



# 2021

## Annual Report

Essex Fire and Rescue Services

## REPORT OVERVIEW

The Emergency Services Department is responsible for delivering fire suppression and emergency response, fire prevention and public education programs in accordance with the Fire Protection and Prevention Act. This report provides an overview of the activities associated with the Department's Suppression and Emergency Response and Fire Prevention Division in 2021.

## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE SERVICE LEADERS OF – ESSEX FIRE AND RESCUE

Members of Council:

The information contained in this report is a summary of the activities of Essex Fire and Rescue Services (EFRS) for the year ending December 31, 2021.

Fire responses totalled 26, approximately 8% of the Department's total calls; this is a 3% decrease from 2020 responses. Fire losses are estimated at \$275,000.

Highlights in 2021 which included, Fire Station 2 Construction, Replacement of Rescue 3, replacement of Engine 2 and continued apparatus relocation program, personnel protect gear program continually upgrading, e-draulics tool purchase complete Station 1 & 2, ongoing pager replacement program, Nozzles and appliances upgrading of the town's emergency plan, involvement in provincial and national associations, OAFCA, OMFPOA, CAFC. Also, promotion of Jason Pillon to Deputy Fire Chief and the hiring of Jacey Brockman to the Assistant Deputy Chief position.

In summary, staff worked hard through 2021 providing extraordinary services to the residents, businesses, and visitors of Town of Essex. The coming year will prove challenging for staff as they work to reduce the risk of fire in Town of Essex and participate in several key projects such as implementing a Fire Master Plan, service vehicle replacements and continuing to create a proficient service delivery model.

Thank you for your continued support to the Department.

**RICHARD ARNEL**, Fire Chief

**JASON PILLON**, Deputy Fire Chief and

**JACEY BROCKMAN**, Assistant Deputy Fire Chief

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## OUR PRINCIPLES

### Our Vision

The vision of Essex Fire and Rescue Services is to be a well-planned, well-trained, and well-equipped emergency response agency where the safety and well-being of all involved in any emergency response is paramount.

### Our Mission

The mandate of Essex Fire and Rescue Services is to provide fire protection services and emergency response, public fire and life safety education, and fire prevention initiatives to protect the lives and property of the citizens, businesses, and visitors to the Town of Essex.

### Our Values

The Essex Fire and Rescue Service values:

- The public's trust and the opportunity to serve,
- A work environment that promotes health, wellness and harmony, respect for each person, and is free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation,
- Leadership committed to the Department's Mission,
- A diverse work force that reflects the community it serves,
- A highly trained professional work force; and
- Teamwork to effectively achieve the Department's Mission.

## FIRE STATIONS

Three fire stations are strategically located throughout the Municipality:

- Station 1 – 55 Alice Street North, Essex
- Station 2 – 3575 North Malden Road, Essex
- Station 3 – 20 Centre Street East, Harrow

## Our Fire Stations



## CORE SERVICES

### Fire Suppression and Emergency Response Core Services

Fire suppression services are delivered in both an offensive and defensive mode and include search and rescue operations, forcible entry, ventilation, protecting exposures, property conservation including salvage and overhaul as appropriate.

Emergency pre-hospital care is provided through medical acts such as defibrillation, standard first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Special rescue services include performing extrication using hand tools, air bags and heavy hydraulic tools as required. Water/Ice Rescue services are provided by those firefighters who are competently trained to perform the requested level of service.

Defensive hazardous material emergency response is Awareness Level by the firefighters.

### Fire Training and Development

In 2021 Essex Fire provided training to personnel in NFPA 1041– Fire Service Instructor and NFPA 1002 - Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator. Our firefighters are now certified in these disciplines.

Also in 2021 Essex Fire was a recipient of the Enbridge Project Assist grant which is a program with the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council that supplements existing training for Ontario volunteer and composite fire departments in the communities where Enbridge



From left to right: Fire Chief Rick Arnel, Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Jacey Brockman, Captain Mark Bosse, Firefighter Kevin Wood, Deputy Fire Chief Jason Pilon.

operates. The training materials funded through this program will provide further education to enhance our services.

- Water / Ice rescue training – In 2021 we continued to provide water-based training for our team and will continue to train this team to ensure we meet needs of the community.



- Mental illness, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Occupational Stress Injuries are on the rise in the fire service. This leadership training takes a strong foundation of promoting and maintains resilience in oneself and now applies this information to the leadership role. We currently have 3 members of the department trained to provide R2MR training to the department. It is our goal to provide annual update training for members so they can put into practice to develop and maintain their wellbeing. Also, the department selected four peers to complete training in Peer Support service. Peer support occurs when people provide knowledge, experience, and emotional, social, or practical help for each other.

### Fire Prevention Division Core Services

Inspections arising from complaint, request, retrofit, or self-initiated and fire investigations shall be provided in accordance with the FPPA and Departmental policies.

New construction inspections and plan reviews of buildings under construction in matters respective of fire protection systems within buildings shall be conducted in accordance with the applicable By-law and operating procedures.

Distribution of fire and life safety information and public education programs shall be administered in accordance with the FPPA and policies of the Department.

In 2021 we continued our residential Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Awareness Program. The Rotary Club of Essex generously donated 120 battery powered smoke/carbon monoxide alarms to senior residents living in the Town of Essex. With the support of Essex Fire and Rescue Services these alarms will be distributed to senior residents in the community. Installation will be available to those who may not be able to complete the installation on their own by EFRS staff.



## RESPONSE TYPES

Suppression staff respond to and apply their skills and experience to a variety of response types. The following are examples of typical responses:

### Fire and Explosions

Instance or 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 as a result of pressure, no fire.

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### **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 leak.

### **False Fire Call**

Alarm activation or fire call that when investigated, is determined to be as a result of equipment failure, malicious/prank, perceived emergency, 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, cuts, abrasions, fractures, burns, person fainted, nausea and pre-hospital care such as administering oxygen, CPR, defibrillation or 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.

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### 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 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, explosive removal standby, CO (carbon monoxide) or other public hazard.

### 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 i.e., vehicle accident, building collapse, commercial/industrial accident, home/residential accident, persons trapped in elevator, water rescue or water/ice rescue.

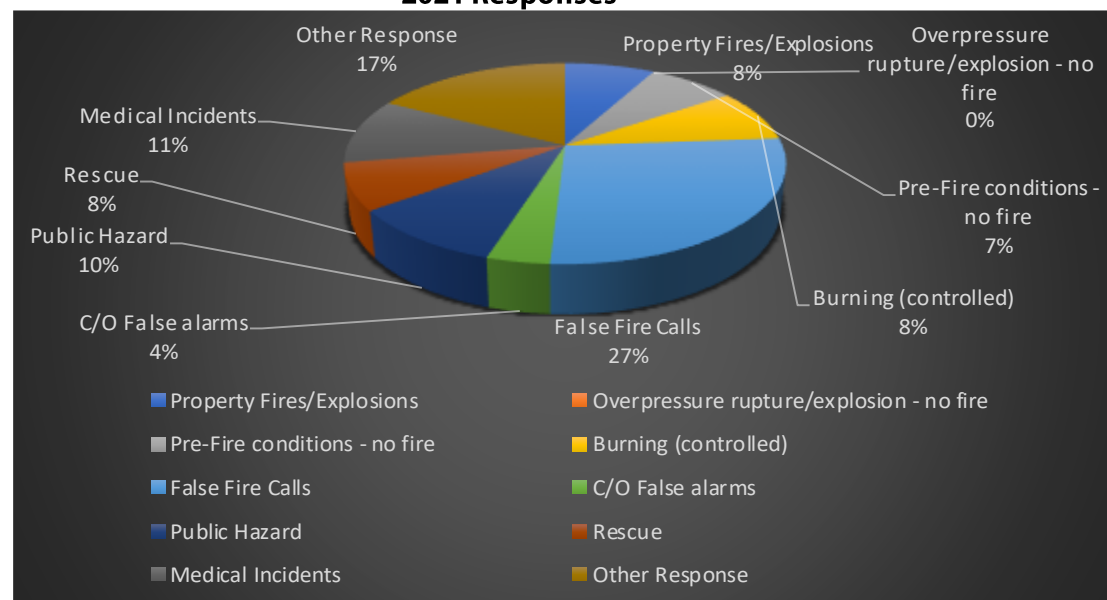
## EMERGENCY RESPONSE STATISTICS

- In 2021, crews were dispatched to a total of 332 incidents

### Emergency Incident Breakdown

Incident types	2021	2020	2021% of Total	Difference from 2020
Property Fires/Explosions	26	37	8.33%	-29.73%
Overpressure rupture/explosion - no fire	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Pre-Fire conditions - no fire	25	35	8.01%	-28.57%
Burning (controlled)	28	22	8.97%	27.27%
False Fire Calls	90	58	28.85%	55.17%
C/O False alarms	13	18	4.17%	-27.78%
Public Hazard	33	27	10.58%	22.22%
Rescue	25	43	8.01%	-41.86%
Medical Incidents	35	32	11.22%	9.38%
Other Response	57	54	18.27%	5.56%

### 2021 Responses



Stations	Responses 2021	Responses 2020
Station 1 - Essex	135	113
Station 2 - Gesto	77	85
Station 3 - Harrow	115	123
Headquarters	5	4
Speciality Team	0	1
Total	332	326



## TOP 5 IGNITION SOURCES OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES

**1. Cooking 30.8%** be alert when cooking and keep things that can catch fire, away from cooking area.



**2. Smoking 11.6%** If you smoke, smoke outside, and before you throw away cigarette butts, make sure they are out.



**3. Electrical 7.8%** Ensure electrical cords are not running across doorways or under carpets and have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.



**4. Appliances 4.9%** Don't overload your dryer and make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry.



**5. Candle 3.6%** Blow out all candles when you leave a room or go to bed and keep candles at least 30 cms away from anything that can burn.

## FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

### Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Program

Our in-service smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program continued throughout 2021.

When our fire crew attends an incident, we ask the homeowner to inspect their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they are not expired. If their alarms are expired, we leave a loaner to the homeowner and once they obtain a new alarm, they either return it or we attend and pick up our loaner alarm and confirm that new alarms have been installed. In 2021 we have assisted 27 households in our community with this program.

In 2021, Essex Fire visited approximately 350 homes within our community to discuss the importance of installing and maintaining working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and fire prevention. As we inspect homes to determine compliance with smoke and carbon monoxide alarms within the provisions of the Fire Code. In our inspections it was found that approximately 310 homes were found to be compliant and the balance of homes we either assisted with new batteries provided, or new alarms which the homeowner purchased and replaced those defective alarms and were checked for compliance upon our return.



In Ontario, adults 65 years and older are at higher risk of dying in a fire than any other age group. Often these fire happen where people feel the safest – in their homes. And many are preventable.

Also, we have partnered with The Rotary Club of Essex who have sponsored Essex Fire with 120 combination alarms to install in home of our seniors. Our team has been working with Manager of Strategic Communication, Essex Retiree's, Harrow Food Bank and put information in the news paper and on social media. They are contacting the Fire Station and our team is attending homes, checking alarms and installing new ones where individuals require assistance.

## FIRE PREVENTION

Essex Fire and Rescue strives to develop proactive risk mitigation awareness through enhanced prevention, investigation, and enforcement strategies. We perform a variety of functions and all with two goals in mind; preventing preventable fires



*Conducted 16 vulnerable occupancy inspections (including care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies, or retirement homes) to protect the most vulnerable residences in the community.*



*Conducted 22 complaint-based inspections and 74 request inspections.*



*Essex Fire is working with Windsor Essex County Health Unit, conducting annual inspections on Temporary Foreign Working housing, and have conducted 24 inspections. During our inspections we have begun leaving easy-to-read handouts and safety tip sheets in other languages.*



*Essex Fire conducts annual routine inspections, and these inspections can also include drills, schools, Day Care centers, gas stations, and restaurants. This year we conducted 110 routine inspections in the community. We had a total of 305 inspections completed in 2021, with a new Fire Prevention inspector on board.*

and educating the public in fire safety so the tragedies of fire are minimized. The following explains the number of inspections performed and public education activities attended through 2021, as we are all aware public education activities have been restricted in 2021 due to COVID.

January 1, 2017, Compliance Date for the Qualification of Persons Responsible for Implementing and Approving Fire Safety Plans in Vulnerable Occupancies which includes owners, landlords, property managers, as well as the fire service. This requires persons responsible for implementing fire safety plans in vulnerable occupancies to have successfully completed a qualification course acceptable to the Fire Marshal. As well it requires Chief Fire Officials who are responsible for approving such fire safety plans to have also completed a qualification course acceptable to the Fire Marshal.

Vulnerable occupancies in the context of these requirements include the following:

- Hospitals,
- Long Term Care Homes (previously called Nursing Homes or Homes for the Aged),
- Retirement Homes regulated under the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*, and,
- Care Occupancies

These facilities must annually comply with above qualifications, fire inspections, fire drills and fire safety plan reviews.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

### **After the Fire**

One of the most opportune times to educate the public about fire safety in the days and weeks immediately following a fire incident in the community. That is the time when fire safety is on people's minds and they are most receptive to fire prevention and safety messages. In our Municipality, Essex Fire conducted its After the Fire Program in Viscount Estates in the community. As part of the program, fire personnel at the incident provide homeowners with valuable information on what to do after the fire, as well as we went door to door in the neighbour to educate public on fire safety.

## Emergency Preparedness Week

Emergency Preparedness week is a federal-provincial-territorial initiative to promote emergency preparedness across Canada. Essex Fire uses social media to raise awareness, and promote Everbridge which is a critical link to deliver critical life-saving emergency information.

## Fire Prevention Week

Every year a campaign which unites all fire service across North American regarding fire safety. During this week we have several initiatives annually, colouring contest for grades JK to Grade 4. Winners of this contest win prizes, as well their picture's are hung up in the fire station 1 for a year for everyone to see. We then target for residential fire safety by sending information home with children from Grades 4 – 8 which included smoke and CO alarm surveys which went home to all students.



During Fire Prevention week we had a social media event for the 5 days with giveaways that included alarms, 72 hour emergency preparedness kit etc. And below are winners of our give away, and due to our initiative more Essex residences are ready for an emergency, congratulations to the winners.



Beginning the following week began an Automated external defibrillator (AED) give away to a business that had their employees complete smoke and CO alarm surveys. Had very good results and the business which won the AED was Sunsations Tanning and Resort Wear – congratulations.



### Carbon Monoxide Awareness Week

Again, we use social media to raise awareness which is an ideal opportunity to think about carbon monoxide safety and how to take the necessary actions to keep safety. In Ontario, more than 65 percent of injuries and deaths from carbon monoxide occur in the home. The following pictures, are of public education events that Essex Fire & Rescue attended, due to COVID protocols we were unable to attend the number of events we usually attend. We visited the Autism Camp, had some station tours, and also, conducted some virtual station tours and training throughout the year.



## MEET OUR ESSEX FIREFIGHTING TEAM

### Career Employees – and District Chiefs

Fire Chief	Deputy Fire Chief
Rick Arnel, Fire Chief	Jason Pillon, Deputy Fire Chief

Assistant Deputy Chief	Administration Staff
Jacey Brockman, Asst. Deputy Chief	Glenda Benateau, Administrative Assistant Kevin Fram, Firefighter



## FIREFIGHTERS – FIRE STATION 1 - ESSEX

### Station 1 Volunteer Firefighters



Rick Bonneau, District Chief

Tom Bonneau, Captain

Mark Sweeney, Captain

Sarah Newton, Captain

Michael Rounding, Captain

Rob Archambault, Firefighter

Gary Armstrong, Firefighter

Andrew Westwood, Firefighter

Ryan Sivers, Firefighter

Kevin Wood, Firefighter

Patrick VanMackelberg, Firefighter

Trevor Menard, Firefighter

Brandon Chartier, Firefighter

Doug McCormick, Firefighter

Ken Broughton, Firefighter

Jason Blais, Firefighter

Derek Deacon, Firefighter

Aaron Langlois, Firefighter

Adam Mitchell, 2021 Recruit

Kevin Sinn, 2021 Recruit

## FIREFIGHTER - FIRE STATION 2 – GESTO

### Station 2 Volunteer Firefighters



Ed Lepain, District Chief

Mark Bosse, Captain

Joe Meloche, Captain

Mike Bosse, Captain

James Meloche, Captain

Walter Howson, Firefighter

Jeff Stratichuk, Firefighter

Chris Meloche, Firefighter

Debbie Dufour, Firefighter

Francis Bosse, Firefighter

Brian King, Firefighter

Justin Pulleyblank, Firefighter

Logan Malenfant, Firefighter

Jake Morassut, Firefighter

Cole Freeman, 2021 Recruit

Angela Lang, 2021 Recruit

Dennis Lang, 2021 Recruit

Austin Power-Wagenaar, 2021 Recruit

Kyle Vermast, 2021 Recruit

## FIREFIGHTERS FIRE STATION 3 - HARROW

### Station 3 Volunteer Firefighters



Elwood Defour, District Chief

Ric Keller, Captain

Gerry Vigneux, Captain

Mike Ryan, Captain

Henry Blumenreder, Captain

Tom Abbott, Firefighter

Rodney Klie, Firefighter

Shawn Marontate, Firefighter

Robert Welzel, Firefighter

Dennis Didone, Firefighter

Brayden Uttley, Firefighter

Rick Balind, Firefighter

Kevin Mutterback, Firefighter

Shawn Holiday, Firefighter

Josh Cookson, Firefighter

Jason Hernandez, Firefighter

Milan Tot, Firefighter

Jared Burns, 2021 Recruit

Alex Dunmore, 2021 Recruit

Daniel (DJ) Lacey, 2021 Recruit

Kyle Renaud, 2021 Recruit

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## ESSEX FIRE HEALTH AND SAFETY B.E.S.T. PRACTICES

### Behaviour:

- Support the physical, emotional, and mental well-being of all personnel.
- Operate all emergency apparatus and privately owned vehicles to conform to the highest road safety standards and enforce the use of seat belts.
- Develop, practice, and enforce recommended health and safety standards for all personnel.
- Monitor and ensure that all active emergency scenes maintain the utmost level of safety and fire ground accountability.

### Equipment:

- Provide and require the proper use of full personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Maintain all equipment based on established safety recommendations.

### Standards and Codes:

- Encourage the use of all smoke, fire detection, and fire suppression devices, including fire sprinkler systems, in all structures.
- Vigorously enforce all fire safety codes and ordinances.
- Obtain apparatus and equipment that meet safety standards.

### Training:

- Use fire training programs that conform to the highest professional standards.
- Always operate a safe fire training ground.
- Establish, maintain, and deliver fire safety programs for all age groups.

One of Essex Fire's B.E.S.T. practices are the establishment of a working agreement between St. Clair College and The Town of Essex Fire and Rescue Service. This partnership is for the purpose of conducting non-emergency response training drills and exercises, which include live fire training as part of its Pre-Service Firefighter Education and Training Program.

Fire Departments and training/educational facilities are always looking for ways to simulate real life situations for initial and on-going training. By using modified shipping containers to build a custom training facility, the sky is the limit. Shipping containers offer a lot of flexibility and scalability, which enables the design to easily grow over time.



The training evolutions on site shall consist of the following elements:

- Passenger Vehicle Fire
- Passenger Vehicle Extrication
- Fire Control - Exterior Combustibles
- Fire Control – Interior Structure Fire
- Fire Control – Exterior Liquid Fire
- Fire Control – Coordinate Interior Attack Team
- Fire Control – Flammable Gas Cylinder Fire
- Fire Control – Ground Cover Fire



Our fire recruits have been training and are required to complete the above job performance requirements to succeed with Office of the Fire Marshal testing and certification. Our recruits began this training journey March 2021 and will be attending council in February, 2022 as they start their careers with us.



## SERVICE MEDALS

### Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal

The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal program, created on August 29, 1985, honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks, and were employed on or after the date of creation of the medal. Exemplary service is characterized by good conduct, industry, and efficiency. The Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was awarded to the following individuals in 2021:

- |                                    |          |                |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| • Mark Sweeney, Captain            | 20 Years | September 2021 |
| • Doug McCormick, Firefighter      | 20 Years | September 2021 |
| • Jeff Stratchuk, Firefighter      | 20 Years | September 2021 |
| • Jacey Brockman, Asst. Fire Chief | 20 Years | September 2021 |
| • Joe Meloche, Captain             | 25 Years | October 2021   |
| • Robert Welzel, Firefighter       | 30 Years | September 2021 |



### ONTARIO FIRE SERVICES LONG SERVICE MEDAL

First awarded in 1971, the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal is an expression of appreciation and recognition of uniformed staff for 25 years of dedication and hard work within the Ontario fire service. At 30 years of service and every 5 years thereafter, a service bar may be requested and added to the medal's ribbon. Spouses of medal recipients receive a companion brooch. The Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal was awarded to the following in 2021:

- No members in 2021

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**Essex Fire and Rescue Services would like to acknowledge the following:**

Everyone that supports Santa's Cause for Kid's

Essex and Harrow Food Banks

Essex Retiree's Social Club

Thank you to the Essex Rotary Club for their continued support to our residential Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Awareness Program.

To all the agencies, businesses and organizations that make Public Education and Fire Prevention a success in Essex.





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