



2024
Essex Fire and Rescue Services
ANNUAL REPORT
Town of Essex



Report Overview

The Essex Fire and Rescue Services is tasked with providing fire suppression, emergency response, fire prevention, and public education programs in alignment with the Fire Protection and Prevention Act. This report offers an overview of the activities undertaken by the Department's Suppression, Emergency Response, and Fire Prevention Division in 2024.

Message from the Fire Service Leaders

Madame Mayor S. Bondy and Members of Council:

This report provides a summary of Essex Fire and Rescue Services (EFRS) activities for the year ending December 31, 2024.

A total of 348 incidents were reported to the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office in 2024, marking a 12% decrease from 2023.

In 2024, there were 27 fire responses, comprising approximately 8% of the Department's total calls. The estimated fire-related monetary loss for the year was \$833,100.00.

The estimated fire-related financial save for the year was \$1,560,000.00.

2024 Key Highlights

- Delivery of a new aerial platform apparatus at Station #2
- Partnership with Southwest Fire Academy to provide NFPA training to EFRS recruit firefighters and neighbouring fire departments.
- Continued upgrading of the department's personal protective gear program.
- Implemented a voluntary firefighter wellness and screening program.
- Ongoing pager replacement program.
- Nozzle, hose, and appliance replacement.
- Initiated recommendations from the Master Fire Plan.
- Upgrading of the Town's Emergency Response Plan; and
- Involvement in provincial associations, OAFCA, OMFPOA.

In summary, Essex Fire Rescue Services personnel dedicated themselves throughout 2024 to delivering exceptional service to the residents, businesses, and visitors of the Town of Essex. In the coming year, the department will continue to prioritize fire prevention efforts and expand training initiatives to strengthen community safety and resilience. Staff will diligently work to reduce the risk of fire by implementing proactive measures, educating the public, and enhancing their emergency response skills.

Thank you for your continued support to Essex Fire & Rescue.

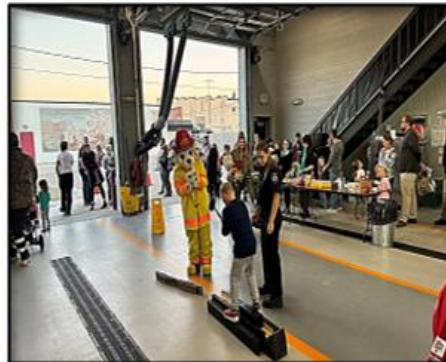




Essex Fire & Rescue Services Primary Responsibilities



- Protecting the property, the safety and the well-being of the citizens of Essex.
- Provide an all-hazards emergency response and rescue service.
- Be well-planned, well-equipped and well-trained Fire Department.



- Enhance fire safety through Fire Code inspections and enforcement.
- Provide community fire safety through public education.
- Develop proactive risk mitigation awareness through Public Education and Prevention.



- Fulfilling the legislative responsibilities governing the fire department as required under the Ontario Fire Protection and Prevention Act.

EFRS Vision, Principles and Values

The vision of Essex Fire and Rescue Services is to operate as a highly prepared, expertly trained, and fully equipped emergency response agency, prioritizing the safety, health, and well-being of everyone involved in emergency situations. Our commitment extends to ensuring the highest standards of firefighter safety and public protection, continually enhancing our strategies to minimize risks and promoting the health of our team members.

The mandate of Essex Fire and Rescue Services is to deliver comprehensive fire protection and emergency response services, along with public fire and life safety education, and proactive fire prevention initiatives. Our goal is to safeguard the lives, properties, and well-being of the citizens, businesses, and visitors of the Town of Essex, fostering a safer and more resilient community through dedication, prevention, and response excellence.

Essex Fire and Rescue Services values the public's trust and the privilege of serving our community, recognizing it as the foundation of our purpose. We are committed to fostering a work environment that prioritizes health, wellness, and respect, ensuring that every individual is valued and treated with dignity in a setting free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. Our leadership is dedicated to upholding and advancing the Department's mission, with a focus on creating a workforce that reflects the diversity of the community we serve. We strive for excellence through rigorous training and professional development, cultivating a highly skilled team ready to respond effectively to any emergency. Together, through collaboration and teamwork, we achieve our mission, serving with integrity and unity.



Fire Stations and Apparatus Deployment

Fire Station #1 – 55 Alice Street North, Essex

- Engine 1 – 2018 Spartan
- Engine 1A – 2006 E-One International
- Squad 1 – 2017 Dodge 2500



Fire Station #2 – 2575 North Malden Road, Essex

- Engine 2 – 2021 Pierce Sabre
- Rescue 2 – 2014 Dependable Mini-Pumper
- Truck 2 – 2023 Rosenbauer 101' Platform



Fire Station #3 – 25 Centre Street, East, Harrow

- Engin 3 – 2006 American Lafrance
- Rescue 3 – 2020 Maxi Metal – F550 Mini-Pumper
- Support 3 – 2023 Super Duty XL 250
- Tanker 3 – 2000 GMC
- Support Trailer – 2020 – 12' enclosed Trailer (Public Education & Water Rescue)



Administration – 55 Alice Street North & Command Vehicles

- Chief 1 – 2021 Ford Interceptor
- Chief 2 – 2022 Ford Interceptor
- Chief 3 – 2016 Dodge Ram 1600



Distribution of Personnel



Administration

Fire Chief – Jason Pillon
Deputy Fire Chief – Jacey Brockman
Assistant Deputy Chief – Jim Meloche
Administrative Assistant – Glenda Beneteau
Support Firefighter – Kevin Fram

Station #1

District Chief – Rick Bonneau
Captain – Mark Sweeney
Captain – Michael Rounding
Firefighter – Jason Blais
Firefighter – Derek Deacon
Firefighter – Kevin Sinn
Firefighter – Adam Mitchell
Firefighter – Austin Power-Wagenaar
Firefighter – Trevor Brockman
Firefighter – Paige Jimmerfield
Firefighter – Jordan Fox

Captain – Sarah Newton
Captain – Doug McCormick
Firefighter – Gary Armstrong
Firefighter – Aaron Langlois
Firefighter – Trevor Menard
Firefighter – Rob Archambault
Firefighter – Ken Broughton
Firefighter – Kevin Wood
Firefighter – Brandon Chartier
Firefighter – Andrew Westwood

Station #2

District Chief – Ed Lepain
Captain – Joe Meloche
Captain – Justin Pulleyblank
Firefighter – Dennis Lang
Firefighter – Kyle Vermast
Firefighter – Francis Bosse
Firefighter – Deb Dufour
Firefighter – Trevor Denny
Firefighter – Cassandra Dame
Firefighter – Shawn Spina
Firefighter – Wyatt Hanson

Captain – Michael Bosse
Captain – Jeff Straticuk
Firefighter – Kyle Renaud
Firefighter – Cole Freeman
Firefighter – Angela Lang
Firefighter – Brian King
Firefighter – Logan Malenfant
Firefighter – Walter Howson
Firefighter – Chris Meloche

Station #3

District Chief – Elwood Defour
Captain – Ric Keller
Captain – Gerry Vigneux
Firefighter – DJ Lacey
Firefighter – Josh Cookson
Firefighter – Rodney Klie
Firefighter – Tim Branch
Firefighter – Jeff Barker
Firefighter – Kyle Mclean
Firefighter – Kerry Miller
Firefighter – Shayne Dumouchelle

Captain – Mike Ryan
Captain – Henry Blumenreder
Firefighter – Kevin Mutterback
Firefighter – Alex Dunmore
Firefighter – Robert Welzel
Firefighter – Tom Abbott
Firefighter – Jason Hernandez
Firefighter – Shawn Holliday
Firefighter – Milan Tot
Firefighter – Brayden Uttley

Emergency Response Statistics

The fire department is equipped to handle a wide range of emergency situations, responding to incidents that extend beyond just fires. These include fire-related emergencies like active fires and explosions, outdoor burns (both controlled and accidental), and smoke or carbon monoxide activations. The department also addresses false fire alarms, medical emergencies requiring resuscitator intervention, and over-pressures or ruptures that may pose immediate risks. Additionally, firefighters respond to pre-fire conditions, public hazards, motor vehicle collisions, and rescue calls, ensuring comprehensive support for various critical incidents. Each type of response plays a vital role in safeguarding the community and maintaining public safety.

Essex Fire & Rescue Services Typical Responses

The following are examples of typical responses:

Fire and Explosions

Instance of destructive and uncontrolled burning involving structures, vehicles, and open area fires, including explosion of combustible solids, liquids or gasses which may or may not have resulted in a dollar loss or an explosion or rupture because of pressure with no presence of fire.

Outdoor, No Loss Fires

Uncontrolled fires, outdoors, that did not result in a loss, injury or fatality and is not suspected to be caused by arson, vandalism or children playing.

Burning (controlled)

Complaint call related to outdoor controlled burning, authorized or unauthorized. Fire Department did not take suppression action.

CO (carbon monoxide) False Call

A call where it is determined that the detection equipment malfunctioned or there was a perceived emergency - no CO detected.

False Fire Call

Alarm activation or fire call that when investigated, is determined to be a result of equipment failure, malicious/prank, perceived emergency, or accidental activation of alarm by a person.

Medical/Resuscitator Calls

Includes a response to a patient(s) suffering from asphyxia, respiratory condition, convulsions, epileptic, diabetic seizure, electric shock, traumatic shock, heart attack, stroke, drug related incidents, cuts, abrasions, fractures, burns, person fainted, nausea and pre-hospital care such as administering oxygen, CPR, defibrillation or basic first aid.

Other Response

Assistance to other Fire Departments, calls cancelled on route, non-fire incidents where an illegal grow operation or drug operation was discovered.

Overpressure Rupture/Explosion (no fire)

Includes a response for ruptures to steam boilers; hot water tanks or other pressure vessels due to internal pressure, or any munition explosions (bombs, dynamite, and similar explosives).

Pre-Fire Conditions

Incidents with no fire that involve heat or potential pre-fire conditions e.g., pot on stove, cooking - smoke or steam, lightning, fireworks.

Public Hazard Call

Includes a response for spills and/or leaks of a hazardous product such as natural gas; propane, refrigerant, miscellaneous/unknown, gasoline or fuel, toxic chemical, radio-active material, power lines down or arcing, bomb threat, explosive removal standby, CO (carbon monoxide) or other public hazards.

Rescue Call

A call for a person in danger due to their proximity to the occurrence and who is unable to self-evacuate and is assisted by Fire Department personnel e.g., vehicle accident, building collapse, commercial/industrial accident, home/residential accident, persons trapped in an elevator, water rescue or water/ice rescue.

Water Rescue

In 2024, the EFRS Ice/Water Rescue team continued their training and made progress toward achieving the mandatory certification, which must be obtained before 2028. The team responded to one incident involving a motor vehicle collision, where a victim was trapped in an overturned vehicle in a water-filled ditch. Fortunately, a nearby resident, along with the OPP, was able to rescue the sole occupant before the team arrived.



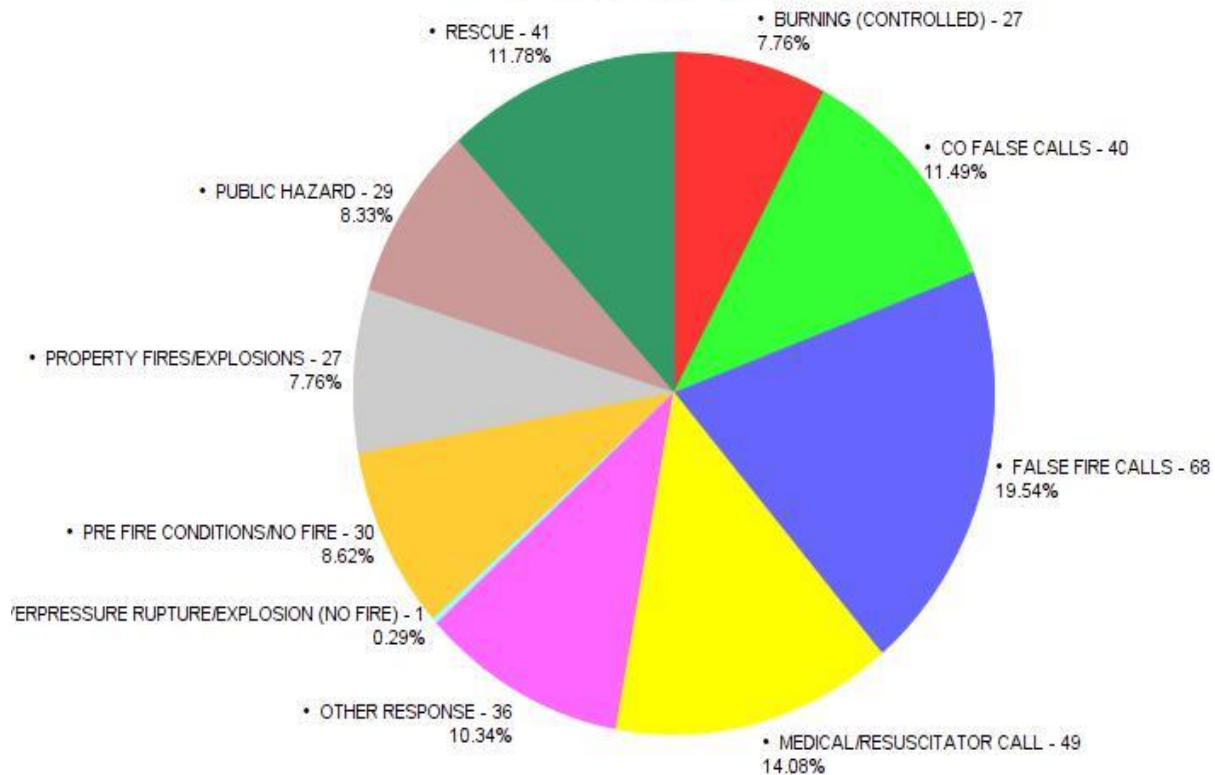
2024 Incident Photos



2024 Emergency Responses

Incident Type	Number of Responses
Property Fires/Explosions	27
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion - No Fire	1
Pre-Fire Conditions	30
Burning - Controlled	27
False Fire Calls	68
C/O False Alarms	40
Public Hazards	29
Rescues (Motor Vehicle Accidents)	41
Medical Responses	49
Other Responses	36
Total	348

Totals by Type (grouped)



A total of 348 incidents were reported to the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office in 2024, marking a 12% decrease from 2023. The estimated fire-related financial save for the year was \$1,560,000.00.

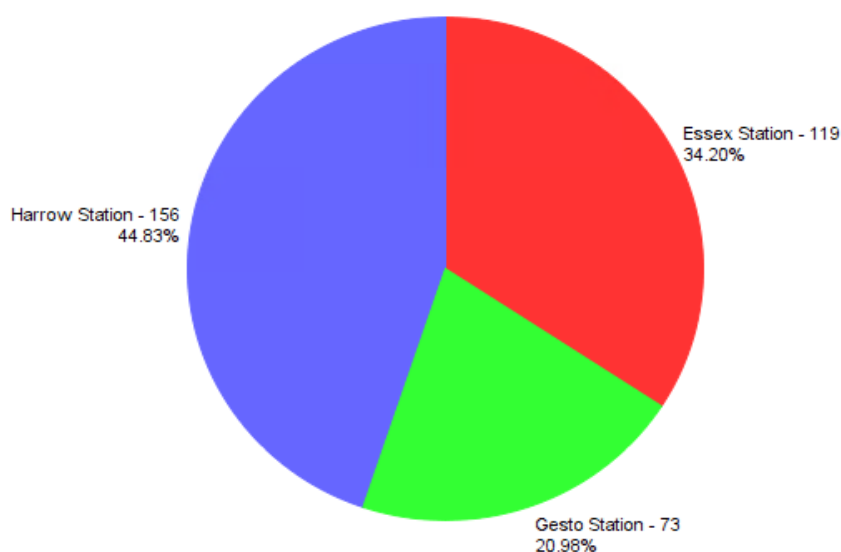
Emergency Response Comparison 2022-2024

Incident Type	2022	2023	2024
Property Fires/Explosions	38	34	27
Overpressure Rupture/Explosion - No Fire	0	1	1
Pre-Fire Conditions	28	35	30
Burning - Controlled	20	27	27
False Fire Calls	79	92	68
C/O False Alarms	15	23	40
Public Hazards	34	62	29
Rescues (Motor Vehicle Accidents)	39	39	41
Medical Responses	42	55	49
Other Responses	33	26	36
Total	328	394	348

Responses By Station

Out of the 348 responses in 2024, 17 were two-station responses. These occurred either when one station called another for assistance or during responses to structure fires or responses to vulnerable occupancies, where a two-station response is automatically triggered to ensure sufficient staff are onsite to manage the incident.

Totals by Station



Station 1 - Essex	119
Station 2 - Gesto	73
Station 3 - Harrow	156

A major factor in the 12% decrease in responses from 2023 to 2024 was primarily due to the three significant storm events that occurred in 2023. These storms contributed to a higher volume of responses in 2023, whereas in 2024, the frequency of storm-related incidents decreased, leading to a reduction in overall responses. This shift in storm activity was a key reason for the overall decrease in responses from 2023 to 2024, following an increase in 2023 compared to 2022.

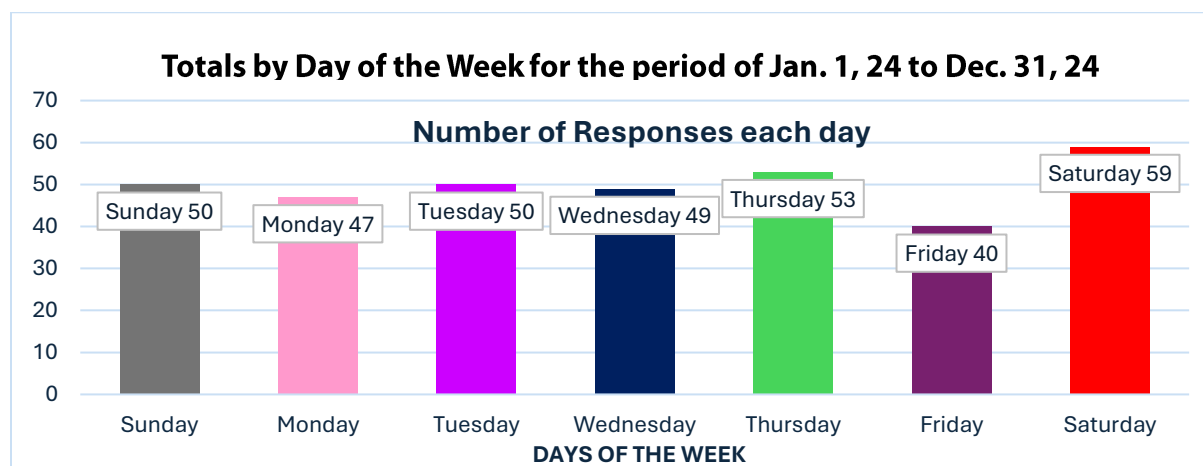
False alarms were the most frequent response type in 2024, totaling 68 responses, which represents 19.54% of all calls. We were able to recover some of the costs for these false alarms under the Town of Essex By-law 2040, Miscellaneous Fees and Charges. Specifically, we recovered costs for responses on Provincial Highway 3, where we handled 3 incidents, resulting in a cost recovery of \$2,962.90. Additionally, we recovered \$2,799.30 for false alarms occurring more than three times within a calendar year at two separate locations.

Dollar Loss/Save Comparison 2022-2024

Year	Dollar Loss	Dollar Save
2022	\$2,700,600.00	\$4,559,000.00
2023	\$1,751,500.00	\$425,000.00
2024	\$833,100.00	\$1,560,000.00

The estimated financial savings from fire-related incidents for the year totaled \$1,560,000, while the estimated losses were \$833,100. These figures reflect the estimated losses and savings from fires impacting structures, vehicles, and open areas. Factors such as occupancy types and building sizes play a role in determining the losses and savings. Additionally, these figures account for damages and savings to buildings and vehicles exposed to the fire, even if the fire did not originate on that property such as damage to neighboring properties affected by the fire.

Responses By Days of the Week



Calls throughout the week in 2024 remained consistent, with Saturday being the busiest day and Friday having the fewest responses.

Fire Training and Development

Essex Fire and Rescue is committed to providing comprehensive training to its staff, equipping them to handle the challenges of today's fires and those of the future. Training remains the cornerstone of preparing Essex firefighters to serve and protect the community with skill and confidence. When complemented by modern apparatus and essential equipment, safe, effective, and realistic training enables our team to fulfill the mission of safeguarding lives and property.

Our department's goal is to offer a diverse range of training evolutions, introducing new skills while reinforcing and re-evaluating previously taught subjects. This approach ensures our firefighters stay proficient, adaptable, and ready for the evolving demands of the fire service.

In 2024, Essex Fire dedicated significant effort to rigorous training and offered a variety of specialized courses designed to enhance firefighters' skills and preparedness. The courses provided are detailed below,

- NFPA 1041 – Fire Instructor Level I
- Officer Development – Leadership and Conflict Resolution
- Standard First Aid and CPR Re-Certification
- Advanced Forcible Entry
- Equine Guelph Large Animal Rescue Training
- Enbridge – Natural Gas Awareness and Safety for First Responders
- CMHA – Mental Wellness Training for First Responders
- NFPA Firefighter 1001 Level I & II – Firefighter Recruits
- NFPA Hazmat 1072 Awareness & Operations – Firefighter Recruits



One of the new advanced courses offered to fire services this year was the Large Animal Rescue course. This training equipped firefighters and first responders with the knowledge and skills needed to handle vehicular accidents involving tractor-trailers transporting livestock. Such incidents are unique and often put firefighters in unfamiliar situations, requiring them to manage live or injured animals in a way that many may not have encountered before. This training will be valuable to our staff, and more advanced animal rescue training is forecasted to be offered in the future.



NFPA Fire Training

Essex Fire & Rescue trains to the standards outlined in the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) and the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, because they provide a clear framework for firefighter certification and operational readiness. With the introduction of the Firefighter Certification regulation on April 14, 2022, and its implementation on July 1, 2022, mandatory minimum certification standards have been established. These standards are designed to align firefighter training with the specific fire protection services performed, ensuring consistency and competence across the field.

By adhering to these requirements, firefighters can effectively meet the expectations set by municipal councils or territories without municipal organization. This approach enhances both firefighter and public safety by ensuring personnel are adequately prepared for the challenges they may face.

By training to NFPA standards and following the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, we uphold the highest levels of professionalism, safety, and operational excellence in firefighting services.

The chart below illustrates the NFPA training standards and the number of Essex firefighters who have been certified to meet each standard.

National Fire Protection Association Certification	Number of Firefighters Grandfathered or Certified
NFPA 1001/1072 – Firefighter Levels I, II & Hazmat	63
NFPA 1002 - Driver Operator	52
NFPA 1041 – Fire Instructor Level I	40
NFPA 1041 – Fire Instructor Level II	1
NFPA 1021 – Fire Officer Level I	29
NFPA 1021 – Fire Officer Level II	5
NFPA 1021 – Fire Officer Level III	1
NFPA 1035 – Life Safety Educator Level I	6
NFPA 1035 – Life Safety Educator Level II	2
NFPA 1035 – Public Information Officer	2
NFPA 1521 – Incident Safety Officer	4
NFPA 1033 – Fire Investigator	2
NFPA 1031 – Fire Inspector Level I	4
NFPA 1006 – Ice Water Rescue	10 – Trained & Awaiting Certification

Grandfathered - means firefighters have achieved alternative compliance with NFPA standards based on existing knowledge and experience.

All eleven firefighter recruits successfully completed their NFPA exams and passed, earning certification. One recruit had already obtained certification before joining Essex Fire.

Prevention and Public Education

Essex Fire and Rescue Services is committed to fostering a safer community by proactively reducing fire risks through comprehensive prevention, investigation, and enforcement initiatives. Our fire inspections and public education program is designed to address potential hazards and empower residents with the knowledge they need to prevent fires and respond effectively in emergencies.

We achieve this through a range of functions, always guided by two primary goals: preventing avoidable fires and minimizing the tragic impacts of fire incidents through public education. Our efforts include conducting fire inspections initiated by complaints, requests, legislated retrofits, or regulatory requirements, ensuring compliance with fire codes and standards.

In addition to inspections, we provide a robust public education program that includes fire safety presentations, interactive workshops, and tailored outreach efforts to schools,

businesses, and community groups. By emphasizing fire prevention strategies and emergency preparedness, we aim to create a well-informed and resilient community that understands the importance of fire safety and takes active steps to protect lives and property.

2024 Fire Inspections

Inspection Type	Number of Inspections
Complaint	18
Follow - Up	8
Licensing	14
Request	83
Routine	90
Safety Concern	7
Total	220

Inspections by Property Type

Property Type	Number of Inspections
Assembly	27
Business and Personal Service	13
Industrial	8
Institutional	15
Mercantile	32
Miscellaneous/other	8
Residential	115
Vehicles	2
Total	220

Essex Fire and Rescue Services conducted 16 inspections of vulnerable occupancies, including care facilities, residential care homes, and retirement communities, to safeguard the most at-risk members of our community. In partnership with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, Essex Fire also performed annual inspections of Temporary Foreign Worker housing locations, completing 8 inspections in 2024.

In addition, Essex Fire continued conducting STRU (Short-Term Rental Unit) inspections as part of the licensing process, reinforcing our commitment to ensuring safe living environments for both residents and visitors. A total of 21 inspections were completed in 2024. These inspections will continue into 2025, with an expected increase in the number of inspections as most licenses approach their 3-year renewal period.

Smoke Alarm Program

Essex Fire and Rescue's smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program continued throughout 2024. During responses and upon requests for smoke alarm inspections, if alarms are found to be expired or inoperable, new alarms are installed ensuring homes are never left without functional smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. In 2024, Essex Fire staff conducted 257 smoke alarm surveys/residential checks and installed or provided over 250 alarms, thanks to donations from the Rotary Club of Harrow, the Enbridge Project Zero, and the First Alert Canada grant.

It is important to note that in Ontario, having working smoke alarms in your home is mandatory. The Ontario Fire Code requires smoke alarms to be installed on every level of the home and outside sleeping areas, as well as carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in homes and outside all sleeping areas. Failure to comply with the fire code requirements for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms could result in a \$360.00 ticket.

Unfortunately, in 2024, Essex Fire and Rescue issued two Provincial Offences Act tickets after responding to a home with active fire conditions and no working alarms. Thankfully, the occupants noticed the fire promptly and called 911. However, the outcome could have been much more tragic if the fire had occurred while they were asleep. The owners recognized the vital importance of working smoke alarms and early detection, feeling fortunate that the situation didn't result in more severe consequences.

Burn Permits

In 2024, a new feature was introduced with the launch of an online burn permit platform. Residents are now required to register once, and this platform allows them to call a local number from any phone. The automated system provides the current risk level status and enables residents to register their intent to burn. This change has eliminated the administrative burden of residents calling in burn permits to the office. However, we understand that some individuals may need assistance with registering their initial burn, and we continue to offer support for that process. In 2024, the Town of Essex registered 764 burn permits. Feedback from residents has been positive, with many appreciating the ease of the process and the convenience of using their phones.

Public Education

Essex Fire is dedicated to promoting safety and preparedness through various initiatives. Public education on fire safety is delivered at schools, seniors' residences, daycares, fairs, festivals, and during fire station tours. Recognizing that over 65% of carbon monoxide (CO) injuries and fatalities in Ontario occur at home, Essex Fire annually raises awareness about installing CO alarms and inspecting fuel-burning appliances using social media and local newspapers.

During Emergency Preparedness Week each May, a federal-provincial-territorial campaign, Essex Fire highlights the importance of preparedness and promotes Everbridge, a vital tool for delivering life-saving emergency information.

Fire Prevention Week, observed annually across North America, features activities like school coloring contests for students in Junior Kindergarten to Grade 4, with winning artwork displayed at fire stations. Open houses at all three stations further engage the community with tours and fire safety messaging.

2024 Public Education Stats

Event Types	Number of Events
Public & Private School	12
Community Events	26
Community/Business Education	8
Fire Station Tours	20
Total	66

The Town of Essex programs and activities offer fire station tours as part of birthday parties. During these tours, guests are guided through the station by firefighters, where they can explore the equipment and see it in action. Participants also engage in firefighting-themed games, learn about fire safety, and take part in activities that simulate real firefighting tasks. In 2024, three birthday parties were held featuring this experience.

In 2024, Essex Fire personnel participated in 66 public fire safety events, delivering fire safety messages to approximately 16,207 residents and visitors in the Municipality of Essex.

Public Education Event Photos



2024 Service Medals

In 2024, Essex Fire and Rescue Services recognized the outstanding dedication of several members who reached significant milestones in their careers.

These included the prestigious federal 20-year service medals, as well as the 30- and 45-year long service ribbons. Additionally, firefighters who have committed 5, 10, and 15 years of service were also honored for their enduring commitment to the community and the profession. This recognition underscores the invaluable contributions of these individuals and their steadfast dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of others.

Collectively, these firefighters have amassed an extraordinary 556 years of dedicated service!

5 Years of Service

Station 1	Firefighter Aaron Langlois
Station 2	Firefighter Logan Malenfant

10 Years of Service

Station 1	Captain - Sarah Newton
Station 1	Firefighter – Derek Deacon
Station 2	Captain – Justin Pulleyblank
Station 2	Firefighter – Francis Bosse
Station 3	Firefighter – Jason Hernandez
Station 3	Firefighter – Milan Tot

15 Years of Service

Station 1	Firefighter – Andrew Westwood
Station 1	Firefighter – Jason Blais
Station 2	Firefighter – Debbie Dufour
Station 3	Captain – Henry Blumenreder
Station 3	Firefighter – Brayden Uttley
Station 3	Firefighter – Josh Cookson

20 Years of Service

Station 1	Captain – Michael Rounding
Station 1	Firefighter – Kevin Wood
Station 1	Firefighter – Gary Armstrong
Station 1	Firefighter – Ken Broughton
Station 1	Firefighter – Brandon Chartier
Station 2	Captain – Michael Bosse
Station 2	Firefighter – Brian King
Station 3	Firefighter – Rodney Klie
Station 3	Firefighter – Kevin Mutterback
Station 3	Captain – Ric Keller
Station 3	Captain – Gerry Vigneux
Station 3	Captain – Mike Ryan
Station 3	Firefighter – Shawn Holliday
Admin	Assistant Deputy Fire Chief – Jim Meloche

30 Years of Service

Admin	Firefighter – Kevin Fram
Station 2	Firefighter – Walter Howson

45 Years of Service

Station 1	District Chief - Rick Bonneau
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Firefighter Retirements

Station 3	Firefighter – Shawn Marontate – 26 Years of service
Station 3	Firefighter – Shawn Holliday - 20 Years of service

Firefighter Wellness

In 2024, EFRS, in partnership with the Rapid Assessment and Management Program (RAAMP) clinic in Windsor, prioritized the health and wellness of our firefighters by offering comprehensive wellness and cancer prevention screenings. These screenings are vital to ensuring the long-term health of our personnel, as we recognize the unique risks they face in the line of duty. A total of 57% of current firefighters participated in this important initiative. Looking ahead, the screening program will continue into 2025 and will be expanded to include retired firefighters, further emphasizing our commitment to the overall well-being of both active and retired members of the EFRS team.

This program has already proven beneficial, as some firefighting staff have identified underlying issues during routine testing that might have otherwise gone unnoticed. Thanks to the program's accelerated testing process, these issues are being promptly addressed and resolved, ensuring a quicker response to any findings.

Conclusion

Overall, Essex Fire and Rescue had a successful year in 2024, demonstrating excellence in both responding to emergencies and actively preventing fires within the Town of Essex, while continuously ensuring the safety and well-being of the community.

Essex Fire would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Essex Town Council for their continuous support. Your steadfast commitment to our department enables us to serve the community with the highest level of professionalism and safety. Your dedication to ensuring we have the resources and training necessary to perform our duties is deeply appreciated. We look forward to working together to continue to make our town a safer place for all. We sincerely appreciate your continued trust.