


Whitecourt



2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

WHITECOURT FIRE DEPARTMENT



Table of Contents

Title Page | Page 1

Table of Contents | Page 2

Fire Chief's Message | Page 3

In Memory of Chief Bruce Parrent | Page 4

About the Department | Page 5

Recruitments & Retirements | Page 6

Promotions | Page 7

Awards Night | Page 8

Training | Page 9

Deployments | Page 10

3 Year Trends | Page 11

Member Hours | Page 12

FireSmart | Page 13

Public Education | Page 14

Community Spirit | Page 15

Looking Ahead in 2024 | Page 16

Back Cover | Page 17

Fire Chief's Message

Welcome to the Whitecourt Fire Department (WFD) 2023 Annual Report. The WFD has been serving Whitecourt and surrounding area since 1958. Within our response area in the Town of Whitecourt and a portion of Woodlands County, the WFD has faced multiple challenges that require different skills to cover the risks. Whether it is in a residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, or wildland environment, we have always strived to be well prepared to respond to the emergency needs of our communities. Our goal at the

WFD has always remained the same: to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the environment for ourselves and our community partners.

2023 has been a great year for the Whitecourt Fire Department. We had a strong group of recruits that joined the department, we persevered throughout a busy wildfire and flood season, and continued to engage with our communities.

The following report is a synopsis of the WFD in 2023. We will continue to strive to create a culture of pride, professionalism, teamwork, diversity and safety to overcome great challenges; and continue to make our community a safe place to live, work and play.



Aaron Floyd
Deputy Fire Chief



Brian Wynn
Fire Chief



Taya Green
Deputy Fire Chief
& Safety Coordinator

In Memory of Chief Bruce Parrent

This year's Annual Report is dedicated in memory of Bruce Parrent, Fire Chief for the Town of Whitecourt from 1992 until his retirement in 2010. Chief Parrent passed away on April 29, 2023.

Bruce dedicated his life to the Fire Service with a career that spanned over 30 years. He embodied The Department's values of Pride and Professionalism and led with compassion. Bruce always considered Whitecourt to be home and our community's Emergency Services First Responders his family.

In memoriam of Bruce, the Whitecourt Fire Department's Training Grounds have been renamed to the Bruce Parrent Training Grounds. The training grounds will train current and future generations of Firefighters to come.



“Thank you for your service, Bruce. We will take it from here.”

About The Department



The Whitecourt Fire Department (WFD) consists of 3 full-time staff (1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Chief and 1 Deputy Chief/Safety Coordinator), 1 part-time Fire Clerk, 6 volunteer Officers, 1 Health and Safety Officer and 42 volunteer Firefighters. In addition, the Department also has local volunteers that provide operations support: 3 public education coordinators, 1 photographer and 2 videographers.



“With pride and professionalism, we provide emergency services and education to Whitecourt and surrounding area.”

2023 Recruits & Retirements

In 2023, the Whitecourt Fire Department recruited 11 volunteers to join the team. 8 of those volunteers have completed their training, and are officially a part of the Whitecourt Fire Department as Firefighter I's.

In addition to adding new recruits to the Department, 5 of our volunteer Firefighters retired in 2023.



Promotions

- Chris Green was promoted to Captain
- Johnley Camposano was promoted to Captain
- Bill McAree was promoted to Chaplain
- Jerry Adam was promoted to Health & Safety Officer
- Denis Beaudoin was promoted to Lieutenant
- Chris Key was promoted to Lieutenant
- Chad Hagen was promoted to Senior Firefighter
- Jess Brown was promoted to Firefighter II
- Terry Corke was promoted to Firefighter II
- Justin Labine was promoted to Firefighter II
- Beomjun 'Ben' Jeon was promoted to Firefighter II
- Austin Komar was promoted to Firefighter II
- Andrew Kentner was promoted to Firefighter II



Awards Night

The Whitecourt Fire Department hosts an annual Awards Night ceremony to recognize the achievements and contributions of our members.



5 Years

Curtis Visser (Retired)
Colton Barrett

Alberta Emergency Services Medal

Jerry Adam - 40 Years
Colton Barrett - 12 Years

Rookie of the Year

Justine Labine

15 Years

Johnley Camposano
Jerry Adam

Federal Exemplary Service

Jerry Adam - 40 Years
Brian Wynn - 30 Years

Officer of the Year

Christopher Green

30 Years

Brian Wynn

Pete Heck Award

Samantha Robb

Firefighter of the Year

Terry Corke

35 Years

Robert Bell

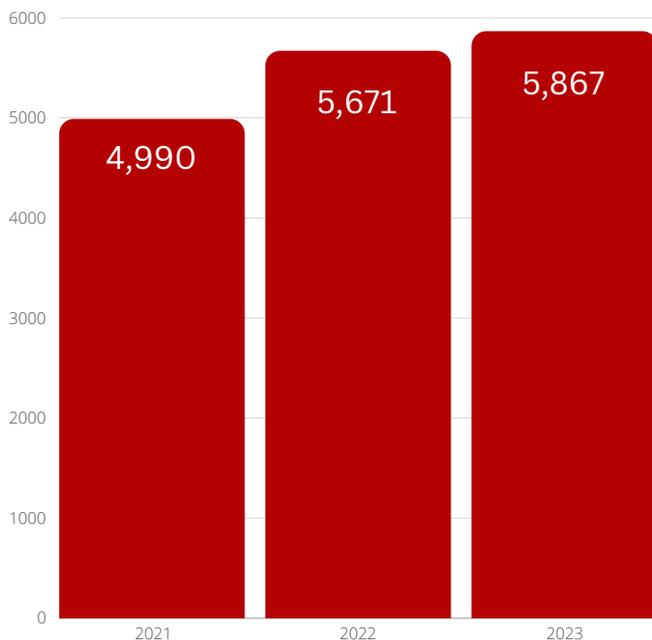
Larry Lopes Memorial Fire Prevention Award

Terry Corke

Training

2023 was an active year for training with an emphasis on recruiting, developing Firefighter leadership and skills, and promoting psychological health. With the increased needs of the community, advancing technology and continuously changing safety considerations, training is the core of preparedness.

In 2023, 5,867 hours were spent training amongst Whitecourt Fire Department members. Below is a 3 year comparison of training hours amongst WFD members.



Deployments

The Province of Alberta and North West Territories experienced an extreme fire season in 2023. Due to wildfires around the surrounding area, the Whitecourt Fire Department was called to deploy both members and the Sprinkler Protection Unit (SPU), Engine 4 and Engine 1 across numerous locations.

Equipment Deployments

| Location | No. of Days - SPU | No. of Days - Engine 1 | No. of Days - Engine 4 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Anselmo - Woodlands County | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fort Smith | 0 | 0 | 27 |
| Fox Creek - 1st Deployment | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Fox Creek - 2nd Deployment | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Edson | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Parkland County | 0 | 6 | 0 |

2023 Deployments

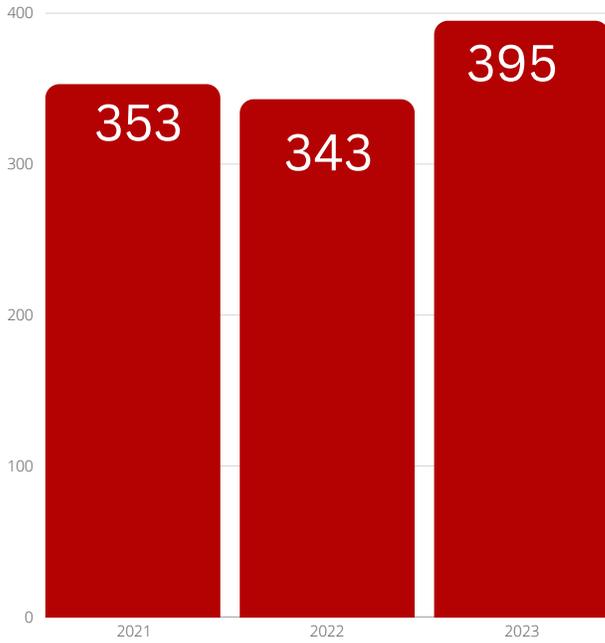
| Location | No. of Days | No. of Hours | No. of Personnel |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|
| Entwistle/Parkland County | 6 | 509 | 13 |
| Fox Creek | 1 | 28 | 4 |
| Edson | 3 | 112.5 | 5 |
| Fort Smith - NWT | 28 | 1,703 | 11 |
| Totals | 38 | 2,352.5 | 33 |



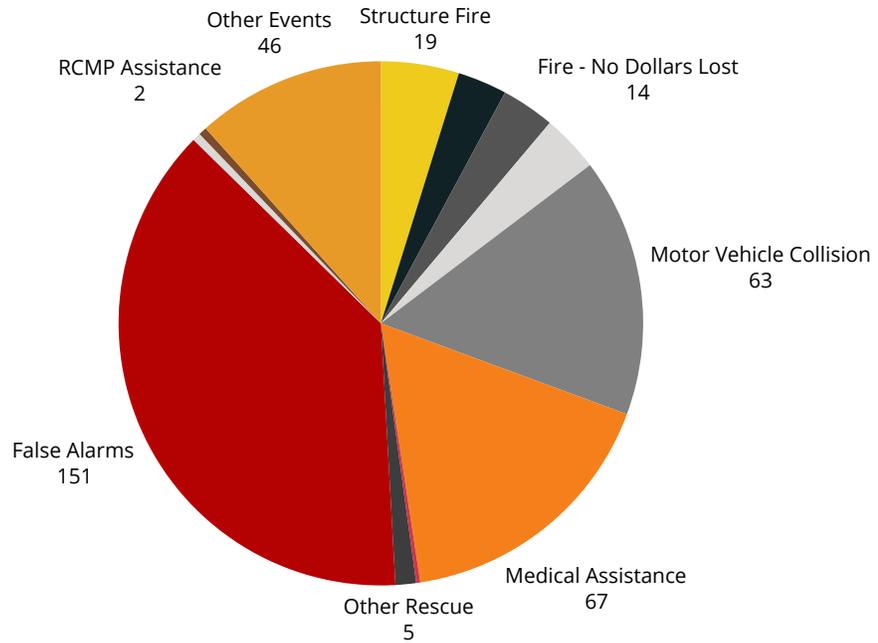
“33 Members totaled 2,352.5 deployment hours in 2023”

3 Year Trends

The statistics below reflect the number of incidents the Whitecourt Fire Department responded to in 2021, 2022 and 2023.



The statistics below reflect the types of calls the Whitecourt Fire Department responded to in 2023. The most common types are highlighted in the chart.

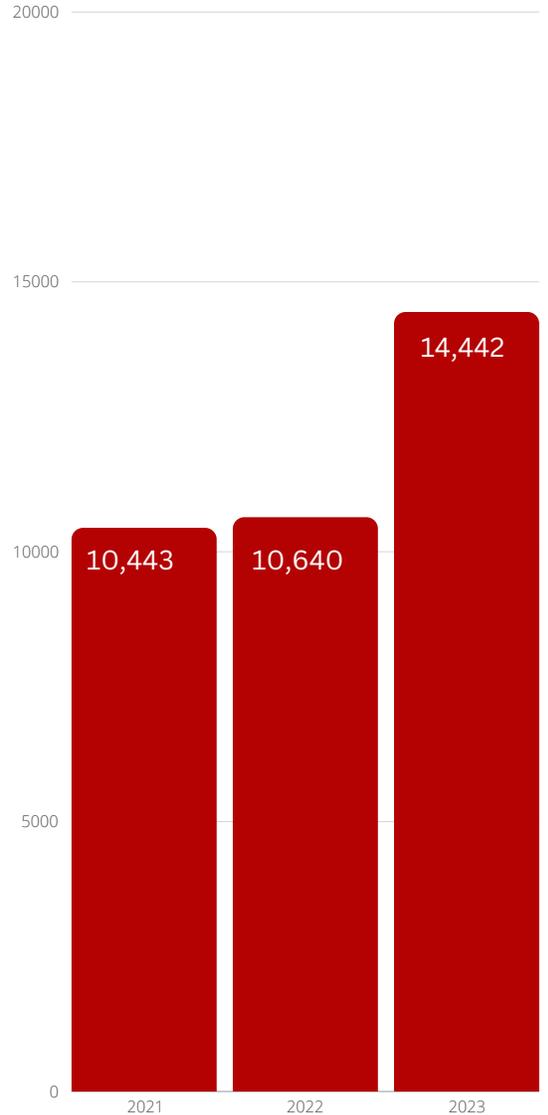


Member Hours

The Whitecourt Fire Department’s Member Hours have increased nearly 36% in 2023.

These increased hours are attributed to the deployments and increased training of our members.

| Member Hours | |
|---|---------------|
| In Area Response (Whitecourt, Woodlands County) | 4,354 |
| Out of Area Deployments | 2,411 |
| Working Hours | 6,766 |
| Meetings | 680 |
| Training | 5,867 |
| Work Parties | 594 |
| Public Education | 533 |
| Total Member Hours | 14,442 |



“14,442 total hours were logged by Whitecourt Fire Department Members in 2023.”

FireSmart

FireSmart programming and practices continued to remain a top priority of the Whitecourt Fire Department in 2023. There was no summer vegetation crew hired in 2023; because of this, the Department focused on completing FireSmart home assessments through the FireSmart Home Assessment Program. FireSmart Home Assessment specialists completed a total of 41 home assessments during 2023.

For a full synopsis of FireSmart activities in 2023, visit the Town of Whitecourt's website at www.whitecourt.ca and search '2023 FireSmart Annual Report'.

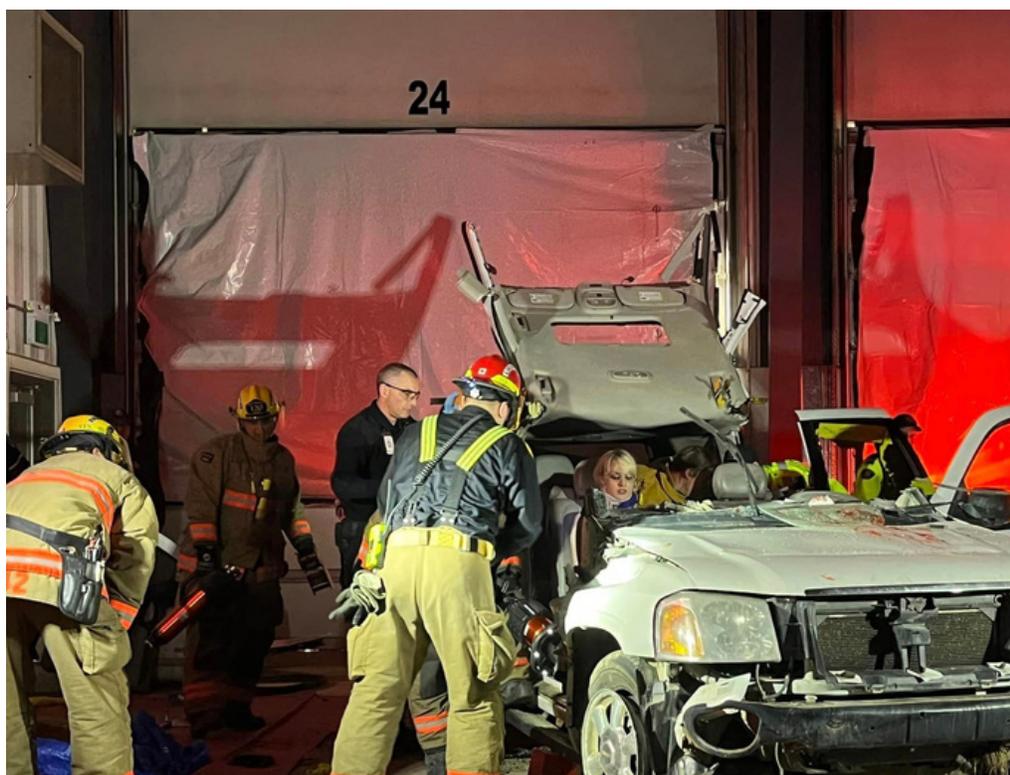


ALBERTA
FireSmart™

Public Education

In 2023, the WFD participated in numerous events and initiatives to educate the public on fire prevention practices (including, but not limited to):

- 2023 Whitecourt & District Chamber of Commerce Annual Trade Fair
- 2023 Dominos Pizza Delivery & Fire Education Event
- RISK Program (Presented to Grade 9 and 12 Students)
- School Presentations (Presented to 1,371 Students in Ever K-6 Class in both NGPS and Living Waters School Divisions)



Community Spirit

The Whitecourt Fire Department is not only just known for service to our community, but also for our community spirit. The WFD participated in (and hosted) numerous events in 2023 (including, but not limited to):

- Run 4 Fun
- Canada Day Celebration & Pancake Breakfast
- First Responders Appreciation BBQ
- Trunk or Treat
- Remembrance Day



Looking Ahead in 2024



The Whitecourt Fire Department had a great year in 2023. With increased member hours, high commitment to training and deployments from our members, and with support from Town Council, the WFD is looking forward to another great year in 2024.



**“The Whitecourt Fire Department is proud to serve
Whitecourt and surrounding area.”**



WWW.WHITECOURT.CA