



GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GODERICH
Canada's Prettiest Town



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INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Town of Goderich Fire Department I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report.

This report illustrates the Department's commitment to the residents, visitors, and businesses in our community and demonstrates the excellent professional work accomplished by Department staff.

Members of the Fire Department would like to thank Council and the Chief Administrative Officer, Janice Hallahan, for their support they showed the Goderich Fire Department in 2024.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Each day our committed team of professionals deliver exceptional emergency services to our community and surrounding areas being guided by our mission statement.

Looking back on 2024, I am very proud of the dedication and hard work that our fire department staff have displayed, and the accomplishments that have been achieved over the year.

Looking ahead to 2025, Fire Services will progress towards attaining mandatory certifications for Firefighter Training as per Ontario Regulation 343/22 and implementing the update to our Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and Fire Master Plan (FMP) as per Ontario Regulation 378/18. The CRA and FMP will provide Council with a framework and strategic planning for the next 5 to 10 years.

This report is not only a summary of statistics and events, but also a testament to the partnership with other emergency responder services and the communities we serve. I would like to thank each fire services member for their support, collaboration, and commitment in keeping our community safe.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building a sustainable fire service that maximizes efficiency and value for our Town. We will strive to optimize our operations and maintain fiscal responsibility that results in a high-quality service while safeguarding the long-term health of our department and our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

[Jeff Wormington](#)

Fire Services Manager/Fire Chief



GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to safeguard the community through proactive fire prevention, education, and emergency response. We strive to reduce the impact of fires, accidents, and other emergencies by ensuring a constant state of readiness and fostering a culture of safety. The primary objective of the Goderich Fire Department is to implement a range of programs designed to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Goderich, as well as the municipalities it serves, from the effects of fires and other hazardous conditions.

VISION

To exemplify excellence in the preservation of life, property, and the environment.
Make the Town of Goderich the safest place to live, work, play and visit.

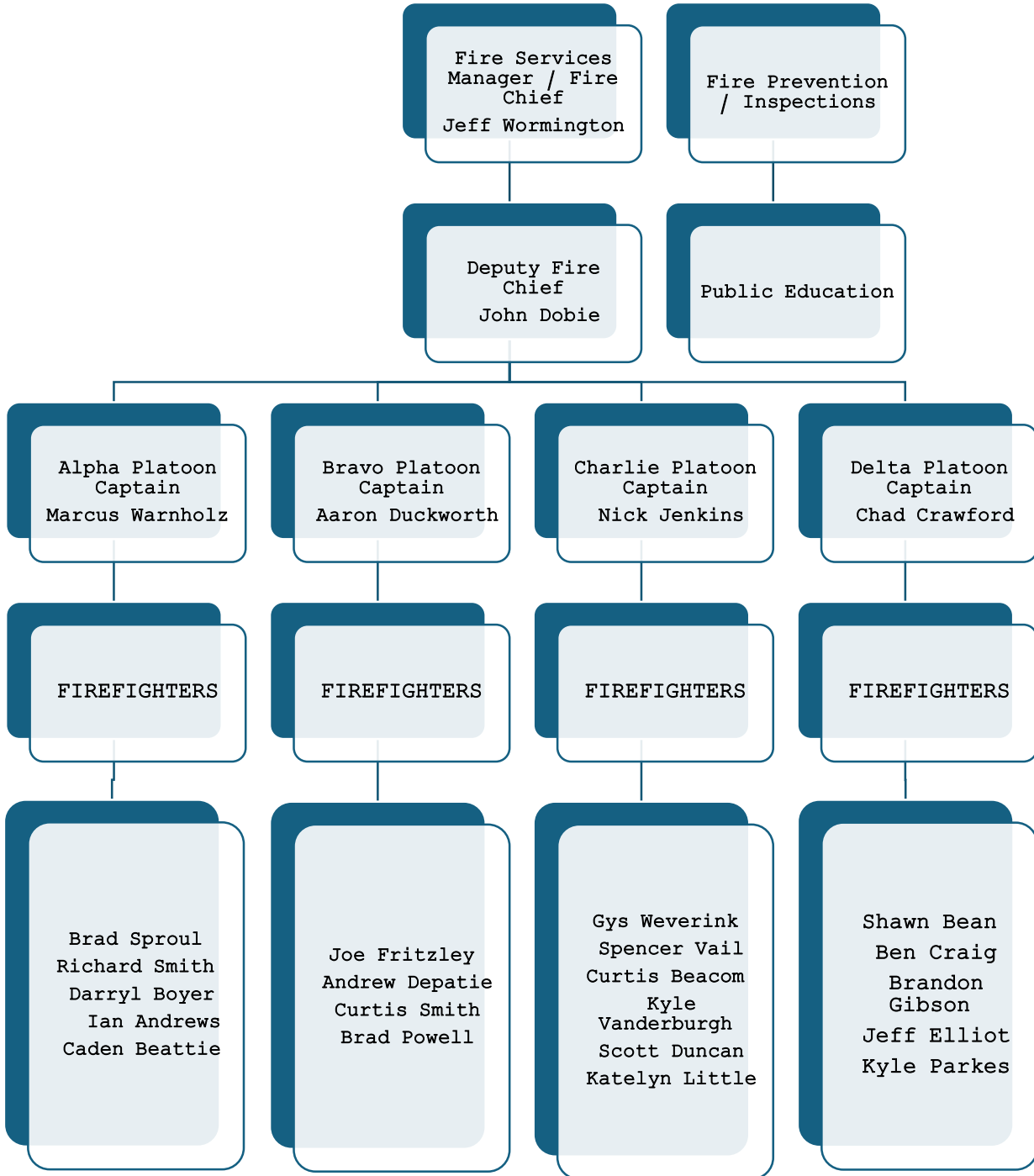
VALUES

- As a fire service, our values are a core foundation of what we do and how we work.
- Prevent incidents through public education, inspections, and fire safety plans.
- Respond quickly and safely when we are called.
- Perform as a team so the best knowledge and experience of team members are applied.
- Be compassionate to those affected by incidents.
- Welcome training so we can be the best service providers.
- Be innovative and know the best ways to respond in any situation.
- Act with integrity so we are trusted responders in emergencies.
- Be safe so we are immediately ready to return to service.
- Protect the environment in all we do.
- Help community members prepare for all types of civic emergencies.
- Continuously improve our service delivery and performance.
- Reduce, control, prevent, and recover costs



GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

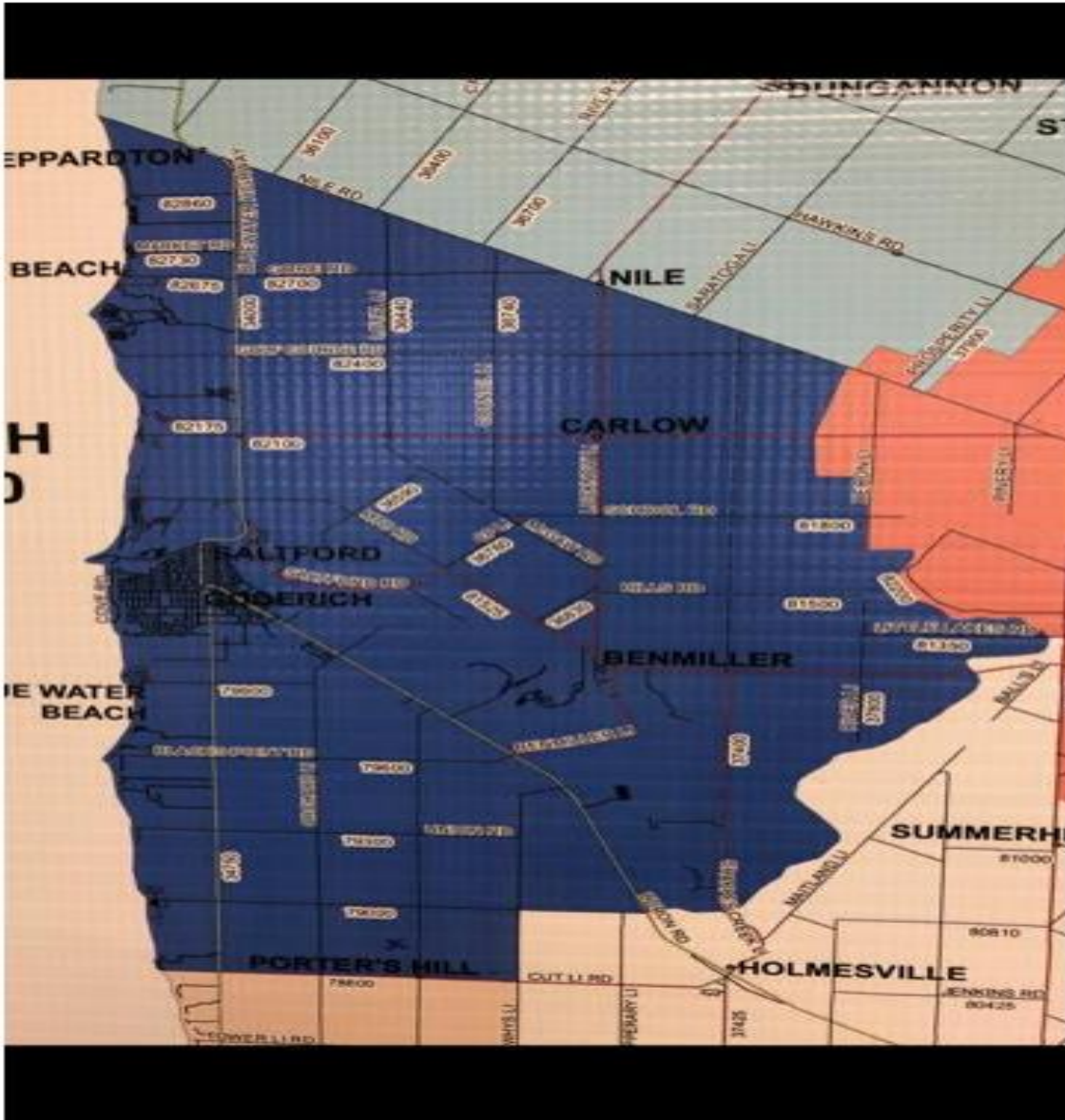
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GODERICH FIRE RESPONSE AREA





GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

1. Fire Prevention Inspections

- Regular inspections of residential, commercial, and industrial properties to ensure compliance with Ontario's Fire Code.
- Identifying and mitigating potential fire hazards.
- Collaborating with zoning and building departments for reviewing building plans of new constructions and renovations to ensure fire safety compliance.
- Strict enforcement of fire code violations, issuing orders and fines, and maintaining comprehensive inspection records.

2. Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Program

- Policies to ensure every residential unit has operational smoke and CO alarms.
- Routine inspections conducted during residential visits.
- Replacement of defective or outdated alarms with fully functioning units at times of inspection to ensure resident safety.

3. Annual Vulnerable Occupancy Protocols

- Conducting regular fire drills and facility inspections as mandated by Ontario Regulation 364/13.
- Coverage includes all retirement homes, care, and treatment facilities (hospitals), and residences with vulnerable individuals.

4. Public Education and Community Engagement

- In accordance with the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA), our department offers comprehensive public education to enhance fire safety awareness.

Educational Presentations:

Schools: Interactive and engaging sessions for students focusing on fire safety skills such as escape planning and hazard recognition.

Local Organizations: Customized presentations for community groups and companies covering fire prevention strategies relevant to various environments.

Seniors: Specialized presentations addressing unique risks in senior living spaces, providing easily implementable safety measures.

Community Open House:

- An annual Open House event at the Goderich Fire Station provides residents with opportunities to meet firefighters, explore the station, and learn about fire safety equipment and operations.



GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

- Encourages community engagement and provides a platform to ask questions about fire services and safety.

5. Strategic Objectives

- Foster a well-informed community that is prepared against fire incidents.
- Ensure safety and preparedness for all Goderich residents through education, inspections, and community involvement.

This report underscores our dedication to preventing fire incidents and promoting the safety and well-being of our community members. For deeper insights into specific areas of our fire prevention efforts or additional information, feel free to reach out to the Goderich Fire Department at jwormington@goderich.ca.





GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS AND INSPECTION

Public Education Events	2024
Institutional (schools, nursing homes)	8
Community Organizations	5
Fire Hall Tours (Scouts, Goderich Municipal Childcare Centre, school programs)	6
TOTAL	19

Inspections by Building Occupancy/ Type	2024
Inspection Type (Annual Totals)	
Assembly Occupancies (restaurants, schools, public buildings, bars)	9
Institutional (care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes)	7
Residential (homes, apartments, hotels)	18
Industrial (service stations, industry)	4
TOTAL	38



GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2024 DEPARTMENT TRAINING

We are proud to share the dedication and commitment of the Goderich Fire Department towards maintaining the highest standards of firefighting proficiency. Our team of dedicated members participates in comprehensive bi-weekly training sessions, each lasting three hours, to ensure preparedness and expertise.

Our training regime adheres strictly to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, which serve as the benchmark for firefighting excellence across the nation. By following these guidelines, we ensure our readiness to effectively respond to emergencies, safeguard the community, and perform our duties with precision and care.

The training encompasses various crucial aspects, including:

Structural Firefighting Techniques: Emphasizing the importance of tactical operations and strategic decision-making during structural fires.

Ventilation Practices: Learning methods to ventilate structures safely and efficiently, reducing potential hazards during a fire.

Search and Rescue Operations: Skills to locate and assist individuals in emergency situations, enhancing victim retrieval techniques.

Hazardous Materials Handling: Preparation to safely manage and neutralize substances that pose a risk to health and safety.

Emergency Medical Response: Basic first aid and life-saving techniques to provide immediate care before the arrival of medical professionals.

This systematic approach to training ensures that every member of the Goderich Fire Department is equipped with the invaluable skills and knowledge necessary to perform under the most challenging circumstances. Our commitment to regular and rigorous training not only enhances our capabilities but significantly contributes to the safety and well-being of our beloved community.

In 2024, Goderich Firefighters completed twenty-four (24) regular training sessions with a total of 1992 staff hours recorded.

Members also completed ten (10) hours of Midrise Structural Firefighting training.

Resilient Minds training was completed as part of our Mental Health Awareness Program.



GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

We thank you for your continued support and trust in our services. Rest assured, we strive to serve and protect with the utmost diligence.



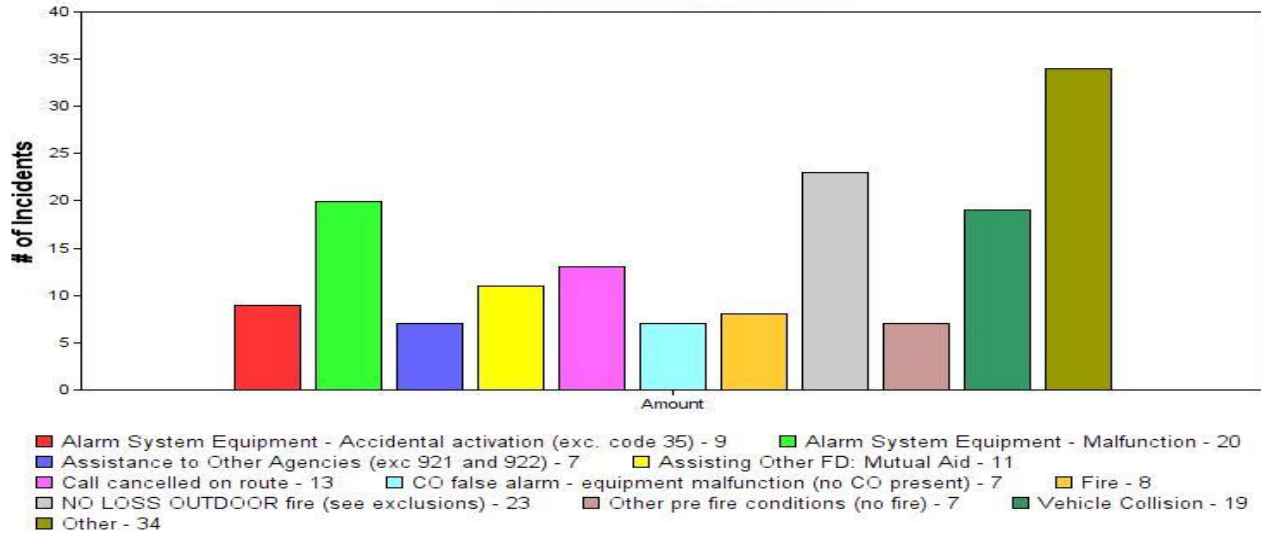


GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

2024 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Goderich Fire Department responded to one hundred and fifty-eight (158) calls for service in 2024.

Totals by Type
From Jan 1 24 to Dec 31 24



SIGNIFICANT FIRE EVENT

This year's most significant fire event was the fire at Watson's Home Hardware on Bayfield Road.

Our team responded and worked tirelessly to mitigate the fire, but due to safety concerns, entry into the building was not possible. The fire resulting in a total loss to the contents and structure. Original losses were estimated at \$5,000,000.





GODERICH FIRE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY

In 2024, the Goderich Fire Department displayed exceptional commitment by completing twenty-four (24) regular training sessions, accumulating a total of nineteen hundred and ninety-two (1992) staff hours.

Additionally, members undertook ten (10) hours of specialized Midrise Structural Firefighting training, enhancing their proficiency in handling emergencies. The department also prioritized mental health by incorporating Resilient Minds training into their program, underscoring their dedication to the well-being of their personnel.

Throughout the year, the Goderich Fire Department responded to one hundred and fifty-eight (158) calls for service, demonstrating their unwavering readiness. The most significant incident was the fire at Watson's Home Hardware on Bayfield Road. Despite their tireless efforts to control the blaze, safety concerns prevented entry into the building, resulting in a total loss of contents and structure, with initial losses estimated at \$5,000,000.

In total, the department managed thirty-one (31) fires, five (5) of which incurred losses exceeding \$100,000. Despite these challenges, the Goderich Fire Department's steadfast commitment to safety and service remained evident. We extend our deepest gratitude to Council and the community for their ongoing support and trust in our services. Rest assured, we remain dedicated to serving and protecting with the utmost diligence and professionalism.

Respectfully submitted,

[Jeff Wormington](#)

Fire Services Manager/Fire Chief