

WEST PERTH FIRE DEPARTMENT



**2023 YEAR
IN REVIEW**



INTRODUCTION

Another year of challenge, change, resiliency, and adaptability. This seems to be the common theme every year, as we grow together in order to provide top caliber fire services to our residents.

We were very excited, once again, to take a trip down memory lane to bring you the year in review report that provides a pictorial journey of all the ways that our Fire Department provides exceptional service to the West Perth community. This year brought many new adventures as we began new training initiatives, purchased a new truck and continued building on our education, prevention and emergency response programs.

As always, as you go through our year in review we wholeheartedly hope you enjoy and appreciate the community connection, leadership, and commitment of our team members to enhancing our communities' wellbeing. We all continue to be proud members of the West Perth Fire Department.

Sincerely,

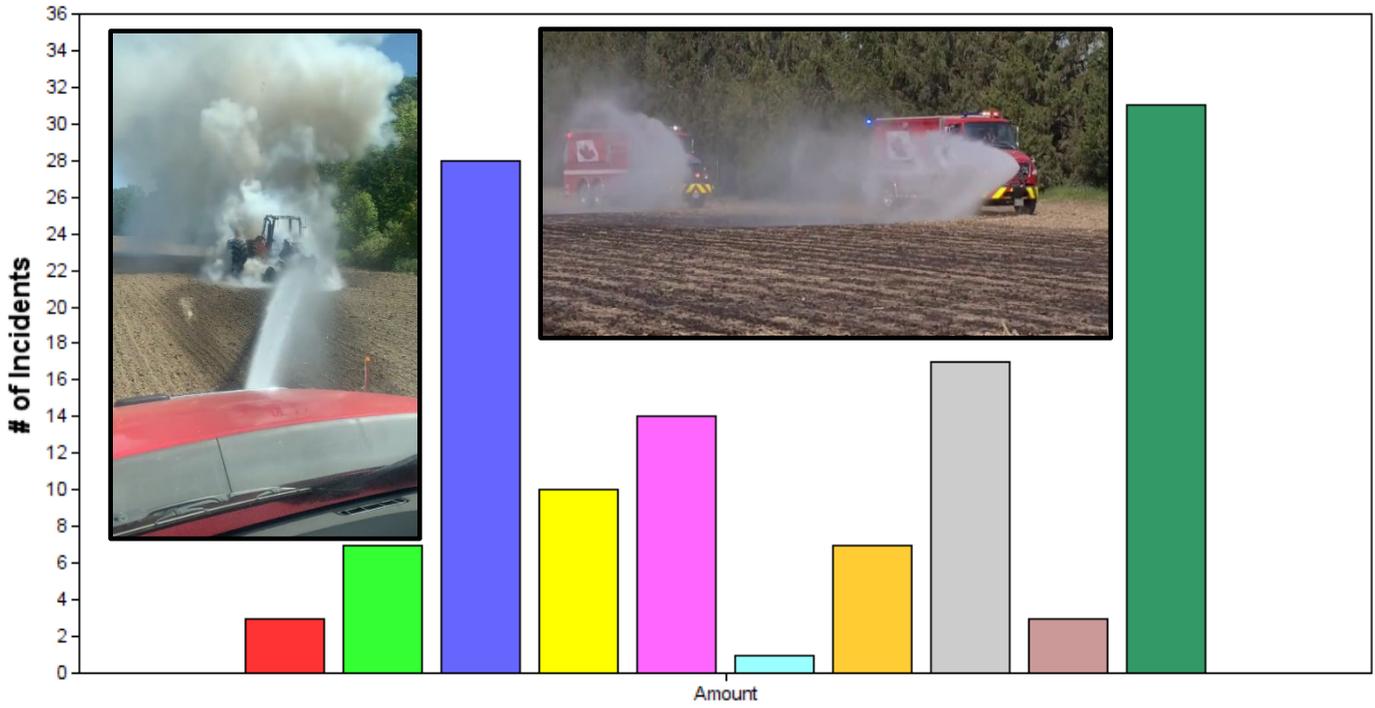
THE WPPFD TEAM

Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out. Robert Collier



2023 INCIDENT RESPONSE DATA SNAPSHOT

Totals by Type (grouped)
From Jan 1 23 to Dec 31 23



- BURNING (CONTROLLED) - 3
- CO FALSE CALLS - 7
- FALSE FIRE CALLS - 28
- MEDICAL/RESUSCITATOR CALL - 10
- OTHER RESPONSE - 14
- OVERPRESSURE RUPTURE/EXPLOSION (NO FIRE) - 1
- PRE FIRE CONDITIONS/NO FIRE - 7
- PROPERTY FIRES/EXPLOSIONS - 17
- PUBLIC HAZARD - 3
- RESCUE - 31



Total Number of Alarms	121
Total number of alarm hours	1961
Average number of firefighters responding to an alarm	14
Average alarm length	1 hr. 18 min.
Average time from dispatch receiving the 911 call to our arriving on scene	10 min.
Average time from dispatch receiving the 911 call to our arriving on scene for a fire	11 min.
Total dollar loss	1.5 million
Total value saved	9 million
Total Staff Hours of Training	1406 hours

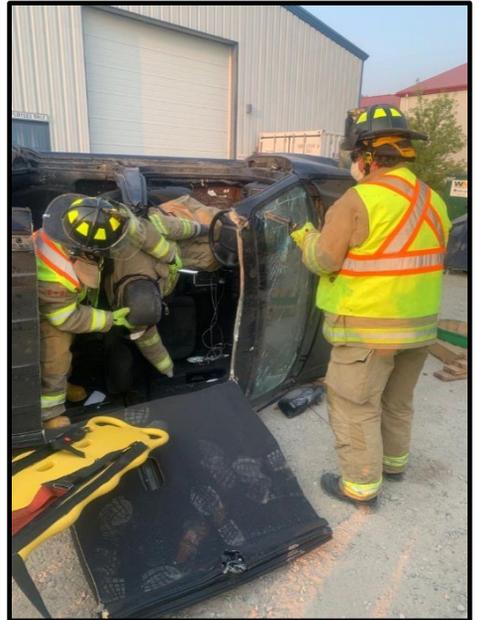
TRAINING

This year was an exciting year for the West Perth Fire Department when it comes to training. With the change in Ontario's regulations approaching in 2026 and with the closing of the Ontario Fire College, we had to look at alternative means of training our firefighters to meet NFPA standards.

In partnership with the PEFD we participated in the first ever in-house NFPA 1001 Firefighter I & II recruit program. PEFD proudly brought on one of their previous Sebringville firefighters, Mike Lukachko, to fill the role of training officer. His previous experience with their department, coupled with 20 years of expertise and knowledge in the fire service, as well as his current role training students at the college level, made him a clear choice. The program is on-going and will see all recruits successful in their certifications by fall 2024. With the many skills needed to perform our jobs safely and effectively, well trained firefighters are our greatest resource.

We also had several members attend training courses through external regional training centers and of course continued our bi-weekly training sessions. If there is one thing we all have in common it is the drive to learn and grow in order to provide the best emergency service possible for our residents.





COMMUNITY

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. *Coretta Scott King*

Not only do our West Perth firefighters answer the call at any time of day to assist those who are experiencing an emergency, but they also step up to help those in our communities who are in need. They make our Municipality a better place to live by volunteering their time to host and help out at community events, like a fun rivalry hockey game, county water games or the demolition derby. They also raise money for many local organizations and charities, including Muscular Dystrophy through their annual boot toll. Their contributions to our residents that go above and beyond answering the pager are valued and commended.





2023 YEAR IN REVIEW- West Perth Fire Department

PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY

They say if you don't take the picture, it didn't happen. I guess it's a good thing then that there were just way too many photos to include of all our public education efforts. From school visits, car seat clinics and fire station tours to radio campaigns, fire prevention week open houses, community partnerships and our social media presence, we were able to continue providing excellent public education services to our residents.

The theme for Fire Prevention Week this year was "Cooking safety starts with you. Pay attention to fire prevention." With cooking being one of the leading causes of home fires it was important to spread the message of being fire safe in the kitchen. We stressed the importance of standing by your pan, setting timers, keeping your stovetop clear of combustibles and turning off the stove when you leave the room. We hit our message home with our residents when we did a stove top demonstration at our annual open house. We demonstrated a full grease fire and what happens when you put water on it instead of covering it with a fitted lid. We also had a fun BINGO game for the kiddos to encourage them to interact with the different stations set up, including trying on bunker gear, spraying a fire house, watching an extrication demo, looking through a thermal imaging camera, testing a smoke alarm and of course checking out our awesome fire trucks! The winner was able to choose a \$100 local gift card of their choice. Our winner Taylor donated her \$100 to the local food bank! ♥♥♥



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2023

Visit us at the Fire Station for a fun evening of activities, live fire and car extrication demos, refreshments & fire safety!!!

OPEN HOUSE

West Perth, Mitchell
Tues. Oct. 10th, 6pm - 8pm

Cooking safety starts with YOU.

Pay attention to fire prevention.

NFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

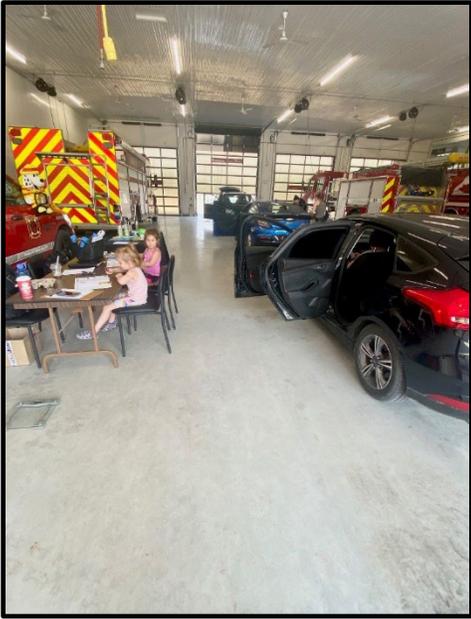
fpw.org



Join in the fun by playing a round of BINGO for your chance to WIN a \$100 Local Gift Card of your choice!

Visit each activity during the open house to get your card stamped and drop it in the ballot box before you leave!







FIRE STATION BINGO



NAME: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

1 	2 	3 
4 	5 FREE SPACE	6 
7 	8 	9 

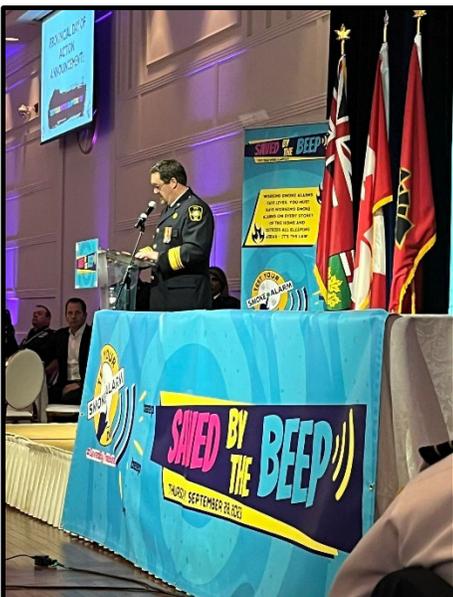


1. Test a smoke alarm.
2. Talk to a firefighter about fire safety.
3. Try the thermal imaging camera.
4. Watch the live fire and/or extrication demo.
5. FREE SPACE
6. Try on or ask about our bunker gear.
7. Spray a fire hose.
8. Take a selfie with sparky.
9. Visit a fire truck & learn about the equipment.



TEST YOUR SMOKE ALARM DAY!

The first ever Test Your Smoke Alarm Day presented by the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office was held on September 28th, 2023! This will now be an annual event when we focus on the importance of testing our smoke alarms. We spread the word in our communities through radio interviews, social media, and public events and kept the momentum going during Fire Prevention Week! Our Public Educator Jess attended the Operation Safer conference where members of Ontario's Fire Service came together for two days to collaborate on ways we can effectively reach our residents with this important fire safety message.

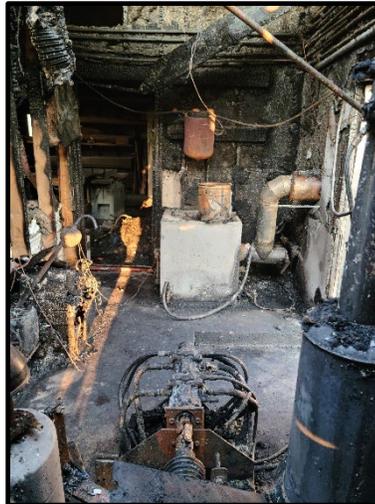


FIRE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION & INSPECTION

Through a community minded approach with a focus on communication we have been able to gain fire code compliance through Fire Marshals Orders and ongoing contact with property owners. We have found several properties this year that were not being used as per their design. In close partnership with the building department we have worked towards reducing risk and correcting the non-permitted usage. All schools, daycares and vulnerable occupancies were inspected, and drilled, as required through the Ontario Fire Marshal's directions.

All complaints were addressed and any fire code compliance issues were remedied either immediately or through the OFM order process. We concentrated on safe agricultural burning practices to limit emergent response and supported our efforts by follow up visits ensuring safe and clean burning practices. If we see black smoke, we find it, educate, extinguish, and enforce the bylaw.

We continue to spend a great deal of time just stopping and talking to people. This includes inspecting every building demolished for a controlled burn to proactively ensure they are meeting with the by law. It also includes stopping in when time allows to open air burns to verify permits and make contact with the property owners. This gives us a chance to answer other questions and hear what is going on in the community.



JIM TUBB RETIREMENT

Achievement is impossible without dedication. Unknown

Over four decades of bravery, courage, compassion and loyalty to both his community and fellow firefighters. Jim Tubb retired as Station Chief for the West Perth Fire Department in 2023 after 42 years of exemplary service. It is hard to convey in words the dedication that Jim had to our community over all those years. From answering the call at any time of the day, leaving family functions and kid's sports games to witnessing tragedy and loss to stepping up through the ranks and leading an incredible team of firefighters. It is a very rare individual who exemplifies this devotion to a purpose that serves so many others. Jim, we thank you for your service and wish you the very best in your retirement, but we have a sneaky feeling that we might still see you around the station! We would also like to thank Jim's wife Faye and their children for sharing Jim with us over all those years. It truly takes a supportive family to be a part of the fire service.



SUPPORT 99

2023 Dodge Ram 1500

Support 99 – equipped to respond to alarms, transport personnel, as well as other support functions for the WPFDF.

- Whelen Emergency lighting
- Whelen Siren and controller
- Golight GXL Scene Lighting
- Luverne Grip Steps

Patriotic flag mural on the fiberglass cap with fully illuminated interior featuring a pull out tool tray.

S99 carries a variety of equipment including medical response supplies.



WELCOME SHAY HERRETT – FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER

We had a sad goodbye as we wished James Marshall well in his new career adventure as Fire Chief for Lambton Shores. This left some big shoes to fill ... literally and figuratively! We started our search and received an overwhelming number of applications. After meeting Shay we knew we had someone who would provide excellent fire prevention services to our Municipality. Shay started with us on December 11th and began her new position with a vulnerable occupancy inspection and evacuation drill. Shay graduated at the top of her class in the Fire Inspection and Fire Safety Education advanced diploma program at Fanshawe College. She holds many NFPA certifications including Fire Inspector Level I & II, Fire and Life Safety Educator I & II, and Hazardous Materials Awareness. She has also obtained many other certifications including TAPP-C Assessment training, IMS 100 and IMS 200, display fireworks safety and several from the International Association of Arson Investigators. Thanks for joining our exceptional team, Shay!



Prepared By: Jess Jorritsma
Reviewed By Fire Chief: Bill Hunter

THANK YOU!
WORKING SMOKE / CO
ALARMS SAVE LIVES

