

Report to Municipal Council



Meeting Date: April 16, 2025	Report Date: April 1, 2025
Reason Before Council: For Information Only	Priority: Normal
Department: Protection to Persons & Property	Type of Meeting: Regular Meeting

Report Title: 2025 Q1 Report - Fire Department

Objective:

To update Council on the initiatives, emergency responses, training programs and statistics of the Fire Department and its divisions during the reporting period compared to historical annual performance measures.

Background/Analysis:

Quarterly reports provide interim updates on the Fire Department and its operations to Council in an ongoing effort to communicate the Department's impact to Council and ratepayers of the Municipality of St.-Charles.

The St.-Charles Fire Department provides realistic fire prevention, education and protection for life and property. Through community involvement, continued education, innovation, aggressive and compliant leadership we protect citizens, property, and the environment from many hazards.

Emergency Response(s):

The Department responded to eleven (11) emergency calls in Q1:

Version 1:

Call Type	Location	Attendance	Call Time
Structure Fire	French River	5*	Daytime
Alarm System Malfunction	St.-Charles	12	Evening
Vehicle Fire	Markstay-Warren	5*	Evening
Vehicle Collision	St.-Charles	8	Overnight
Vehicle Fire	Markstay-Warren	5*	Daytime



Structure Fire	St.-Charles	5	Overnight
Vehicle Collision	St.-Charles	1**	Daytime
Vehicle Fire	French River	4*	Daytime
Vehicle Collision	St.-Charles	6	Daytime
Structure Fire	St.-Charles	8***	Evening
Structure Fire	St.-Charles	10	Evening

*Mutual/Automatic Aid responses to other municipalities are only staffed to the level requested by the activating department.

**Fire Chief was asked to attend.

***We utilized the French River Fire Department for mutual aid due to low staffing during the family hockey tournament, and significant weather event. Total firefighters on scene was 17 with staff from FRFD

Version 2:

Emergency Type	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
Structure Fire	4	4				2	2
Motor Vehicle Fire	3	3				4	0
Motor Vehicle Accident	3	3				3	3
Alarm System Activation	1	1				2	2
Chimney Fire	0	0				0	1
Hydro Line Incident	0	0				2	2
Grass/Brush Fire	0	0				3	0
Burning Complaint	0	0				4	4
Rescue	0	0				1	4
Call Cancelled/Incident Not Found	0	0				1	3
Other (public hazard / perceived emergency)	0	0				2	5
Agency Assist (OPP/MNR/EMS)	0	0				0	0
Medical Response	0	0				0	1
Mutual/Automatic Aid*	4	4				1	1
Mutual/Automatic Aid Received*	1	1				3	0
Totals	11	11				24	27

*Mutual/Automatic Aid responses to other municipalities are only staffed to the level requested by the activating department. These responses are not included in the yearly/quarterly levels as they are accounted for by call type.

Percentage of Calls by Time of Day	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
0000-0800	18.1%	18.1%					
0800-1600	45.5%	45.5%					
1600-1159	36.4%	36.4%					

Attendance – Average Number/call	2025	Q1 (@13 Firefigh ters)	Q2 (@ 18 Firefigh ters)	Q3	Q4	2024 (@ 15 Firefigh ters)	2023 (@15 Firefigh ters)
0000-0800	7	7					



0800-1600	5	5					
1600-1159	9	9				5.1	6.7

*Data is a true average of all calls occurring during the reporting period and includes emergency calls where personnel caps are in place. I.e: tanker shuttles will involve no more than three (3) people.

**Does not include mutual aid staffing

All incidents were appropriately attended, given the necessary resource requirements except for the one (1) overnight fire. This under resourced call was the result of incomplete information being provided at the time of 911 call. The outcome would not have changed with additional personnel on scene.

In February there was an incident resulting in Tanker 12 being pulled into the ditch while operating at a Structure fire. Road conditions were the primary cause of this incident. The operator was uninjured, and minimal damage (a marker light) occurred to the vehicle. We had the vehicle inspected in follow up to ensure mechanical fitness. The mechanic did identify a worn draglink that could cause future issues, which we have replaced proactively.

Mutual Aid Activations:

- 2 mutual aid activations for French River for fires.
- 1 mutual aid activation for Markstay-Warren for vehicle fire.
- 1 automatic aid response for Markstay-Warren for vehicle fire.
- 1 mutual aid activation requested with French River to support structure fire with low staffing due to hockey tournament and significant weather event.

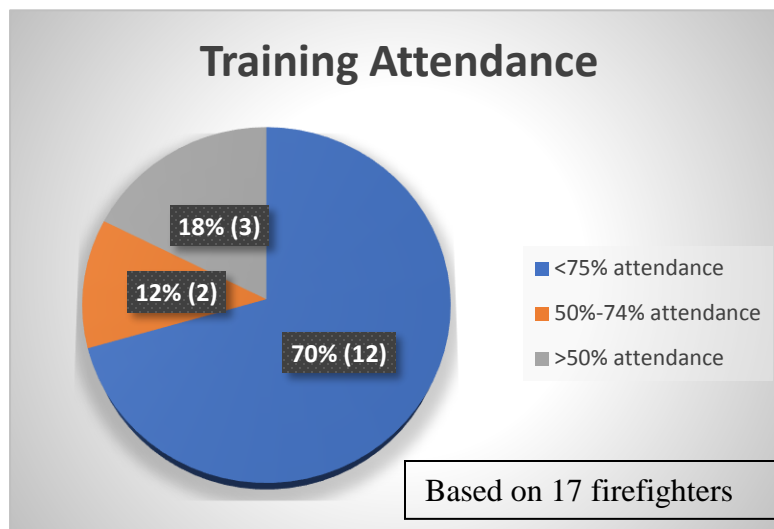


Training:

Training Session	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus	2	2				3	4
Fire Attack/Fire Extinguishers/Hoselines	2	2				3	4
Vehicle Extrication	0	0				3	2
Ladders/Ropes & Knots	1	1				2	2
Water Supply/Tanker Shuttle/Drafting	1	1				1	2
Communications/ FD Operations	1	1				2	1
Health and Safety/Scene Safety	2	2				3	1
Fire Streams/Foam	0	0				3	4
Chimney Fire Response	0	0				1	1
Forestry Training - Chainsaws/Pumps/tactics	0	0				3	2
Search and Rescue/Thermal Imagery	0	0				1	4
Fire Behaviour/Origin and Cause Determination	1	1				1	2
Pump Operation - Vehicle and Portable	3	3				3	5
Vehicle Operation - Driver Training	3	3				3	2
Ventilation	0	0				2	2
Rescue - Ice, Water, and Backcountry	2	2				3	0
Ontario College Training - # of courses taken	4	4				16	11
Officer Training	1	1				4	3
	18	18	0	0	0	37	38
Equipment & Truck Inspections	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
Vehicles	3	3				13	
Small Motors	3	3				12	
SCBA	4	4				14	



Training Attendance Q1:



*Percentage of firefighters by number of eligible training sessions

Ontario Fire College Training:

- Hazardous Materials Awareness – 2 Firefighters
- Ice and Water Rescue Awareness – 1 Firefighter
- Fire Instructor 1 – 1 Firefighter

Prevention and Public Education:

Fire Prevention	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
Commercial/Industrial Inspection	4	4				6	
Residential Inspection	1	1				3	
File Search	2	2				5	
Complaint Investigation	0	0				3	
Totals	7	7	0	0	0	17	0
Fire Education	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
Inperson Educational Events	2	2				5	
Social Media/Website posts	12	12				~40	
Locations with Fire Education Materials	3	3				3	
Fire Education Campaigns	0	0				2	
Totals	17	17	0	0	0	10	0

In person education events included: Club D'Alidor and St. Charles Food Market



Burn Permits	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
1-Day	0						
Annual	0						
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Human Resources:

Staffing Levels	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024 YE	2023-YE
Trained Firefighters	13	13				13	14
Probationary Firefighters	5	5				1	2
Total	18	18	0	0	0	14	16
Members on Leave	2	2				1	2
Recruitment	2025	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024	2023
New members	4	4				3	3
Applications	7	7				5	6
Resignations	0	0				2	3
Exit Interviews	0	0				2	3

One (1) member has completed their probationary period.

Four (4) new members have joined the department since January 1st.

- Seven (7) applications total were received.
- Two (2) voluntarily withdrew applications – reasons provided were time commitment, and personal.
- One (1) still in process

Volunteer recruitment was extremely successful this quarter. There was a significant lag, but based on the interview process, our online recruitment campaign from the fall was a significant motivator in the application uptick. Six (6) of the seven (7) applicants mentioned our advertisements as a motivation to apply. We will work over the next six (6) months to train these recruit firefighters before launching another recruitment campaign in the fall.

General Fire Chief Activities:

Ongoing maintenance activities:

- Compressor annual inspection.
- Portable pumps – annual maintenance including fuel, oil, and filters.



- Regular reports to council and CAO.
- Fire report submissions to Office of the Fire Marshal.
- Creation of tender document for NOHFC grant projects.
- Pumper 12 training.
- Recruit training program.
- Attended Northeastern Fire Education Conference.
- Five (5) separate stakeholder meetings with neighbouring Fire Chiefs to discuss enhanced collaboration surrounding training for mandatory certification.
- Developed a DZ training program geared to firefighters. The course is open to our neighbouring municipalities. The pilot course April 26/27th, 2025 with a full class.
- Twelve (12) Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines were reviewed as part of an annual review initiative. One (1) new SOG was created.

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