

BLFR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



2021/02/02

Year in Review

BLFR 2020 Annual Report

YEAR IN REVIEW

MEMBERSHIP

The department's membership numbers continue to be very strong with 25 active members as of December 31st, as well as 5 new recruits who began their orientation and basic training in December. Despite the challenges of COVID the department has continued to maintain a very motivated and engaged membership.

The Department recognized a number of milestones in 2020. Captain Reg Leith was awarded his Provincial Long Service Medal in recognition of 25 years of service to Burns Lake. In addition, Captain Kris Garneau was recognized for 15 years of service, Lieutenant Eric Williams 10 years of service and firefighters Rose Seminuk and Eoghain Perry with 5 years each.



Captain Reg Leith receiving his 25-year service bar

TRAINING

The department continues to place a high priority on training our members for a variety of skills and tasks. During the course of the year, we conducted 39 regular training sessions on our core skills, using the NFPA 1001 Standard. This training is completed in-house using our team of Fire Service Instructors. Despite the setbacks to out of area training caused by the inability to hold large training courses our members were still able to complete a number of courses. These courses included,

- Wildland Fire Fighting
- Task Force/Strike Team Leader
- Driver Training
- Mental Health Peer Counselor



Members conducting weekly equipment checks



New recruits learning to use a fire extinguisher

The department continues to use the BLFTS training facility for ongoing training of our members. We were able to put on a full day, live fire training course to assist members with their Live Fire II certification. The facility is also used throughout the year for a variety of training including all aspects of structural firefighting, auto extrication, and rope rescue skills to name a few.



Vertical ventilation training using the roof prop at the BLFTS centre

The department has upgraded our training standard and we are now working towards full NFPA 1001 certification. By the end of 2021, the department will have 12 NFPA 1001 certified members as well as 7 more who are Interior Attack qualified and working on their 1001. The remainder of the department continue to work towards their certification.

**Don't train until you get it right.
Train until you can't get it wrong!**

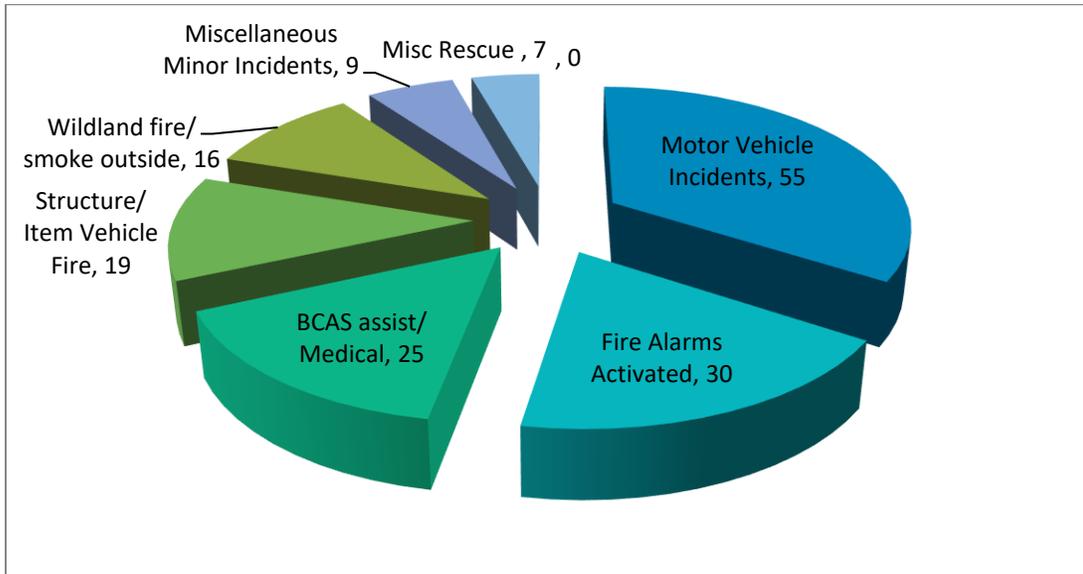
RESPONSES

Call volume was at a record high in 2020 with 165 responses, up from 127 the previous year, and far surpassing the old record of 134 (2018). While call volume was up throughout the year, it peaked in October and November when the department responded to 44 calls, twice as many as average. Motor vehicle incidents led the way again this year with 55 responses (+22), and alarms activated was the second largest call volume by type with 30 (-1).

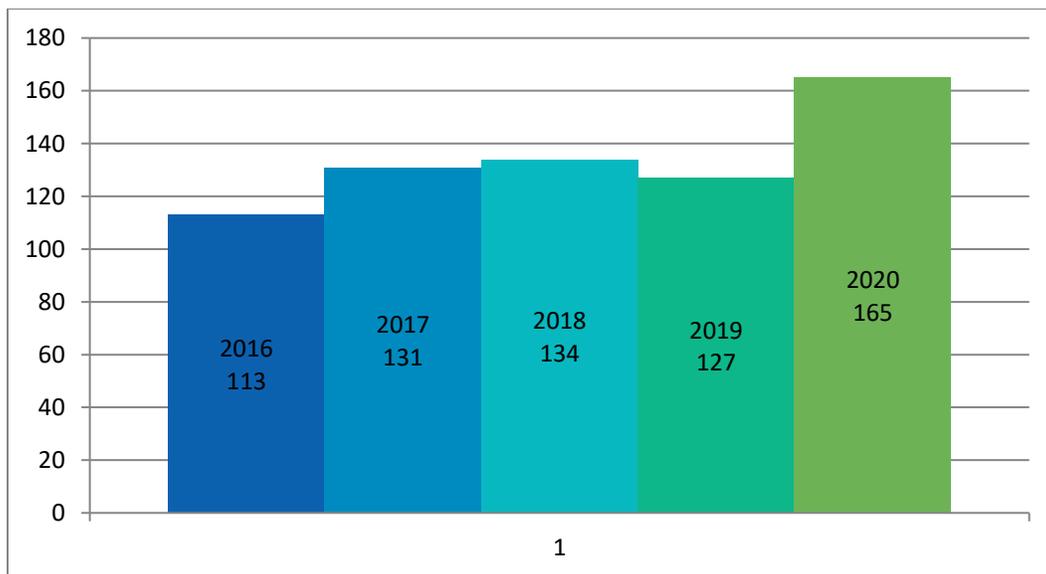


Five car pile-up in the rock cuts east of town

2020 Response by Type



5 Year Call Comparison



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Structure fire calls were also up in 2020 (+6) and losses were substantial, with the 3 worst fires causing over \$700,000 in damages. We were extremely fortunate that there were no serious injuries associated with any of these events. The causes of the three worst fires were arson, unattended cooking and accidental – undetermined. BLFR also attended a number of minor fires including several chimney fires.



Crews working to extinguish a chimney fire



Fully involved structure fire in Decker Lake

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



December group photo (COVID protocols)

2020 was a challenging year for the department. We said goodbye to a former long-time member and Captain, Dan Rensby, who tragically passed away from cancer.

COVID-19 caused us to change the way we practiced and responded to calls, and the members were not allowed to socialize due to gathering size restrictions. Throughout these challenges the members remained committed and engaged, assisting with the development and implementation of new guidelines and protocols to help keep everyone safe.

While the members were not able to enjoy the social aspects of the fire department, which are a huge benefit to moral and building teamwork and comradery, the executive worked very hard to keep members informed and up to date. This effort by the executive, along with a very strong training program, and a busy year for responses resulted in the department retaining a strong sense of purpose and pride.

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There were several highlights in 2020 as well. The Fire department was able to complete fire hall #2, located on Babine Road. The hall was built by local construction company Granite Excavating and is located on the Burns Lake Fire Training Society grounds. The hall is used for storing Engine 21, the department's wildland engine, as well as all the department's new wildland firefighting gear. This new gear, consisting of pumps, hose and sprinklers, was also purchased in 2020 using a Provincial grant.

The hall is also used to store all the Protective Service equipment related to Emergency Social Services, and Emergency Operations Centre.

2020 also saw improvements to fire hall #1 downtown. The ramp in front of the hall and the parking areas were paved, and the outside of the building was given a fresh coat of paint.

The upstairs of the hall was also painted in 2020 with all the materials (\$1,240) and the labour provided by the Volunteers, out of their association funds. This represents a sizable donation to the municipality.



Fire hall #2



Wildland gear and EOC/ESS supplies

The members of BLFR continue to be actively engaged in the community with numerous community events attended to actively promote the department. While many community events were cancelled or went virtual, BLFR still found many ways to help in the community including, Remembrance Day Parade and service, Cram-the-Cruiser toy drive, and food bank food drive. The members also used \$1200 of their own money to purchase gift certificates to local business, to help promote shopping local.



BLFR and RCMP marched from the Detachment to the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day



Cram-the-Cruiser Toy Drive.

Volunteer Time Commitment

The table below shows the enormous number of hours that the membership contributed to BLFR to ensure our success. The “other” category includes weekend training sessions, community events, and weekend standby during the summer, just to name a few. Not included in this total was the dozens of hours that the members put into painting the entire upstairs of the firehall.

Attendee Hours Burns Lake Fire Rescue

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Active Members	Incidents Total Count: 201		Training Total Count: 52		Other Events Total Count: 38		TOTAL HOURS
	Attended	Hours	Attended	Hours	Attended	Hours	
Abbey, Liz	57	60.92	34	70.5	6	156	287.42
Abietkoff, Brad	11	13.48	23	44.5	9	191	248.98
Berlin, Jason	58	66.98	30	58.5	9	205.5	330.98
Bird, Jesse	101	128.68	34	66.5	8	184	379.18
Blackwell, Jason	86	98.23	34	68	19	630.5	796.73
Brinkhurst, Brian	103	121.42	38	76.5	13	240.5	438.42
Brinkhurst, Sean	24	30.5	15	28	3	122	180.5
Currie, Robert	8	7	12	23	5	178	208
Garneau, Kris	91	102.54	38	75.5	10	231.5	409.54
Hill, Darrell	116	143.17	36	71.5	12	166.5	381.17
Hofer, Dirk	72	78.62	38	75.5	6	178	332.12
Krause, Rob	129	158.85	29	58.5	10	25.5	242.85
Lazenby, Ryo	16	23.5	5	10	1	2	35.5
Leith, Reg	62	75.65	33	67.5	12	235.5	378.65
McGaw, Frazer	9	12.5	13	26.5	2	9	48
Nicholas, Nathan	14	16.5	14	27	3	144	187.5
Perry, Eoghain	60	60.29	34	67.5	6	150	277.79
Seminuk, Rosemary	64	76.17	36	71.5	7	156	303.67
Sensenig, Phil	70	90.92	31	62.5	7	162	315.42
Sherwood, Charlie	19	20.06	21	42.5	4	7.5	70.06
Shumka, David	48	49	18	36.5	5	183	268.5
Singleton, Matt	0	0	12	21	0	0	21
Stadey, James	32	30.98	10	20	3	168	218.98
Stearns, Susan	9	14	24	47.5	5	154	215.5
Timmerman, Ben	57	65.48	28	53.5	5	153	271.98
Warkentin, Cherise	28	30.54	35	69.5	6	185	285.04
Warkentin, Travis	117	134.29	33	65.5	6	178	377.79
Watson, Kyle	12	9.04	37	74.5	4	19	102.54
Watson, Shaun	8	11.75	5	9	2	3	23.75
Whittle, Rob	16	17	6	13	4	152	182
Williams, Eric	32	35.06	28	56	11	281.5	372.56
Grand Total		1783.12		1557.5			8192.12

Fire Prevention and Inspections

Despite the restrictions caused by COVID Burns Lake Fire Rescue continued to provide fire prevention and inspection services to the community. Numerous inspections were completed as well as community fire extinguisher training, and a limited number of firehall visits.



BC Wildfire Service requested assistance for this wildfire incident that resulted in the loss of a structure.

Emergency Support Services

The joint Village/Regional District ESS team completed their first year since being formed under the new agreement. The team meets monthly and now has 7 active members. In 2020 the team was activated 4 times to assist community members. On two additional occasions the team was alerted to a potential for assistance, but they were not required by the victims.

Respectively submitted.

Robert Krause

Robert Krause
Director of Protective Services



“Answer the Call”