focus on mandated changes of the OFC will remain an underlying theme in all publication efforts moving forward.

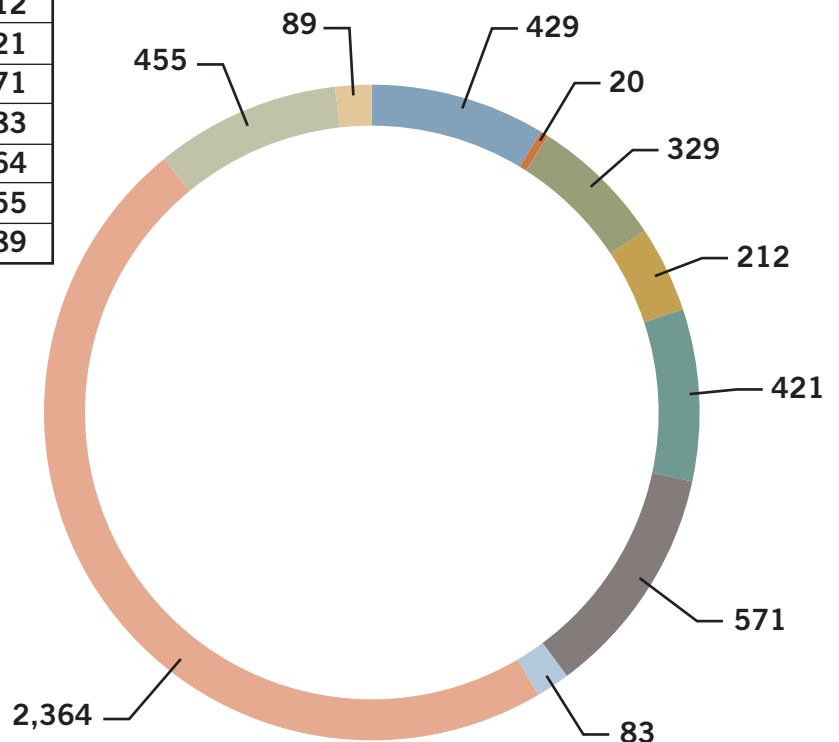
Our annual simplified risk assessment clearly shows the path education efforts need to take. New, exciting programs are currently being developed and partnerships are being formed. Social media will be utilized to its fullest, engaging younger demographic in a more current medium. With an aging population, specific programs concerning senior fire safety will also be developed and implemented.

Paul Milosevich

Deputy Chief - Fire Prevention and Education

2016 FIRE PREVENTION & EDUCATION STATISTICS

Building Inspections	429
Retrofit Inspections	20
Residential Smoke Alarm Inspection	329
Complaints	212
General Information	421
Recheck Inspections	571
Fire and Explosion Investigations	83
Burn Permit Renewals	2,364
New Burn Permits	455
Fire Safety Plans Approved	89



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



The role of a paramedic is a very dynamic one with no two shifts or even calls being the same. To stay up to date, paramedics need to be training and reviewing their standards and protocols they use on a regular basis. Some organized reviews require specific class time and many other hours are spent on shift between calls going over materials and running practice sessions to maintain their skills. All paramedics work under the Ontario Base Hospital Programs and through the physician's license can deliver the advanced care to patients in their home that may have only been available in a hospital in the past.

In 2016, patient care, documentation and equipment standards started to change in what the Ministry of Health is calling a new “living document” format. For years changes came slowly and in large overhaul format, moving forward many smaller changes are being made without long delays and the training and follow up to ensure Paramedics and the Service are compliant with the new changes created a busy year with more to come in 2017. This change created by the introduction of the living document style has also lead to the use of more electronic reference materials as printing large amounts of material is inefficient given the rate of change now being seen.

As part of any Ontario college program students in Paramedic programs need to complete a practical placement with an ambulance service. Sault Ste Marie Paramedics host these students on a regular basis throughout the year, coaching and teaching the students how to take their academic knowledge and apply it practically to patients in the field. It is under this preceptorship style program that a student completes their college program and if successful is then able to challenge the provincial examination process. We also have other medical students participate in “ride outs” to help them gain an insight of pre-hospital care.

Operations and Professional Standards

The operation of the ambulance service requires an Operator’s Certificate in Ontario issued by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. To maintain our certification the service must meet many legislated standards covering everything from quality of patient care and creating medical records to the quantity and quality of medical supplies in the ambulances. Paramedics on a daily basis are the first critical link in ensuring standards are met or exceeded. With the operational support and oversight of the Commanders and Deputy Chiefs the service has performed well by all reportable standards.

The many changes experienced within the EMS Division were made to improve service delivery locally. Additionally changes came from the province as Paramedics are recognized for their role in the Patients First Act that was introduced in 2016. This initiative will see the focus on patients from the first contact with the health care system, which is often the Paramedics on the street and up through the entire health care system to provide better and more efficient service to the citizens needs in Ontario.

Several smaller projects and initiative were completed in 2016 including introduction of personal carbon monoxide (CO) sensors and alarms for the health and safety of the Paramedics and patients. These small units go with the paramedics into every response and can alert them to potentially dangerous CO levels. The first week they were in service they provided a warning to a crew attending to a patient in a garage. The increased awareness of Opioid overdose dangers has been news everywhere and in response, the provincial directives that the paramedic follow were updated to ensure the advanced skills of the paramedic are available to provide immediate response to this potentially deadly occurrence.

Post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders was a leading topic of discussion and planning across Ontario. In 2016 the City has started a PEER support group for all our first responders; Paramedics, Fire Fighters, Police Services and partnering with the Sault Area Hospitals to include the Ambulance Communications officers. The peer nominations and screening started in the fall of 2016 under a professional psychologist and the program will be rolled out in 2017.

Fleet

The supporting fleet vehicles within the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division were upgraded from a 1999 Support Unit and a 2003 Administration/response vehicle to a pair of 2016 pickup style vehicles that share the dual capacity of response and support. The trucks have modular cap units that can be switched to new chassis in the future and are fully equipped to the Ministry of Health legislated standards. These vehicles are used primarily in support role ensuring paramedic crews have additional resources at any time anywhere as required. The Commanders operating the vehicles support the day to day operations of the service and are fully qualified paramedics able to provide patient care if required. The schedule for replacement ambulances did not include a purchase in 2016 as the fleet was in good condition and the priority was replacement of the support vehicles.



The fleet of ambulances and three support vehicles are maintained by the Support Services Division, the mechanical technicians have been factory trained in the unique aspects of the certified ambulance conversions. Strict certification specifications for a vehicle to operate in Ontario as an ambulance means the division has to ensure any additions or changes to the vehicle retains that compliance with legislation. The fleet vehicles are serviced on a set schedule to ensure fleet readiness and avoid failure from predictable issues. The fleet replacement schedule plans on an ambulance lasting approximately 7 years and through the replacement rotation keeps half the fleet four years old or newer.

Public Events

The Sault Ste Marie Paramedics have traditionally held a food and donation drive prior to the Christmas season each year and in 2016 had the best results for the one day food drive to date with approximately 2,000 pounds of food and \$4,000 delivered to the local soup kitchen. Paramedics attended several community events such as Family Day at the Bush Plane Museum, the Science Festival, Kidz Safety Summer Festival, Emergency Preparedness display and other public appearances. We participate in activities with our community partners such as attending Sault Area Hospital Family Day and their career day activities as well as setting up displays at a number of school events and base tours on request.

Special day



SSM Fire Services - EMS Division held a Cardiac Arrest Survivor meet and greet on December 16, 2016. This was an opportunity for patients that suffered a cardiac arrest and were successfully resuscitated by SSM EMS. Three survivors and their families had the opportunity to meet the paramedics and fire services members that were involved in their care. Stories were exchanged over refreshments. This was a great event for our paramedics as they seldom receive any feedback on the status of the patients that they treat in the field.

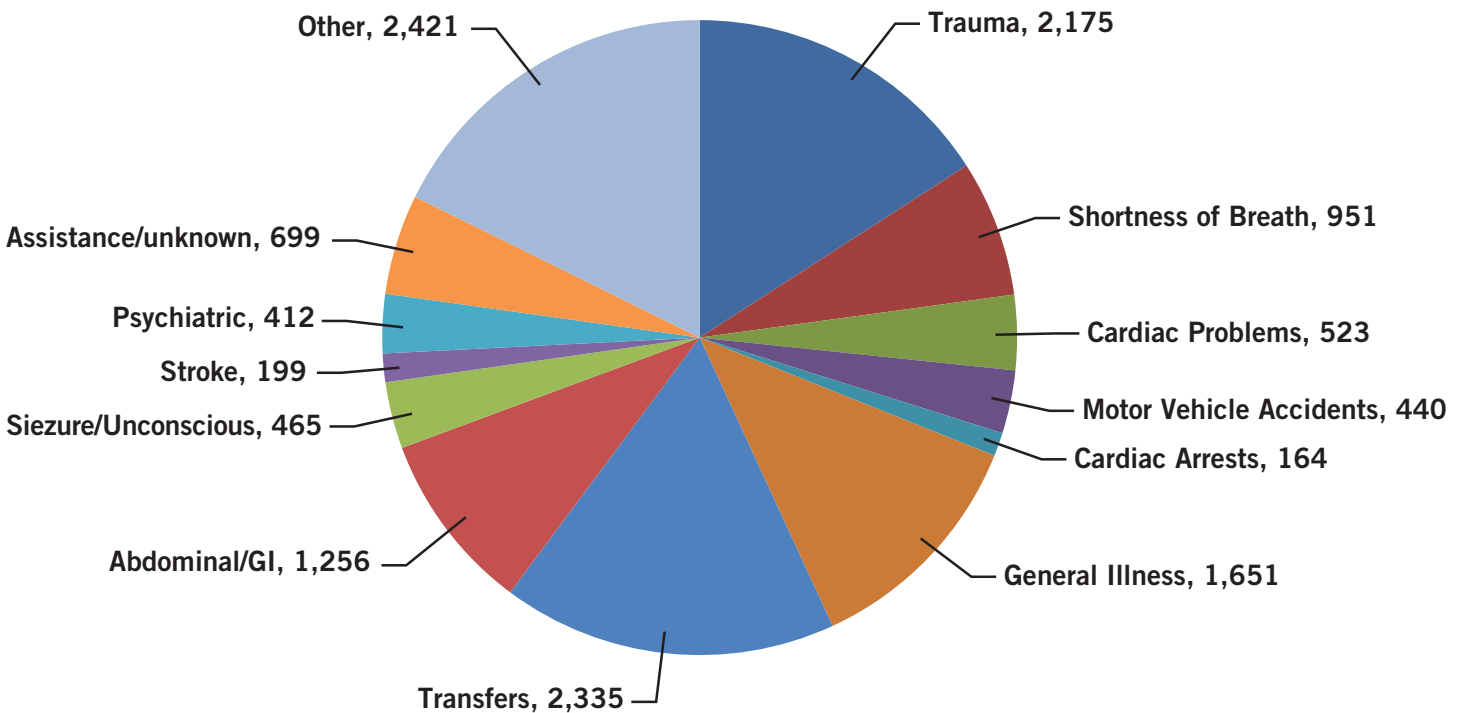


2016 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES STATISTICS

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 8	2016 TOTAL
DISPATCHED RESPONSE TYPE	Deferrable call potential for up to 24 hours	Scheduled patient transfer	Prompt response, may be delayed for up to 10 minutes or in the event of a Priority 4 call	Urgent, immediate response required; lights and siren used	Stand by as requested at Police or Fire scene	↓
Total	1,498	669	3,253	8,319	14	13,764
Percentage	10%	5%	24%	61%	0.1%	100%

EMS CALL VOLUME TRENDS

2014	2015	2016
12,093	12,778	13,764



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management has the responsibility of the coordination, development and implementation of prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery strategies to maximize the safety and resiliency of our residents. The City's Emergency Management Program is constantly adapting to reflect the changing landscape of risk and provide the best service to our citizens; the following highlights some of the year's activities.

"There's no harm in hoping for the best as long as you're prepared for the worst." - Stephen King

A new initiative in 2016 saw the establishment of the Animals and Emergencies Working Group. Under this working group an Animal Care Emergency Response Plan was drafted which will support the humane care and treatment of companion animals and livestock during an emergency situation in Sault Ste. Marie. Two additional plans addressing flooding and adopting the provincial Incident Management Systems model were also drafted and will be launched in 2017 alongside focused training and exercise events.



Joint International Exercise Rail Bridge Run Down



Joint International Exercise Twin Endeavor



A learning station set up by Sault Search and Rescue for the Girl Guide Survivor Sleepover



Emergency Preparedness Week Mascot Scavenger Hunt Sparky with the help of Sault Search and Rescue made the winning emergency kit.

New developments within our public education program include the move of the school program to the Sault Search and Rescue Training Facility. This move allows students to participate in a disaster scenario, experiencing some of the very real challenges that are present during actual emergencies. The Girl Guides Survivor Sleepover was also piloted in 2016 in partnership with Sault Search and Rescue and the Canadian Red Cross.

Disasters do not stop at political borders, and neither should preparedness activities. This why Emergency Management works closely with agencies locally, provincially and internationally. This year, that was done through participation in the development and execution of two joint international exercises, Rail Bridge Run Down and Twin Endeavors.

In the last quarter of the year the Emergency Management Division grew to include a Research and Planning Officer. With this additional resource on hand, we anticipate numerous opportunities to expand emergency management in Sault Ste. Marie. A critical review of the division is underway and the next four years will see a focus on addressing gaps in programming, specifically, making individual preparedness more affordable and accessible and addressing business continuity in our community.

Thank you to the many partners and the individuals of Sault Ste. Marie, as we work together in building a safer community.

Lauren Perry

Lauren Perry

Assistant Chief - Emergency Management



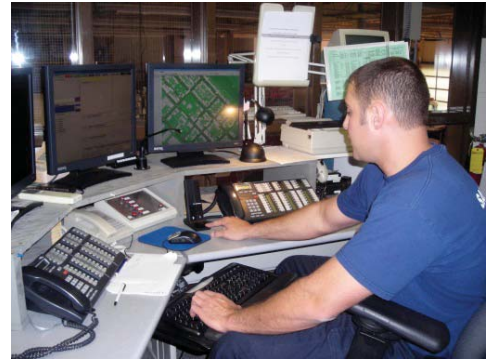
Disaster Dining with High School culinary students at Sault Search and Rescue.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Communication

Current Cadets continue to function incoming calls and dispatching units as required. From time to time, Cadets will have the opportunity to cover firefighters while on training, off sick or vacation relief.

New enhanced T911 technology was installed in the dispatch area to enable dispatchers to be able to text with registered users that have speaking and hearing vulnerabilities. The dispatchers will be trained on the new interface that works with the Xpert Fire software in early 2017.



Crisys Xpert Fire Dispatch System

The CriSys Xpert Fire computer-aided dispatch and records management system is being used by all divisions within the department. Ongoing software upgrades are rolled out by the Crisys developers and downloaded to the CriSys system.

Fire Halls



Maintenance of the four fire stations is part of the Support Services Division's responsibility. In 2016, some major renovations to the fire stations included the replacement of 3 electric garage bay door openers, fencing along property between Sutherland Call Centre and the RESC. All station's ongoing operating deficiencies are managed through Support Services and contracted out if the problem is beyond the scope of our mechanics abilities or timelines. Annual spring cleaning of all stations is completed by on-duty shifts assigned specific areas of responsibility.

Vehicles and Equipment

Support Services staff is responsible for all repairs to Fire Services vehicles and all Fire Suppression tools and equipment. Regular maintenance, as well as annual M.T.O. Mechanical Safety Inspections required on all units over 3/4 ton, were completed in 2016. Fire Services also works with third party agents to do the annual pump flow testing of all trucks with fire pumps. This insures that the pumps are flowing water according to ULC specifications. In an effort to extend service life of our vehicles, rust proofing was applied to all pumpers, aerials, rescue units and support units including the Fire Prevention vehicles.



We also do cost recovery servicing and repairs to the ambulance fleet and occasionally some of the Police patrol vehicles.

Airflow testing on breathing packs are done annually to ensure that these self-contained breathing apparatus meet prescribed standards to ensure personal safety on the fire ground. Early this past year, we took delivery of a replacement pump/rescue unit. This involved drafting specifications, attending pre-build meetings and inspection meetings at chassis and body manufacturers as well as pre-paint and final delivery of the pumper/rescue. This new unit will allow us to remove one surplus unit from the fleet thus lowering operational costs. The truck it replaces will then become our spare back up unit. The fleet is regularly renewed based on a departmental long range fleet replacement schedule. Units that are scheduled for replacement as per fleet replacement schedule include a command bus, rescue truck and a tanker which should be in the planning stages by 2017.

Training

The Support Services Division continues to be responsible for ensuring all personnel maintain “Z” endorsement licenses. Other aspects of training on pumpers and aerial operations as well as tools and equipment are done in conjunction with the Platoon Chiefs.

Seminars at Fire College continue to be beneficial as new products and technology are discussed along with upgrades of maintenance procedures for various fire services equipment. Quarterly diagnostic training seminars are held in our shop in partnership with Auto Aide and other city department mechanics ensuring that the latest technological diagnosing is made available to help in the ongoing changes evolving with in the industry.

Occupational Health & Safety

The Support Services Division is also responsible for the various testing of Fire vehicles, SCBA and cylinders, cascade systems, fire extinguishers, ground ladders and aerials that are required by NFPA guidelines and ULC regulations annually. Some of these tests include air quality of the Cascade (breathing air compressor), hydrostatic testing of all SCBA cylinders (five year expiry) and fire extinguishers as required. Other testing involves non-destructive testing of aerial and ground ladders as well pump capacity ratings on all units with a fire pump. We also arrange for annual load testing of four station back-up generators and the inspections of the two hoists in our repair shop.

This year we re-established baseline hearing levels of various pieces of equipment and provided these results to all workers to insure that proper hearing protection is worn for personal health & safety.



As part of the transitional plan for fire services, Dan Crozier was promoted to Mechanical Officer for Support Services and a new mechanic was hired to replace Dan Crozier.

Handwritten signature of Jim St. Jules in blue ink.

Jim St. Jules

Deputy Chief - Support Services



SAULT STE. MARIE RESPONSE CENTRES



Station 1
72 Tancred Street



Station 2
363 Second Line West



Station 3
100 Bennett Blvd.



Station 4 - RESC
65 Old Garden River Road



EMS-Garden River
15 Shingwauk Street

2016 HONOURS AND AWARDS

RETIREMENTS

IN APPRECIATION FOR YEARS OF
DEDICATED SERVICE WITH THE
SAULT STE. MARIE FIRE SERVICES

MARCH 2016

FIRE CAPTAIN
BRIAN KOZAK

JUNE 2016

FIRE CAPTAIN
BRIAN CAMPBELL

NOVEMBER 2016

FIRST CLASS FIREFIGHTER
FRED SHAUGHNESSY



2016 HONOURS AND AWARDS

FEDERAL EXEMPLARY SERVICE BARS AND MEDALS



THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA
His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston

THE FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL

In mid-1985, the Government of Canada accepted the proposal for the creation of a service medal for all full-time and volunteer members of Canada's Fire Service. Regulations paralleling those of other Exemplary Service Medals were drafted and a proposed design for the medal was submitted to representatives of the Fire Service. Once approved, the regulations and design were forwarded to the Sovereign with Cabinet's recommendations.

Her Majesty The Queen signed Letters Patent creating the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal on August 29, 1985.

The design of the Medal incorporates crossed axes, a hydrant, and a stylized Maltese Cross, an internationally recognized symbol of the fire prevention community. Both are superimposed on a maple leaf, the standard background symbol of Canadian honours. The red of the ribbon represents fire; the gold, common to all Exemplary Service Medals, represents the quality of the service honoured.

SAULT STE. MARIE FIRE SERVICES CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL

30 YEARS SERVICE (BAR)

TERRY SCHILDROTH

BRIAN CAMPBELL

JAMES BEACH

BRIAN KOZAK

20 YEARS SERVICE (MEDAL)

JON MACFARLANE

JASON JAREMKO

DAVID HALLE



2016 HONOURS AND AWARDS

PROVINCIAL LONG SERVICE BARS AND MEDALS

THE FIRE SERVICES LONG SERVICE MEDALS

First awarded in 1971, "The Fire Services Long Service Medal" is an expression of public appreciation for the dedication and hard work of members of the Ontario Fire Services. It is officially recognized by the province and is included in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997.

The medal is worn on the left breast subordinate to Canadian or British decorations. Suspended from a red, white and green ribbon, the circular medal bears on the obverse the Maltese cross, with the coat of arms of Ontario superimposed and the inscription 'Fire Services Ontario'. The inscription 'For Long Service the Fire Protection and Prevention Act' appears on the reverse.

SAULT STE. MARIE FIRE SERVICES CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL

30 YEARS SERVICE (BAR)

TERRY SCHILDROTH

BRIAN CAMPBELL

JAMES BEACH

BRIAN KOZAK

25 YEARS SERVICE (MEDAL)

FRANK MANCUSO

STUART COLE

STEVEN QUESNELE

FRED SHAUGHNESSY

IN THE COMMUNITY



"Get Out Alive" Program



"Annual Rotary Santa Claus Parade"



"Fill the Boot"



Soup Kitchen Food Drive



Mr. Bon Soo & Terry the Traumasaurus



EMS Food Drive



City of
Sault Ste. Marie

SSMFS

