



STAFF REPORT INFORMATION ONLY

Toronto Fire Services – Annual Report 2006

Date:	May 22, 2007
To:	Community Development and Recreation Committee
From:	Toronto Fire Services Fire Chief
Wards:	All Wards
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SUMMARY

The Toronto Fire Services (TFS) Annual Report for 2006 provides an overview of the programs and emergency responses to the citizens and visitors of Toronto. TFS is dedicated to protect life, property and the environment from the effects of fires, illness, accidents, natural disasters and other hazards.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications associated with this report

DECISION HISTORY

On an annual basis, as stipulated in Chapter 79 of the Toronto Municipal Code, the Fire Chief presents City Council with a review of the Fire Services' operations.

COMMENTS

The men and women of the Toronto Fire Services continue to respond to meet the various emergency needs of the citizens of Toronto and visitors to our great city. During 2006, the Service responded to 139,368 emergency incidents, which resulted in 294,660 vehicle responses. Our scope of work is extremely broad, ranging from firefighting, medical emergencies, alarm calls, hazardous materials, CBRN chemical biological nuclear response, water and ice rescue, high angle rescue, HUSAR heavy urban search and rescue and vehicle accidents. We truly are the "All Hazards Response Service". The service is dedicated to the protection of life and property and to ensure compliance in accordance with the Ontario Fire Code and the Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

Every member of the Toronto Fire Services is committed to citizen life safety. The Toronto Fire Services advocates the introduction of residential sprinklers to reduce the loss of life because of fire.

The Service continues to work effectively with the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association and has entered the second year of the 24-hour shift trial in the Operations Division. Each Division of the Service provides operational support to achieve our emergency response capabilities.

Operations

2006 was significant due to a number of large multiple alarm events, including third alarms at 1185 Finch Avenue, 208 Niagara Street and 35 Ardmere; a fourth alarm at 329 Royal York Road; two fifth alarm fires at 2306 Dupont Street and 2306 St. Clair Avenue; and a seventh alarm fire at 275 Queen St. E.

Operations Division conducted a record number of 43,359 'Alarmed for Life' inspections. Further, they now conduct an investigation after a fire to determine if the residence was properly protected by smoke alarms and report any deficiencies to Fire Prevention for follow-up. Operational Fire Fighters take an active role in the Fire Chief's initiative to have residential buildings sprinklered and after fires determine if the outcome could have been positively impacted by the installation of sprinklers.

Operations has taken on a partnership role with Professional Development and Training for training initiatives aimed towards self improvement in life safety issues that affect firefighters, such as our Incident Management System, Rapid Intervention Training and leadership development.

Fire Prevention

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Division ensure fire code compliance and public education programs. The Toronto Fire Services provides the largest "Risk Watch Program" in North America. We are currently in approximately 210 Toronto District School Board and 50 Toronto Catholic District School Board schools. Toronto Fire Services continues to raise funds to assist with the expansion of this program. The program is delivered to children in the school setting from kindergarten through grade four. Our Public Educators provide support to the teachers who deliver the curriculum in the classroom. The early intervention through public education will build a mindset for our youth with respect to life safety now and in the future.

In 2006 Fire Prevention staff completed:

- Over 40,000 inspections and 668 retrofit inspections were examined.
- Legal section laid approximately 1,000 charges resulting in more than \$519,000 in fines.
- Public Education staff offered 43,000 visits as part of the 2006 Alarmed for Life program.

- A pilot project for electronic data collection began, with staff testing a number of mobile data terminals for ease of use, etc. Full implementation of this project is expected in 2007.

Professional Development and Mechanical Maintenance

Emergency Medical Services Section spearheaded Toronto Fire Service's successful involvement in the North American CPR study known as the ROC Study (Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium). This study will go hand-in-hand with the new defibrillator roll-out and training slated to begin in 2007. The Emergency Planning, Research & Development Section continued with the delivery of the inter-divisional Incident Management System and Emergency Management courses.

2006 also saw a significant number of accomplishments within the Mechanical Division of TFS. Numerous vehicles were purchased, received, and commissioned into service, including 2 Aerials, 10 Pumpers, 1 Air/Light truck, 8 District Chief vans, 3 cube vans, and 3 utility vans. Nine environmentally friendly Hybrid vehicles were purchased for emergency response use, a first in the industry. The acquisition of the donated Coast Guard vessel SORA to the fleet has provided a back-up to the Wm. Lyon McKenzie.

The Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Team, Canada Task Force 3, is operational and is capable of being deployed should the need arise locally, provincially or nationally. The team members continue to train and perform at a very high standard of service excellence should their skills be required because of a major disaster.

Staff Services

In June, a lightning strike in the vicinity tested the emergency power system and caused a controlled evacuation to the backup site. These two events tested our ability to continue providing service to the public despite loss of critical systems and the significant challenges it posed.

The close of 2006 started the process for a significant project in the Communications section – a quality assurance review. This review will look at the call management process, the use of current technology and will provide quality assurance and customer service programs.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William A. Stewart', written in a cursive style.

William A. Stewart
Fire Chief

ATTACHMENTS

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