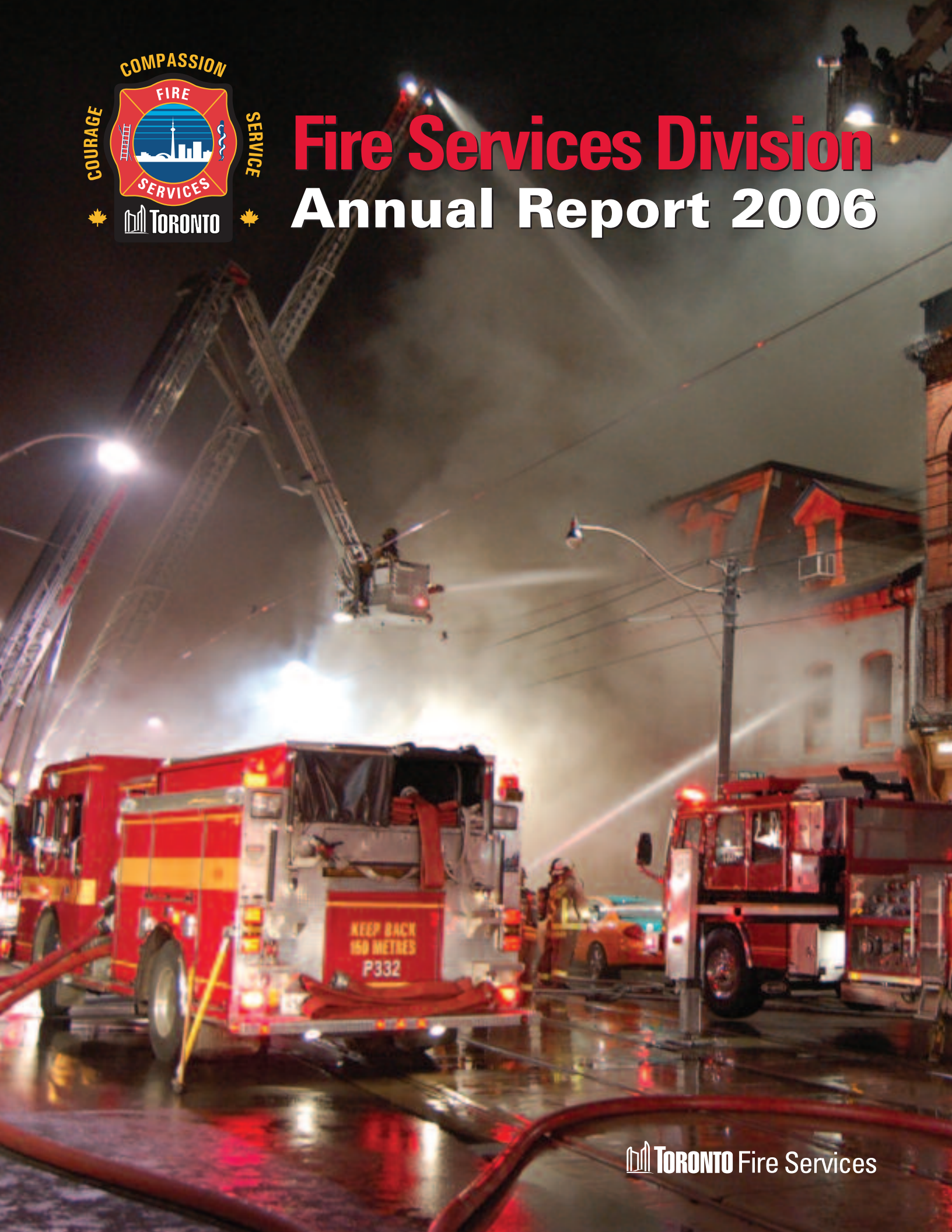




# Fire Services Division Annual Report 2006



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# TORONTO FIRE SERVICES

COMPASSION

## CREDO

*“Courage, Compassion, Service”*

“Courage to move forward, Compassion in everything we do,  
Service without boundaries.”

## VISION STATEMENT

“Toronto Fire Services will be a pro-active leader in fire prevention,  
protection and emergency services to meet the diverse needs of  
our communities.”

## MISSION STATEMENT

“We are dedicated to protect life, property and the environment from  
the effects of fires, illness, accidents, natural disasters  
and other hazards.”

“We are committed to enhancing fire safety and raising community  
awareness through education and involvement.”

“Toronto Fire Services will pursue the acquisition and use of the most  
effective technology, equipment and resources to ensure we continue to  
perform in a competent and professional manner. We are dedicated to  
building a cohesive, equitable and unified workforce.”

“We provide high quality and caring services to those who live in,  
work in and visit our City... safely, efficiently and effectively.”

COURAGE

SERVICE





## Message from Fire Chief William A. Stewart



**T**he 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. The services you provide are appreciated, recognized and valued by the citizens we protect. 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 Service 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. Regrettably, we still experience fire fatalities in the City of Toronto on an annual basis. We must continue to educate and promote the requirements of smoke alarms and the installation of residential sprinklers in new building construction through changes to the Ontario Building Code.

The Service continues to work effectively with the Toronto Professional Fire Fighters Association as we have entered the second year of the 24-hour shift trial in the Operations Division. Each Division of the Service provides assistance and support to achieve our emergency response capabilities. 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. 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 set a mindset for our youth with respect to life safety now and in the future.

Toronto Fire Services staff participated in the annual Canadian Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Service in Ottawa held in September to honour the over 800 fire fighters who have died in the line of duty serving their communities across our great nation.

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.

In closing, the strength of the Service are the men and women who have dedicated their lives to the protection of life and property from every division who continue serve the citizens of Toronto with great pride and humility. I am honoured to lead the Service as the Fire Chief of the Toronto Fire Services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William A. Stewart'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**William A. Stewart**  
Fire Chief

## Operations Division

### Jim Shelton, Deputy Fire Chief



**W**e are very fortunate to be living in “interesting times”. Operations changed from the 10 and 14 hour day and night shifts to the 24 shift schedule in 2006, which has led to some interesting internal debates on the subject. The Commanders and I jointly introduced the 24 hour shift in early 2006 by conducting job wide information sessions, explaining how the 24 hour shift would affect vacation selections, transfers, voting and the introduction of the ability to assign personnel to modular training by adjusting their hours of work. We enjoyed this exposure to the personnel on the trucks and hope to do something similar in the near future.

There have been many benefits to the change to the 24 hour shift including the ability to reschedule hours of work to complete modular training for promotional process as well as leadership development. Administratively the 24 hour shift has proven no different than the 10 and 14 hour shifts. We continue to study the impact of the 24 hour shift into 2007.

2006 saw a slight decrease in total responses from 140,516 in 2005 to 139,368 in 2006. We also saw a decrease in fire deaths from 14 in 2005 to 11 in 2006. However, 2006 was significant due to a number of large multiple alarm events, including third alarms at 1185 Finch Avenue, 208 Niagara Street and 35 Ardmore; 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 Street East.

However, Operations is not just about fighting fires, and in 2006 the Operations Division conducted a record number of ‘Alarmed for Life’ inspections. We also 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. Operations is also taking an active role in the Fire Chief’s initiative to have residential buildings sprinklered and again after fires we 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. The Commanders, Platoon Chiefs and I are truly committed to developing policies and procedures that enforce aggressive fire attack techniques while ensuring everyone goes home at the end of their shift. The only way we can develop these apparently contradictory theories into one coordinated organized practical application on the street is through ongoing development of self discipline, training, professionalism and most importantly leadership and accountability.

Operations has begun to develop a succession planning model that will provide a clearly defined path for personnel to aspire to Operations Management positions so that Toronto Fire Services continues to develop its leaders internally.

The goal for 2007 is to provide Fire Officers of all ranks with the training and equipment to do their jobs and be accountable to ensure adherence to the Toronto Fire Service Credo: ‘Courage, Compassion, Service’.

I would like to thank all staff in the Division for their ongoing dedication and professionalism.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Shelton'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Jim Shelton**  
Deputy Fire Chief



# Professional Development and Mechanical Maintenance Division

## Terry Boyko, Deputy Fire Chief



The Professional Development and Training Division remained busy throughout 2006, re-tooling existing programs to address the new shift format and the development/delivery of new programs to meet Mandatory Training requirements. All of the Division's sections worked in conjunction with each other to successfully meet these new challenges. The following are some highlights:

- 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 IMS & Emergency Management courses and was an essential component in the planning for several events including "Quay to the City".
- The Occupational Health & Safety Section facilitated the instructor training of the Health and Wellness Program and continues to look into the root causes of injuries.
- The Officer Development Section was busy with the development and delivery of the first three core modules of the Company Officer Modular Promotional Process.
- The Operations Training Section successfully delivered training to the majority of Operations Division personnel on the new SCBA-CBRN compliant breathing apparatus.
- The Recruit Induction Training Section developed and trained 42 Probationary Fire Fighters.
- The Special Operations Training Section maintained pace in providing development, training, and support for all specialized technical rescue disciplines and hazardous materials mitigation initiatives. Newly created and delivered training programs included structural collapse and elevated structure (e.g., crane) rescue.

2006 also saw a significant number of accomplishments within the Mechanical Division of TFS. Numerous vehicles were purchased, received, and commissioned into service, including two Aerials, ten Pumpers, one Air/Light truck, eight District Chief vans, three cube vans, and three utility vans. Nine environmentally friendly Hybrid vehicles were purchased for emergency response use by the Senior Officers, a first in the industry. The division has also placed orders for delivery in 2007 for a Platform Aerial, a Command vehicle, five Aerials, and twenty five more Pumpers purchased from two suppliers as part of a three-year purchasing initiative.

A geotechnical study has been commissioned to confirm if the land to the east of the Toryork repair facility is able to accept construction of a planned addition to the building to gain more repair bay space and an aerial ladder testing bed.

Three more replacement breathing air fill-stations were purchased to standardize the fill systems used, increase their capacity, and greatly increase the safety of the filling process.

The acquisition of the Coast Guard vessel SORA to the fleet has added additional repair duties to the Marine Engineers, and a much needed back-up to the Wm. Lyon McKenzie.

My thanks go to all of the staff in the Professional Development and Training and Mechanical Divisions for their continued support and dedication.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Boyko". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Terry Boyko**  
Deputy Fire Chief

## Staff Services and Communications Division

### Pat McCabe, Deputy Fire Chief



In the Communications section, 2006 began with promotional processes for Communications District Chief and Communications Captain, with a number of staff successfully entering the ranks as Acting District Chiefs and Acting Captains. The Communications Division also added three new recruits in January 2006. Staff continued working the new shift schedule completing the second year of a two year trial period.

In January, routine maintenance on the emergency power system at headquarters resulted in an evacuation of the communications centre following a complete power failure. Staff implemented the evacuation plan without hesitation and managed the crisis professionally.

In June, a lightning strike in the vicinity again 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. These programs will assist in ongoing performance review and enhancements.

2006 brought significant change to Staff Services, as Division Chief Frank Lamie was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief and David Sheen was promoted to fill the position of Division Chief.

The Quartermaster section facilitated a changeover to the City's Warehouse Rationalization plan which should ensure more efficient stock handling and a centralized management of City contracts. Other highlights in this section include the award of the contract for traditional helmets, which will be distributed in early 2007, and the assignment of badge numbers, with the new cap badge tender being awarded, also for delivery in 2007.

The Information Section instituted a centralized media line which is working well, and they continue to meet the demands of the GTA media and attend and manage our media opportunities at both major and special events as well as public education opportunities. They have been charged with updating the FireInfo photo and information database in 2007.

Our Recruiting and Community Outreach Section continue to attend a variety of events and to generate interest in a career with Toronto Fire Services, and they have begun to gear up for a recruiting drive in the last quarter of 2007.

The Medical Office, Payroll and Accounting Divisions continue to go above and beyond the call in fulfilling the demands of the Department.

I would like to thank all staff in the division for their ongoing contributions to the Service.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCabe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

**Pat McCabe**  
Deputy Fire Chief



# Fire Prevention and Public Education

## Frank Lamie, Deputy Fire Chief



2006 saw significant changes in the Fire Prevention and Public Education section, beginning with staff changes as the former Deputy Rick Simpson and the former Division Chief Jack Collins retired on April 30 and June 30 respectively, and were replaced by Deputy Fire Chief Frank Lamie and Division Chief Michael Gerrard. In addition, 2006 saw the promotion of two new District Chiefs as well as the addition of 13 new Inspectors to replace retired staff.

A significant amount of effort in the section was devoted to the review and implementation of recommendations resulting from the Fire Services Operational Review, which was conducted by the City's Auditor General in 2005, with the report released in early 2006. This report included a number of recommendations geared towards making the Fire Prevention and Public Education section more

efficient and effective.

As part of an ongoing effort to balance work and supervisory responsibilities, the Commands within the Fire Prevention portfolio have been realigned to better balance staff. As a result, the office located at Station 323 now reports to the East Command District Chief. In addition, staff responsibilities were shifted to increase staff assigned to Public Education from 17 to 21.

Daily contact with staff of the section has also been improved through the issuance of cell phones. This means that staff are now accessible to the public during hours of work, as office phones can be call forwarded to cell phones while staff are on the road.

The sprinkler trailer has proven to be a valuable resource for TFS, and it was used on numerous occasions throughout the year to demonstrate the effectiveness of residential sprinklers. 2006 also saw an increase in the use of the fire safety house.

The displays at the CNE were once again a huge success, and will be expanded for 2007. During Fire Prevention Week, staff of Fire Prevention and Public Education offered three evening open houses as well as a Saturday event. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and the rain and cold temperatures resulted in a drop in attendance from the previous year. The Saturday event, however, was very successful, with a large number of parents attending with their children. This event will be expanded in 2007, when we will also be looking at alternate methods to achieve the same goals at different times of the year to increase the likelihood of good weather, or the ability to use indoor venues.

Finally in 2006, 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.

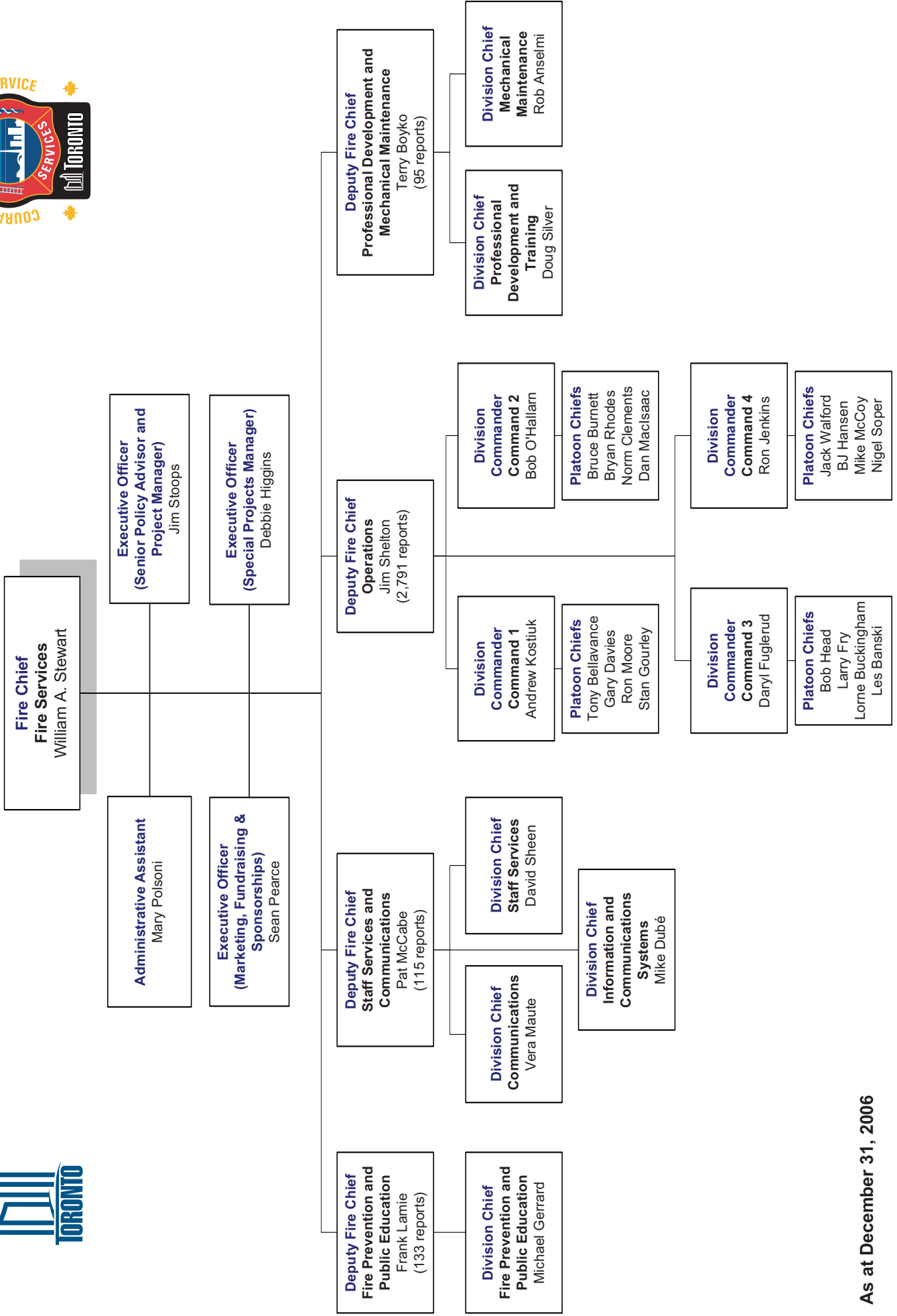
The dedication of staff is evident in the 2006 statistics, which show Fire Prevention staff completing over 40,000 inspections and 668 retrofit inspections. Almost 5,000 new construction plans were examined, while the Legal section laid approximately 1,000 charges resulting in more than \$519,000 in fines. Public Education staff offered 879 presentations, reaching more than 54,000 people. In addition, Operations personnel conducted more than 43,000 visits as part of the 2006 Alarmed for Life program. My thanks to all staff for their ongoing efforts towards the protection of life and property in the City of Toronto.

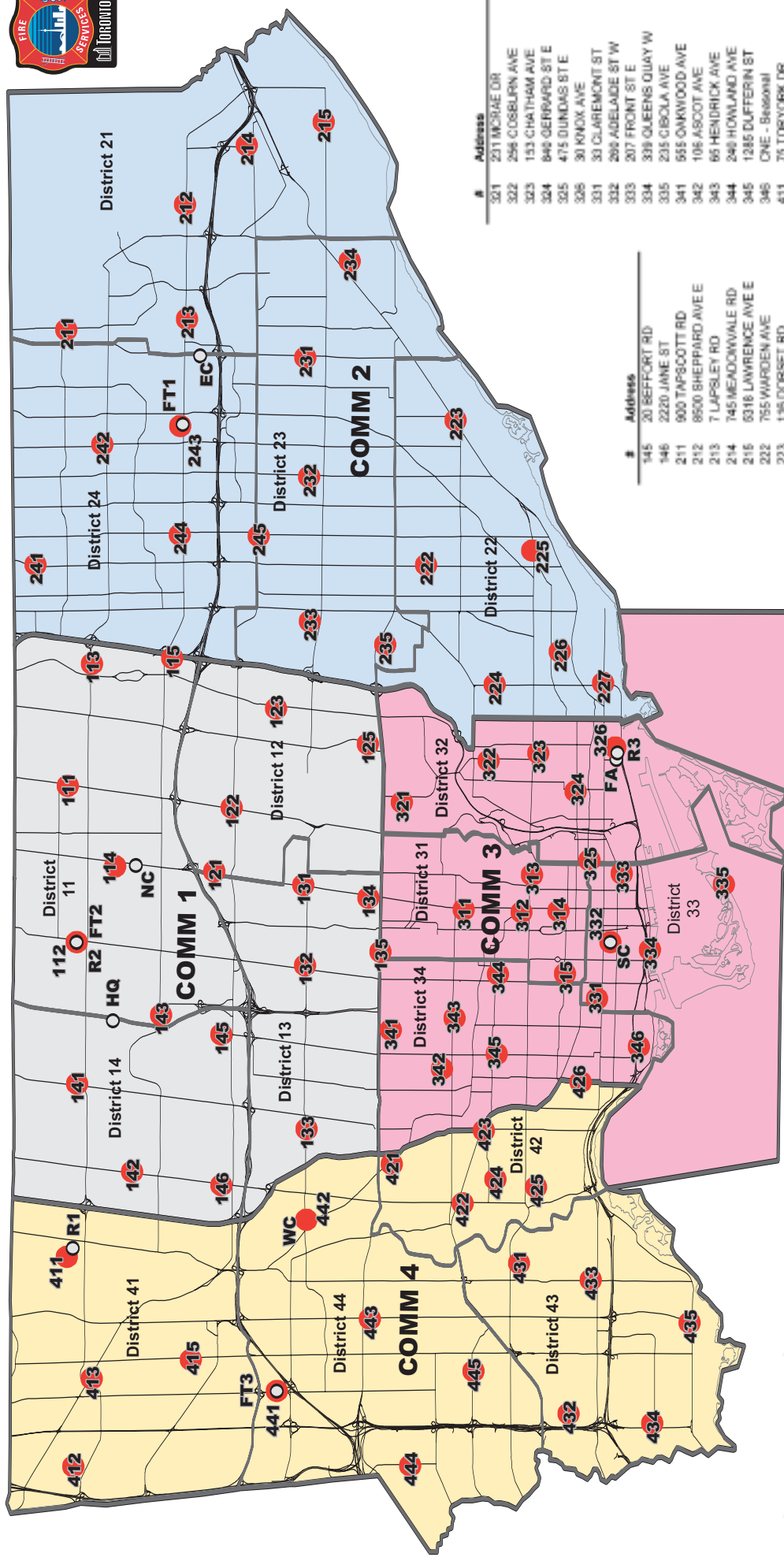
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Lamie". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

**Frank Lamie**  
Deputy Fire Chief



# Organizational Structure 2005 Toronto Fire Services





### Fire Commands Fire Stations

- COMM 1 Other
- COMM 2 Fire Station
- COMM 3 Streets
- COMM 4
- Fire Districts

#	Name	Address
HQ	Headquarters	4330 DUFFERIN ST
FA	Fire Academy	856 EASTERN AVE
FT1	Fire Training Centre	4562 SHEPPARD AVE E
FT2	Fire Training Centre	5790 BATHURST ST
FT3	Fire Training Centre	947 MARTIN GROVE RD
NC	Fire Services North Command Office	5190 YONGE ST
SC	Fire Services South Command Office	26 ADELAIDE ST W
WC	Fire Services West Command Office	2015 LAWRENCE AVE W
EC	Fire Services East Command Office	1530 MARKHAM RD
R1	Fire Services Repair Facility	40 TORVORCK DR
R2	Fire Services Repair Facility	5790 BATHURST ST
R3	Fire Services Repair Facility	843 EASTERN AVE

#	Address
111	3100 BAYVIEW AVE
112	5700 BATHURST ST
113	700 SENECA HILL DR
114	12 CANTERBURY PL
115	115 PARKWAY FOREST DR
121	10 WILLIAM CARSON CRIS
122	2545 BAYVIEW AVE
123	143 BOND AVE
125	1108 LESLIE ST
131	3125 YONGE ST
132	476 LAWRENCE AVE W
133	1556 LAWRENCE AVE W
134	16 MONTGOMERY AVE
135	941 EGLINTON AVE W
141	3965 KEELE ST
142	2755 JAMIE ST
143	1008 SHEPPARD AVE W

#	Address
145	20 SEFFORT RD
146	2220 JANE ST
211	900 TAPSCOTT RD
212	8500 SHEPPARD AVE E
213	7 LAPSLEY RD
214	745 MENDONVILLE RD
215	6316 LAWRENCE AVE E
222	755 WARDEN AVE
223	116 DORSET RD
224	1313 WOODBINE AVE
225	3600 DANFORTH AVE
226	87 MAIN ST
227	1904 QUEEN ST E
231	740 WARRHAM RD
232	1550 MIDLAND AVE
233	69 CURLEW DR
234	40 CORONATION DR
235	200 BERKSHIRE RD
241	3325 WARDEN AVE
242	2733 BRIMLEY RD
243	4050 SHEPPARD AVE E
244	2340 BIRCHMOUNT RD
245	1626 BIRCHMOUNT RD
311	20 BALMORAL AVE
312	34 YORKVILLE AVE
313	441 BLOOR ST E
314	12 GROSVENOR ST
315	132 BELLEVUE AVE

#	Address
321	201 MCRAE DR
322	256 COSBURN AVE
323	133 CHATHAM AVE
324	848 GERRARD ST E
325	475 DUNDAS ST E
328	30 KNOX AVE
331	33 CLAREMONT ST
332	269 ADELAIDE ST W
333	207 FRONT ST E
334	338 QUEENS QUAY W
335	235 CIBOLA AVE
341	555 ONKWOOD AVE
342	105 ASCOT AVE
343	65 HENDRICK AVE
344	249 HOWLAND AVE
345	1285 DUFFERIN ST
346	CNE - Sheppard
411	75 TORVORCK DR
412	267 HUMBERLINE DR
413	1549 ALBION RD
415	2120 KIPLING AVE
421	6 LANBTON AVE
422	695 JANE ST
423	358 KEELE ST
424	462 RUMMEDE RD
425	83 DEFOREST RD
430	148 LANGDON AVE
431	308 PRINCE EDWARD DR S
432	155 THE EAST MALL
433	615 ROYAL YORK RD
434	3 LUNNESS RD
435	135 EIGHTH ST
441	947 MARTIN GROVE RD
442	2015 LAWRENCE AVE W
443	1734 ISLINGTON AVE
444	695 RENFORTH DR
445	295 BURNHAMTHORPE RD

Works and Emergency Services  
 Technical Services  
 Survey and Mapping Services  
 18 D'Ysa Rd., 4th Floor  
 Toronto, ON M3B 1V5  
 Tel: 416-392-7755  
 Fax: 416-392-0081

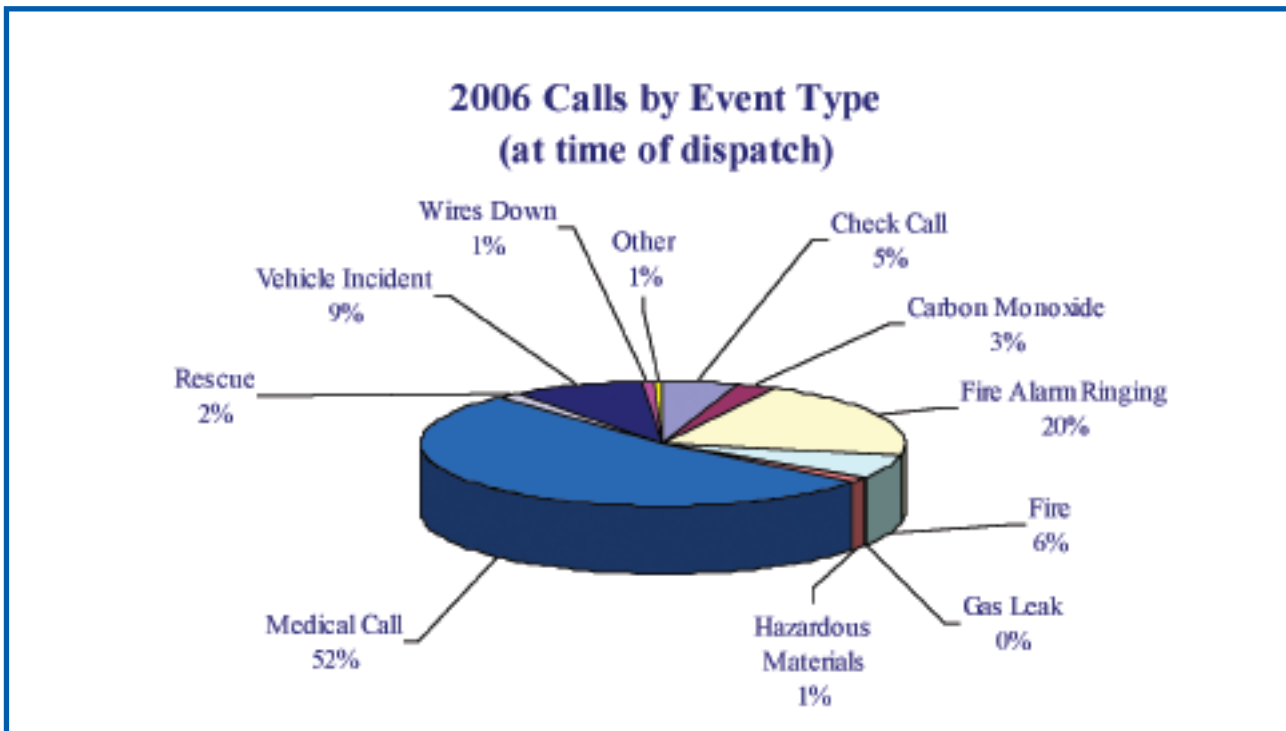
February, 2004  
 Revised February, 2007

# Toronto Fire Services Response Statistics – 2006 (CAD Data at time of dispatch)

	2006	2005	2004
401*	0	0	11
Check Call	7,003	7,509	5,647
Carbon Monoxide	3,652	3,828	2,992
Fire Alarm Ringing	28,196	29,063	31,885
Fire	8,719	9,362	8,724
Gas Leak	496	531	765
Hazardous Materials	1,877	1,738	1,144
Island	97	76	55
Lake	14	6	0
Mutual Aid	1	2	3
Medical Call	73,140	72,645	64,383
Police Assist	31	28	26
Rescue	2,199	2,311	2,070
Suspicious Substance	21	31	44
Test Event**	109	63	n/a
Vehicle Incident incl. Fire	12,198	11,436	11,080
Water Problem	573	917	910
Wires Down	1,042	970	761
<b>Total Number of Incidents</b>	<b>139,368</b>	<b>140,516</b>	<b>130,500</b>
<b>Total Number of Unit Responses</b>	<b>294,660</b>	<b>303,606</b>	<b>293,023</b>

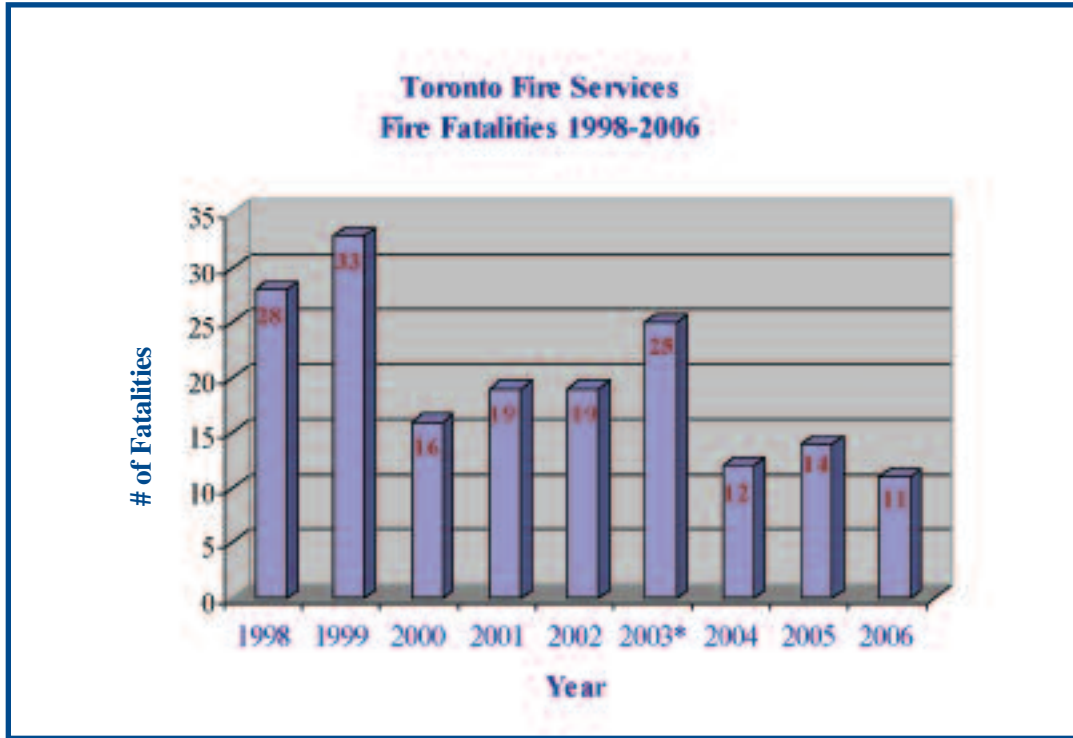
\*Category removed from CAD in 2005

\*\*Category added to CAD in 2005

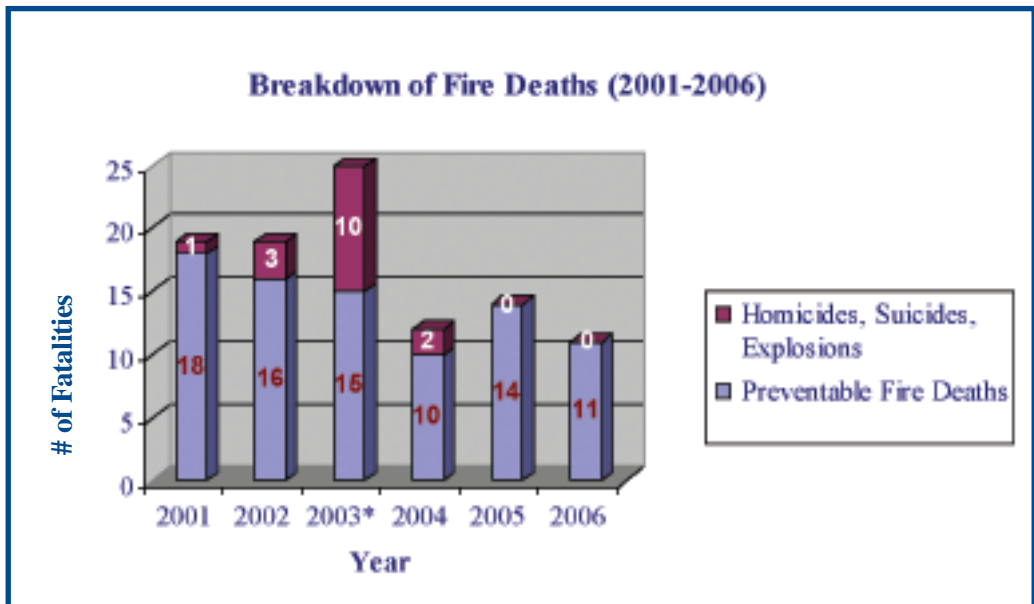


# Toronto Fire Services: Fire Fatalities 1998-2006

In 2006 Toronto Fire Services continued to win the “War on Fire”, with 11 fire deaths, compared to 14 in 2005



The Office of the Fire Marshal defines a fire death as a person who dies as a result of injuries sustained during a fire incident (including explosions). Reportable fire deaths include suicides by fire and homicides by fire, but exclude fire deaths occurring in vehicle accidents. Toronto Fire Services further reports fire deaths that are preventable versus those that likely are not.

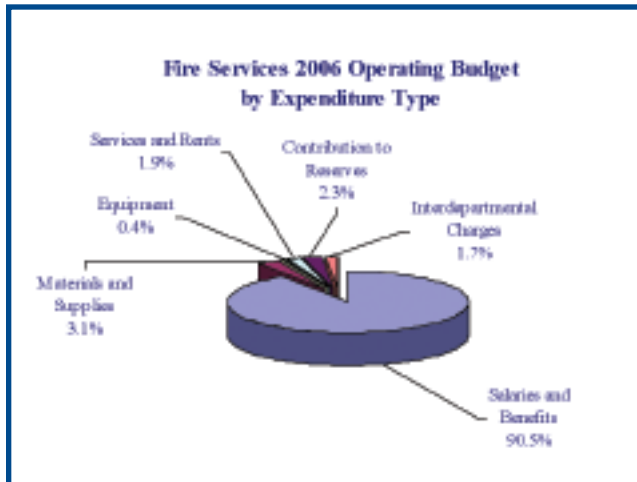
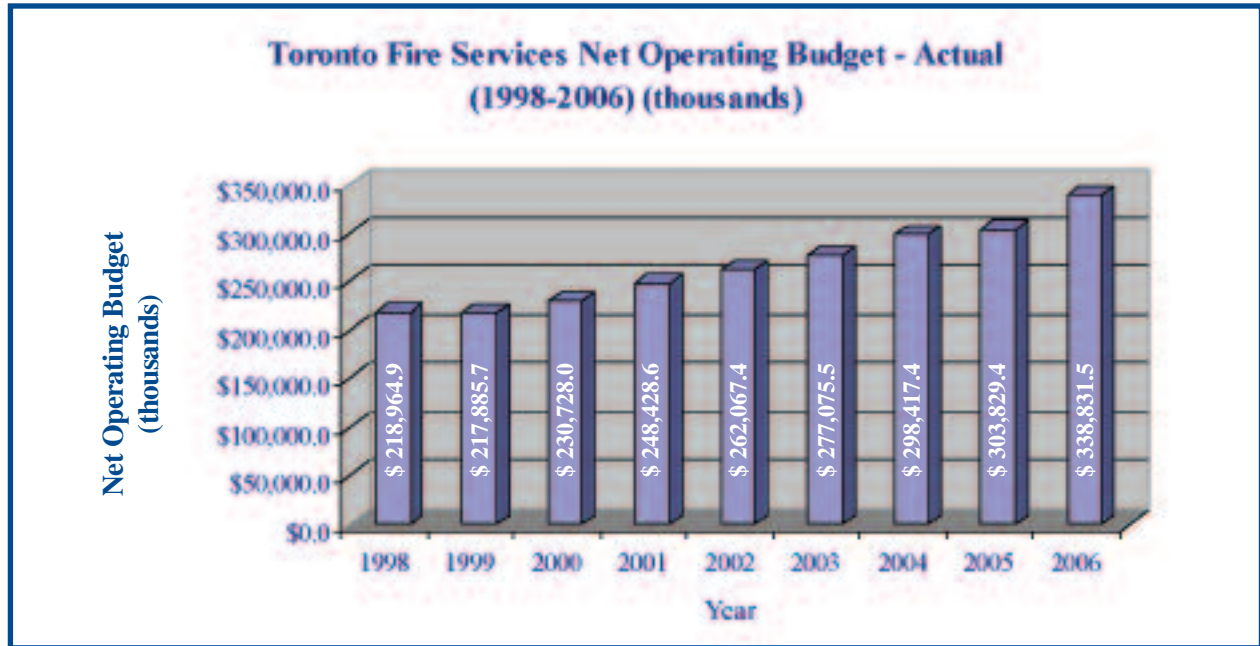


*\*Note:  
The unusual spike in fire fatalities in 2003 is a result of a gas explosion that tragically claimed seven lives.*



# Toronto Fire Services: 2006 Operating Budget

In 2005, Toronto Fire Services net operating budget totaled approximately \$339 million. This represents a 11.5% increase over 2005, as a result of retroactive salary payments for 2005 and 2006.

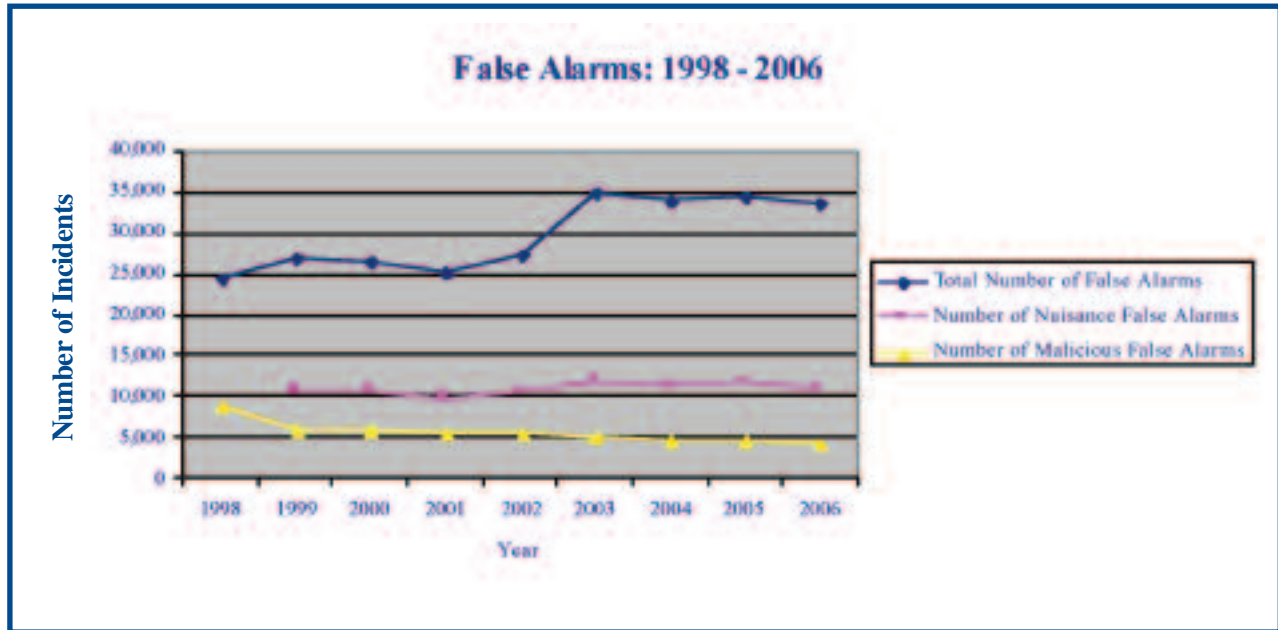


Salaries and Benefits is by far the largest expense for Toronto Fire Services, comprising over 90% of the total operating budget. The largest proportion of overall expenses for the Fire Services is attributed to the Operations Division, which comprises almost 80% of expenses, and includes 2,790 of Fire's 3,143 overall staff.

## False Alarms: 1998-2006

**M**alicious and nuisance false alarms create great risk to tenants of buildings and to emergency responders. Tenants begin to get complacent to the continuous false alarms being sounded and therefore may not respond appropriately to protect themselves.

Because of the high number of these incidents the possibility is always present that responding to false alarms may delay the Fire Services response to a real emergency.



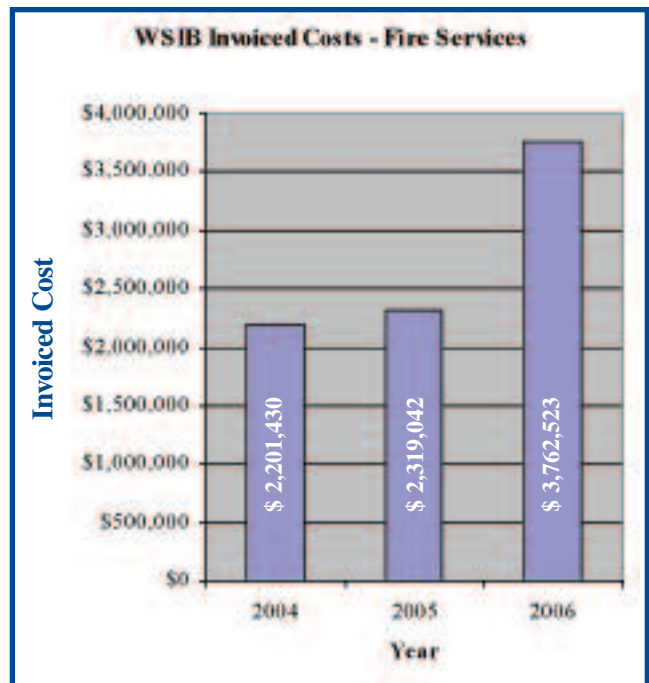
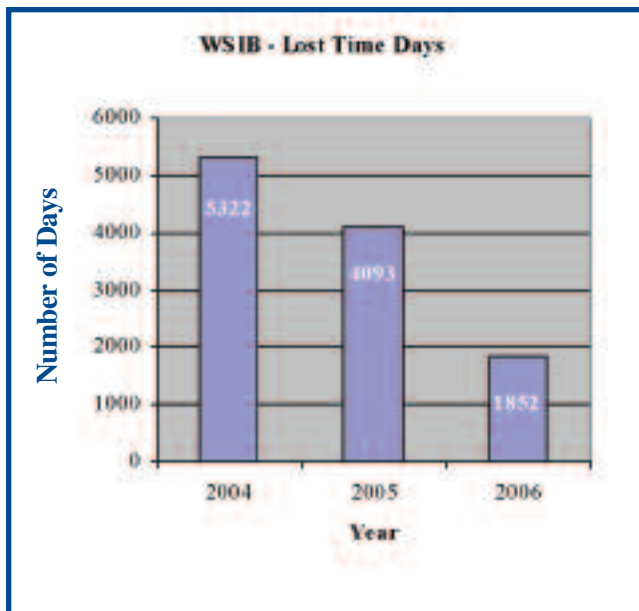
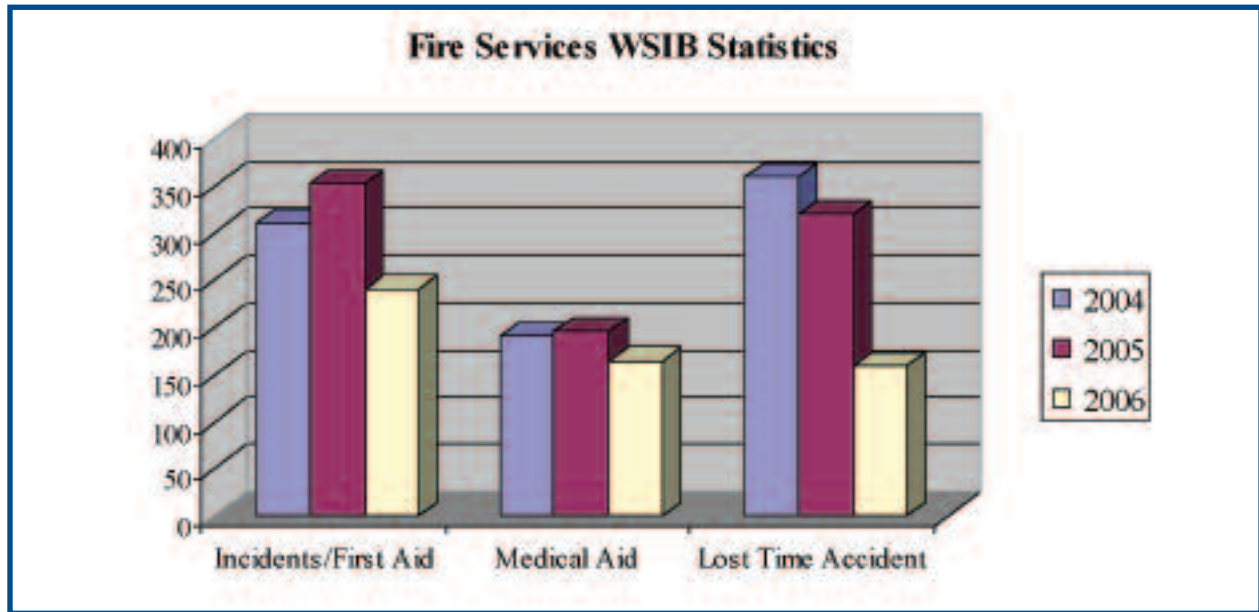
**Properly installed and maintained fire alarm and security systems are important factors in minimizing nuisance and malicious alarms.**

### To reduce fire danger in your home:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms.
- Plan and practice a fire escape plan.
- Keep portable and space heaters at least 1 metre (3 feet) from anything that can burn.
- Smoking is hazardous. Before going to sleep, check under and around sofa cushions and upholstered furniture for smouldering cigarettes.
- Be careful when cooking. Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Don't overload electrical outlets or run extension cords under rugs or carpets.
- Practice the Stop, Drop and Roll movements with your children. This could save their lives if their clothes ever catch on fire.
- Crawl low under smoke.

For further information, visit our website at [http://www.toronto.ca/fire/news/smoke\\_alarm/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/fire/news/smoke_alarm/index.htm)

# Fire Services WSIB Statistics



While the overall number accidents/incidents and lost time days being reported to WSIB are generally trending downward, the invoiced costs to the Fire Services are increasing due to a number of additional job related cancers that are now being recognized. Costs are expected to continue to increase over the next few years as more retroactive settlements are made. It is also expected that these claims will level off or decrease over time as the effect of improvements to personal protective equipment are realized.

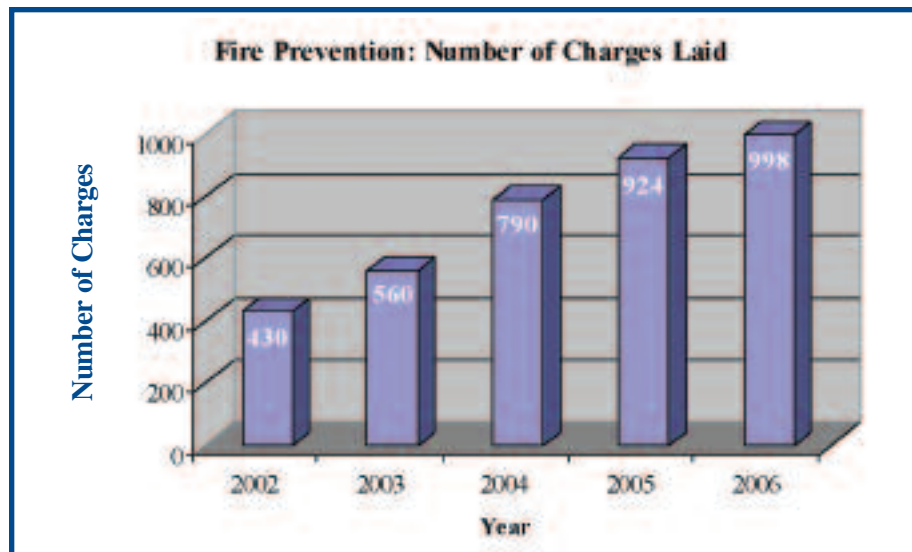
# Fire Prevention Activities

The number of inspections conducted in a given year varies as the time taken to complete a single inspection is affected by the type of property and the complexity involved. In 2006, Fire Prevention Inspectors conducted over 40,000 inspections, up 2.8% from 2005.

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Hours in the Field	71,298	69,083	74,137	75,848
Number of Inspections	40,258	39,168	39,767	39,306
Plans Examined	4,957	5,942	5,120	3,875

## Legal Section

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Files Reviewed	460	315	185	205
Files Initiated	242	161	139	133
Files Completed	163	155	128	115
Number of Charges	998	924	790	560
Fines Levied	\$519,400	\$787,250	\$485,675	\$281,400



## Public Education Activities

	2006	2005	2004	2003
Number of Seminars/Events	879	936	1,244	986
Number of People Reached	54,106	59,276	57,697	49,892
TAPP-C referrals	187	246	156	142

Visit [www.city.toronto.on.ca/fire/prevention/index.htm](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca/fire/prevention/index.htm) for fire safety and prevention tips and information.



## Fire Prevention Week October 8-14, 2006

Toronto Fire Services joined the National Fire Protection Association and fire departments across North America urging the public to focus on cooking safely during Fire Prevention Week, held in 2006 from October 8-14. The 2006 message was “Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat”. Toronto Fire Services helped to spread the word that more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home, and teach families how to keep cooking fires from starting in the first place.

The official launch of Fire Prevention Week took place at the Toronto Fire and EMS Training Centre on Friday, October 6, 2006. Ryan Parker of Radio Station Q107 hosted the event. In addition, AM640 Radiobroadcast “Bromell” also broadcasted live from the Training Centre. There were approximately 150 students in attendance participating in a Risk Watch Appreciation Day, with activities including a Pizza Lunch, a live fire show, various fire apparatus on display and a number of Risk Watch related activities.

During Fire Prevention Week, Toronto Fire Services hosted four Open Houses across the City on three consecutive nights and Saturday afternoon, at Mel Lastman Square, the Woodbine Centre, Albert Campbell Square at the Scarborough Civic Centre, and at the Toronto Fire & EMS Training Centre on Eastern Avenue. Each Open House featured a host of activities such as live fire demonstrations, mini combat challenge event, inflatable fire engine bouncer, air brush face painting, fire and life safety displays, auto extrication demos, sprinkler demos, fire extinguisher demos, fire safety videos, junior fire fighter photos, a BBQ, music and much more!

Toronto Fire Services also had a number of fire and life safety displays and activities in various locations throughout the city, including Yorkdale Shopping Centre, Dufferin Mall, Scarborough Town Centre and Sherway Gardens. In addition to providing fire safety information to the public, the displays featured junior fire fighter photos, the Risk Watch Safety Wheel, Toronto Fire Services vehicles on display, and other children’s activities.



## Significant Incidents

2006 was a significant year because of the large number of multiple alarm fires that occurred. Toronto Fire responded to 292 second alarm fires, 16 third alarms, seven fourth alarms, four fifth alarms, and one sixth alarm (plus), which occurred in a paint store on Queen Street East in October 2006. Highlights of the largest fires are contained in this report.

### Queen Street East – October 20, 2006

Shortly after 2 a.m., firefighters responded to a fire call at 275 Queen Street East, the site of a paint shop that originally opened in 1913. The fire grew to over 6 alarms, with staff responding over a 48 hour period while the OFM conducted their investigation, and the remains of the building were demolished. Nothing was salvaged in this fire, where damage was estimated at approximately \$3 million.



### Cumberland Street – December 13, 2006

This five alarm fire occurred in the Yorkville area of the City, at a trendy and famous restaurant known as Sassafraz, which was a frequent destination for celebrities visiting the City. The fire started in the kitchen when a grease fire ignited on the stove. Damage to the 94 year old building was estimated at approximately \$2.5 million, although a collection of 20 original paintings remained intact.



### Dupont Street – September 21, 2006

Just after midnight on September 21, fire crews responded to a 911 call for a fire in the basement of a semi-detached dwelling. The fire then broke through to the first floor and continued to spread through the structure, requiring a defensive attack.



Photo by John Hanley

# Significant Incidents

## Hyde Avenue – August 24, 2006

This 5 alarm fire occurred at a scrap metal yard in the City's west end, causing a number of homes to be evacuated and other residents being asked to stay indoors and keep their windows closed and air conditioners off as flames and toxic smoke soared hundreds of feet in the air. Loss was reported at approximately \$700,000.



## St. Clair Avenue West – November 6, 2006

This five alarm blaze occurred at the New York Pork meatpacking plant at approximately 6:30 a.m. This fire was made more difficult given that several walls around the first floor meat storage areas were lined with eight inches of cork, covered with Styrofoam, and were completely inaccessible. The fire finally came under control at approximately 11:00 p.m. that night, with crews remaining on scene to extinguish hidden pockets of flame and assist in the investigation until 5:00 p.m. on November 10.



## Royal York Road – July 17, 2006

This fourth alarm fire was the second fire to occur at Christ Church in 2006. The church was undergoing renovations from a fire in April when this blaze broke out. The fire, which is believed to have started in the basement, spread to the chapel on the west side and quickly escalated in size and intensity. No one was injured, and damage was estimated at approximately \$700,000.



Photo by John Hanley



# Significant Incidents

## Finch Avenue West – November 19, 2006

This third alarm fire occurred in a tire shop. Heavy smoke was apparent at the rear of the building and an interior attack was undertaken. The fire spread to the ceiling, roof areas and throughout the service bays until an aggressive attack controlled the flames. Damage was estimated in excess of \$300,000.



## Ardmore Road – February 26, 2006

This third alarm fire began as a single truck response to a car fire, until an updated dispatch identified that the vehicle was inside a garage, requiring a full response as the fire spread from the garage into the house. The fire was brought under control quickly, although damage was estimated at approximately \$750,000.



Photo by John Hanley



Photo by John Hanley



Photo by John Hanley



Photo by John Hanley



Photo by John Hanley



# Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR)

As of 2006, Toronto's Heavy Urban Search & Rescue (HUSAR) Team members now total 108. The team members are professionals from several emergency organizations throughout Toronto including Fire, EMS, Police, Water, and Sunnybrook Hospital trauma doctors. Many of these team members participated in the 1st National Deployment Exercise, held in Calgary and Team's 5-day exercise in Fergus, Ontario. Important to the Team's overall sustainability was the cooperative funding effort that facilitated the completion of the Team's "Home of Operations", a 16,000 sq ft building located at the Special Operations Training Centre. The Team also sent members to Vancouver to participate in the 1st Federal Heavy Urban Search and Rescue Conference, sponsored by Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC). The Team was also successful in renegotiating a five (5) year response Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Province of Ontario, through the Office of the Fire Marshal, and is in the process of completing a similar Federal MOU with PSEPC.



## Calgary Deployment – March 2006

Forty-two Team members were deployed to Calgary to exercise, and co-participate in several simulated disaster situations over a 3-day period. Toronto formed up and operated with the other search and rescue Teams within Canada: Vancouver, Calgary, Manitoba and Halifax. The Teams were tasked to safely and efficiently extricate patients who were trapped under various types of building debris. The high winds and cold conditions further complicated the situations as the rescuers successfully pressed on to complete their missions.

On all accounts the exercise was deemed a great success. This opportunity tested the skills and training of the Teams, while the experience and information exchange between Team members proved to be invaluable.

All Team members appreciated this exercise opportunity that was funded by PSEPC (Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada)



# Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR)

## Fergus Deployment – September 2006

The Toronto Heavy Urban Search & Rescue (HUSAR) Team partnered with the Ontario Provincial Police Provincial Emergency Response Team (OPP PERT) in a deployment exercise in Fergus, Ontario where they were self-sustaining for five days.



This exercise simulated a real-time disaster with emergency personnel on duty 24/7 over the course of the event, which was the first of its size and kind to be held in Ontario. The teams operated from a self-sustaining “Base of Operations” that housed all components, including canine and technical search, heavy breaking and breaching, shoring of structures, and medical capabilities.



# Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN)

The Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Team continued improving multi-agency response capabilities, for incidents which may involve acts of terrorism, by seeking out new technology and maintaining existing training opportunities. With the addition of new atmospheric and weather analyzing equipment, the Team has greatly improved response capabilities. The Team continues to send members from Fire, Police & EMS to the National CBRN Program, which includes a nine (9) day Intermediate Level course (in Ottawa) and a five (5) day Advanced Level live-agent training course (in Suffield, Alberta). The Team was also successful re-negotiating a five (5) year response Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Province of Ontario, through the Office of the Fire Marshal.





# Rescue/Merit Awards:

On an annual basis, Toronto Fire Services presents a number of awards to both staff and civilians to recognize instances where they have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Awards for 2006 were handed out during two ceremonies held Tuesday April 10 and Thursday April 12, 2007.

## Fire Fighter Awards

There are four levels of Toronto Fire Services' Rescue and Merit Awards

- A **Team Citation** is for a rescue involving a group of firefighters.
- A **Letter of Recognition** is for a rescue that did not put a firefighter in danger.
- A **Letter of Merit** is for a rescue where a firefighter faced minimal danger.
- A **Letter of Commendation** is for a rescue where a firefighter faced a significant danger.

What follows are descriptions given when one of each award was presented.

### Division/Team/Station Citation

*“While responding to a fire in a seventh floor apartment, fire fighters conducted a fast attack and primary search combined of an apartment in flames. Already faced with rapidly spreading flames from the bathroom area and heavy smoke resulting in zero visibility, the crew discovered a male occupant trapped behind the fire in the kitchen area. The crew was forced to remove the victim prior to putting water on the fire to avoid possible steam burns. They were able to hold back the fire just long enough to allow for the successful removal of the occupant as well as the household cat.”*



The following members of the TFS were presented with Division/Team/Station Citations:

Dany Martel	Robert Hewson	Peter Konoplicky	Seonaid Lennox	Eric Motton
Bernd Tragert	Daryl Gage	Shelley Hastings	John Jones	Shane Sproule
Jason Bodi	Daniel Kendrick	George Meisner	Falk Gruenwald	Steve Rilett
Pat Howlett	William Cruickshank	Val Asevicus	Peter Bush	Sean Wagar
Eugene Draper	Mike Bartley	Sean O'Connell	Robert Howard	Phil Drozd
Douglas Cook	Todd Tsukamoto	Jessica Norquay	Doug Cotton	Royal Bradley
David Eade	Vernon Hiller	Colin Coull	Shane Killeen	Dwayne Verhey
Scott White	Kim Colby	Kelly McNabb	Stuart Smith	Robert Delo
Mike Gaspar	James Hart	Adrian Whiteman	Shirley Salay	Peter Farren
George Jagodkin	Terry Stewart	Ashleigh Brown	David Fairman	Kanjibhai Patel
David Camley	Derrick Cherun	Natalie Martin	Rick Straub	Frank Ramagnano
Jimmy Elliot	Mark Thornhill	Sandy Zelmer	Murray Macken	Ryan Trudeau
Lee Gagnon	Ray Pade	Margaret Cannon	Joe Panzini	





# Rescue/Merit Awards:

## Letter of Recognition

*“On February 26th, a fire erupted in the basement level garage of a two-storey Tudor style home and quickly spread to upper levels of the house. The fire may not have burned as rapidly as it did if not for the faulty fire hydrant near the house. During the fire, five fire fighters became trapped on the second floor of the two-story house. In the midst of several flashovers, one of the trapped fire fighters, Chris Wilvert, jumped from a second story window. Acting Captain Brian Sheppard, fearful of the injuries Wilvert would inevitably receive from the fall, dove in an attempt to break the firefighter’s second story plunge. Sheppard was knocked unconscious, suffered a concussion, and received facial cuts and a broken cheek bone. These heroic actions significantly reduced the extent of firefighters Wilvert’s injuries.”*



Toronto Fire Services presented letters of recognition to the following staff:

Rob Wonfor  
Chris Dickinson  
Jake Russell  
John Wright

Brian Sheppard  
Mike Salb  
Damien Walsh  
Chris Burrell

Lana Bond  
Eric Motton  
Rose Saunders-Wilson  
Michael Strapko

Al Harris

## Letter of Recognition

*“Toronto Fire Fighter Kent Burtenshaw has an impressive history of firefighting and military service. Sergeant Kent Burtenshaw served in the Canadian Forces Reserve since 1986 with the 32 Combat Engineer Regiment based out of Downsview. Hired by the former City of Etobicoke in September of 1992, Kent delayed his start date to by six months to serve with the Canadian Forces on a United Nations peacekeeping mission in Kuwait. In August of 1998 Kent deployed to Bosnia as part of a NATO led peace enforcement mission. Once again, in July of 2005 Kent deployed to Afghanistan as part of a NATO led mission to stabilize the country and to deny its use to international terrorists. After three months, he headed south to Kandahar, where he served six months assisting in the construction of a new Canadian camp located inside a much larger U.S. camp.”*

This highest award for bravery was proudly presented to the following staff:

Kent Burtenshaw | Doug Rogers

# Rescue/Merit Awards:

## Civilian Awards

A *Civilian Citation* is presented to citizens who have performed an exemplary act and in so doing were able to make a difference.

*“Toronto Fire Services responded to an explosion and fire in mid-town Toronto. When fire crews arrived on scene they encountered a red brick two-storey home that had been completely demolished by a natural gas explosion and then had caught fire. Intense heat and smoke emanated from 30 foot flames that were being fed by the natural gas. The house had been completely flattened, and two adjacent homes were also partially engulfed in flames. Prior to fire crews arriving on scene, neighbours who had heard the explosion rushed across the street and could hear faint cries for help coming up through the rubble. A 30-year old Enbridge Gas employee was working at the home when the explosion occurred. His cries for help were answered by Jim Colbert, Ian MacDonald, and Kegan Winters who dug through the burning debris with their hands to try to rescue the worker. These courageous bystanders successfully dragged the male victim from the inferno through a basement window.”*

Recipients in this category were:

Jamie Dillon  
Patrick Goan  
Vi Tong  
Michelle Balkaran  
Dhanita Hiranman

Demesen Tabor  
Mazrine Meredith  
Lionel S. Juan Jr.  
Candy McCullough  
Steve Buckmaster

Ken Arscott  
Dawn Summers  
Jim Colbert  
Ian McDonald  
Kegan Winters

Vanessa Ensoy  
George Stantis  
Greg McCrum



## Toronto Fire Services Donates Used Fire Fighting Equipment to Cuba

In 2006, as part of an ongoing program of supporting fire departments in other nations, Toronto Fire Services donated used equipment to Cuba. This project, like those in previous years, was accomplished through the partnership of Air Canada Vacations, Air Canada Cargo and the City of Toronto.

The mission took three members of Toronto Fire Services to the Cuban capital of Havana where they were introduced to Colonel Ingeniero Rafoso who is the Chief of the Cuban National Fire Department. Colonel Ingeniero Rafoso provided Chief Stewart and Executive Officers Stoops and Pearce with an overview of the national Fire Department and a tour of several of the stations in Havana.

The delegation was then taken to the station that serves the tourist area of Vareadero. Here Toronto Fire Services handed off 100 sets of bunker gear and one set of auto extrication tools. This equipment was designated as surplus equipment and could not be used in North America due to changing standards. All of the equipment was tested gratuitously by third party corporations to ensure the safety of those using it.



This is the fifth such mission for Toronto Fire Services with our partner Air Canada Vacations, who cover all of the air and land costs of these missions.

## Articulating Aerial Devices

In July 2006 two new telescopic boom articulating aerial platform devices were put into service in South Command, replacing Tower 333 and Tower 331. These vehicles, also known by the brand name “Bronto” were purchased at a price of \$1.2 million each. The last approximately 23 feet of the 114 foot ladder is articulated, meaning that it can bend to put fire fighters in positions they could not safely reach with straight ladders. Booms can extend up and over roofs or in and around TTC and hydro wires where standard platforms cannot be positioned.

These vehicles have proved successful in Toronto, responding to an average of close to 2,000 calls per year. A third Bronto is now being ordered for delivery in late 2007 or early 2008. This vehicle will be located in North Command.



Photos by John Hanley



# Residential Sprinklers

**T**oronto Fire Services employs a philosophy of strict code enforcement, strong public education programs, and proactive fire prevention, including installation of equipment such as automatic sprinklers and early detection systems to protect Toronto residents. The division supports fire sprinklers in residential buildings as a means to prevent deaths, injuries, and property loss by suppressing fires before they grow to seriously endanger life and property.

While Toronto Fire Services has been diligent in its pursuit of fire protection, Toronto continues to suffer preventable deaths and injuries from fire. Deadly fires usually occur late at night in people's homes. The large majority of fire deaths and injuries in Toronto are due to residential fires, rather than fires in commercial or industrial properties.



In 2006, Toronto experienced 11 fatalities due to fire, 10 of which occurred in residential properties. At least three of these fatalities occurred in residences where smoke alarms were present and operating. With respect to dollar loss, almost \$19,000,000 in property loss was associated with residential fires.

Automatic residential fire sprinklers are a logical response to fire risk. Because the large majority of fire deaths and injuries occur in residential fires, fire protection measures which target residential properties have potential to prevent injuries and save lives.

Residential sprinklers complement the early warning capabilities of smoke alarms and other required fire suppression and containment measures. When a fire starts, the heat sensitive element in the sprinkler detects heat and releases water in a fine mist. Each sprinkler head responds independently. The sprinkler suppresses or extinguishes fire, preventing its spread and preventing the production and spread of lethal smoke.

Fatal residential fires most often occur between the hours of midnight and 6:00 am, when victims are asleep. Victims are also disproportionately children and the elderly, who are vulnerable because they are physically less capable of escaping. When a fire occurs, occupants of a house may not be able to respond to smoke alarms and escape in the few minutes before flashover occurs. When provided, fire sprinklers add a layer of protection to prevent the growth of fire to deadly proportions.



# Toronto Fire Services Risk Watch Program

**T**oronto Fire Services is currently the largest provider of injury prevention education to children in North America. This has been accomplished through the adoption of the Risk Watch Program. Risk Watch is a comprehensive curriculum given to classroom teachers for their use in their classroom. It consists of eight chapters that deal with some of the most common areas of response for the fire services, including fire and burn prevention, motor vehicle safety, bike and pedestrian safety, and water safety, to name a few. The program is supported by TFS public education and operations staff.

The Risk Watch curriculum focuses on the reduction of preventable injuries to children from kindergarten through grade eight. Given the diversity of the City of Toronto it is difficult to effectively communicate with parents. However, we have learned through previous programs that sending messages home with the children in our communities gives us the opportunity to communicate with the community as a whole, as the children act as our ambassadors and translators.

Childhood injury is probably the most under-recognized major public health problem facing the nation today. It continues to be the greatest cause of mortality, morbidity and disability for children and youth in Canada. For Canadians aged 1 to 24 injury accounts for 63% of all deaths. In the developed world, injuries cause more than four times more childhood deaths than any other disease. Risk Watch targets the leading causes of these injuries, and in conjunction with a number of other programs has led to a decrease in childhood injuries since the 1970's.

The overall decrease does not, however, address the fact that children of immigrant families in any country are suffering the highest number of injuries and in fact these cases are not declining. Given that Toronto has the largest percentage of immigrants in Canada, Toronto Fire has embraced this program and are actively fundraising to purchase curriculum for every classroom in the city. To date we have received funding from Cadillac Fairview, Enbridge Gas and a number of other organizations.



Special thanks to John Hanley for the use of his photographs  
See: [www.TorontoFirePics.com](http://www.TorontoFirePics.com)

For additional copies of this report, call Debbie Higgins, Executive Officer,  
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 Fire Prevention and Public Education: 416-338-9150

**East Command**

Fire Operations: 416-338-9058  
 Fire Prevention and Public Education: 416-338-9250

**South Command**

Fire Operations: 416-338-9056  
 Fire Prevention and Public Education: 416-338-9350

**West Command**

Fire Operations: 416-338-9059  
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