



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025



## A Message From Fire Chief Wood

It is both an honour and a privilege to present the 2025 Annual Report of the Dryden Fire Service to City Council, our residents, and City staff. The fire service is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve, and the Dryden Fire Service is no exception.

The past year presented significant challenges for our members, both physically and emotionally. I am extremely proud of how our team rose to those challenges, supported one another, embraced new responsibilities, and continued to deliver a high level of service to the residents and visitors of the City of Dryden. Their professionalism, resilience, and dedication were evident throughout the year.

This Annual Report highlights the accomplishments and progress made by the Dryden Fire Service in 2025 and reflects the considerable effort invested in serving our community. None of this work would be possible without the commitment of our firefighters, nor without the continued support and guidance of City Council and the City of Dryden Senior Management Team.

Within this report, Council and the public will find an overview of our operational activity, including call volumes, fire prevention and public education initiatives, training and professional development, and other key advancements achieved over the past year. Together, these elements demonstrate the depth of work that occurs beyond emergency response and the ongoing commitment of our members to continuous improvement.

The Dryden Fire Service remains a progressive, adaptable organization focused on meeting the needs of our growing and changing community. Through a strong emphasis on fire prevention and public education, we work proactively to reduce risk and help protect lives and property. When emergencies do occur, our firefighters respond with professionalism, compassion, and skill, supported by modern training and equipment.

I hope this report provides readers with a meaningful insight into the daily operations and responsibilities of the Dryden Fire Service. It is always an honour to serve this community, and we are proud to remain accountable and transparent to the people we are entrusted to protect.

Sincerely,

Chris Wood



## OUR VISION

provide high quality and caring service to those who live in, work in and visit our City - safely, efficiently and effectively..

## OUR MISSION

to protect the lives and property of our citizens and visitors by providing prompt and professional service in the event of fire, accident, emergency, disaster or any other event which may threaten the public welfare.

## Core Values

Integrity  
Honesty  
Accountability  
Teamwork  
Innovation  
Service Excellence

# DFS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





# DRYDEN FIRE SERVICE



## Who We Are & What We Do

The Dryden Fire Service delivers comprehensive fire protection and emergency services to the residents, visitors, and business community of the City of Dryden. The Service is responsible for mitigating risks to life, property, and the environment arising from fire, medical emergencies, motor vehicle collisions, hazardous conditions, and other emergent threats. Service delivery is grounded in a risk-based model that integrates emergency response, fire prevention, public education, training, and operational preparedness, with a consistent emphasis on firefighter and public safety, operational effectiveness, and fiscal responsibility.

The Dryden Fire Service operates with a blended service delivery model consisting of four full-time staff positions: Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Prevention Officer, and Training Officer, supported by approximately 44 volunteer Captains, Lieutenants, and Firefighters. Emergency operations are conducted from two strategically located fire stations, providing geographic coverage that supports response time objectives and operational readiness across the municipality.

Emergency call intake and fire dispatch services are provided through the Kenora Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC). Upon receipt of an emergency notification, volunteer firefighters who are alerted via pager and Smart Phone App, respond to their assigned station, and deploy to the incident in accordance with established response standards, training requirements, and occupational health and safety protocols.

In addition to providing an all-hazards response within municipal boundaries, the Dryden Fire Service supports regional emergency response through mutual aid agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions. These responsibilities include responses to motor vehicle collisions up to approximately 100 kilometres outside the City of Dryden, as well as assistance with structure fires and water and ice rescue incidents. These agreements enhance regional resilience while ensuring an efficient and coordinated use of emergency response resources.

Through continued investment in personnel, training, prevention initiatives, and infrastructure, the Dryden Fire Service remains positioned to meet both current and emerging risks. Ongoing support from Council is critical to maintaining service levels, managing operational risk, and ensuring the Fire Service remains aligned with the City of Dryden's strategic priorities related to community safety, sustainability, and responsible governance.



**DRYDEN**  
FIRE SERVICE



## Achievements & Accomplishments

- Hired eleven Recruit Firefighters in 2025 and will begin NFPA 1001 - FF Level I & II training in 2026. This brings Dryden's overall roster between both Hall 1 and Hall 2 to forty-eight Firefighters.
- Five Firefighters Certified to NFPA 1001 - Firefighter Level II
- Successful on four grants, accumulating a total of \$92,920.00 for the year. With the funding we purchased:
  - Virtual Reality (VR) Portable Fire Extinguisher Prop
  - Respirator Fit Test Machine
  - Bunker Gear and Water Rescue Dry Suit Drier
  - Mental Health Training Programs for firefighters
  - Textbooks and exam prep books for firefighter education
- 96 Inspections on occupancies were completed, with 80 of them having violations
- 106 Residential houses were knocked on during our smoke alarm campaign. 33/44 houses that allowed us to do inspections were compliant
- 226 emergency calls for service totaling 2429 personnel hours
- 3679 personnel hours of training
- 301 personnel hours of Fire Prevention & Education to public delivered
- One workplace injury resulting in no time off

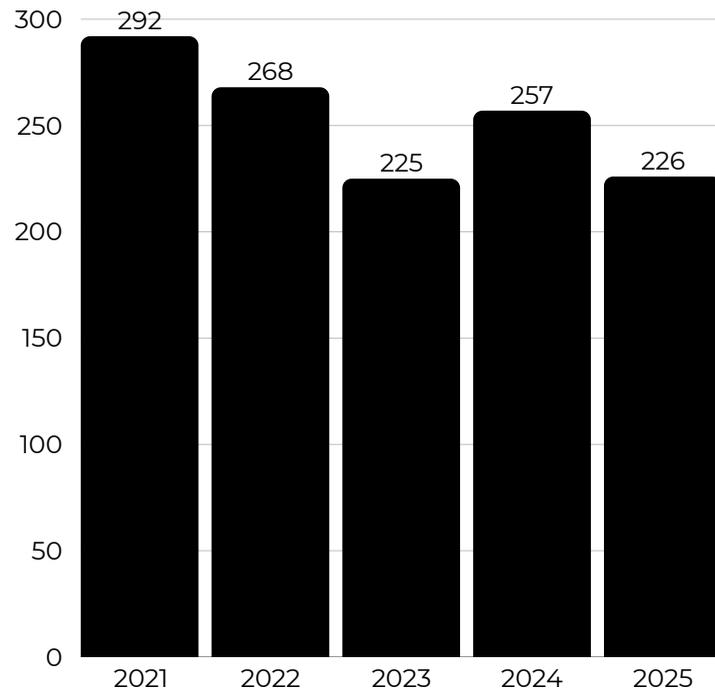


# OPERATIONS DIVISION

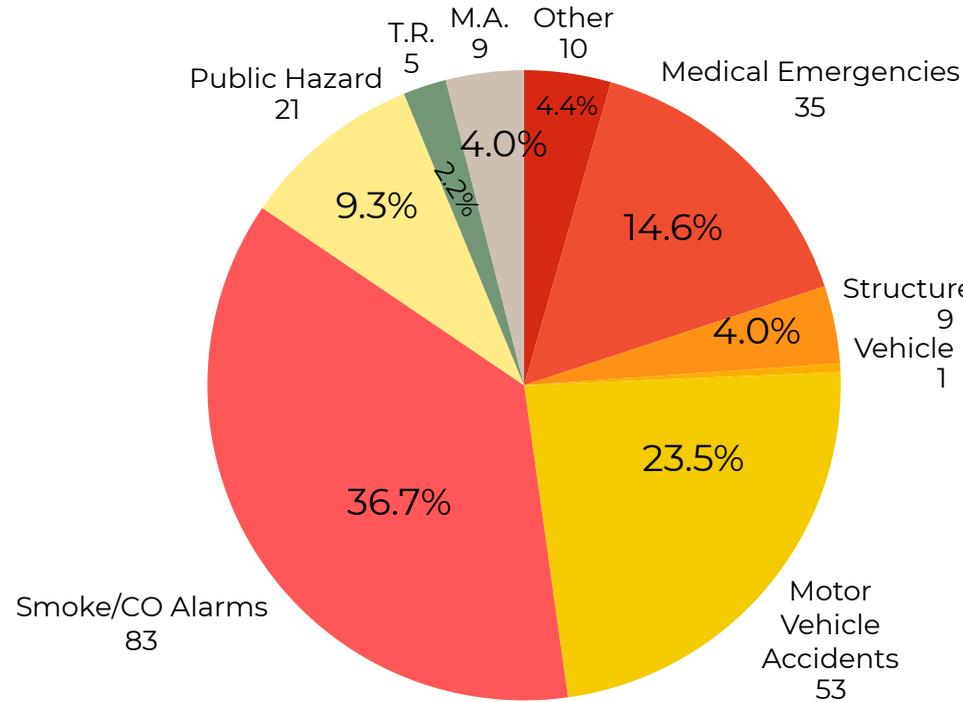


# Emergency Response Statistics

Total Incident Per Year  
(Last 5 Years)

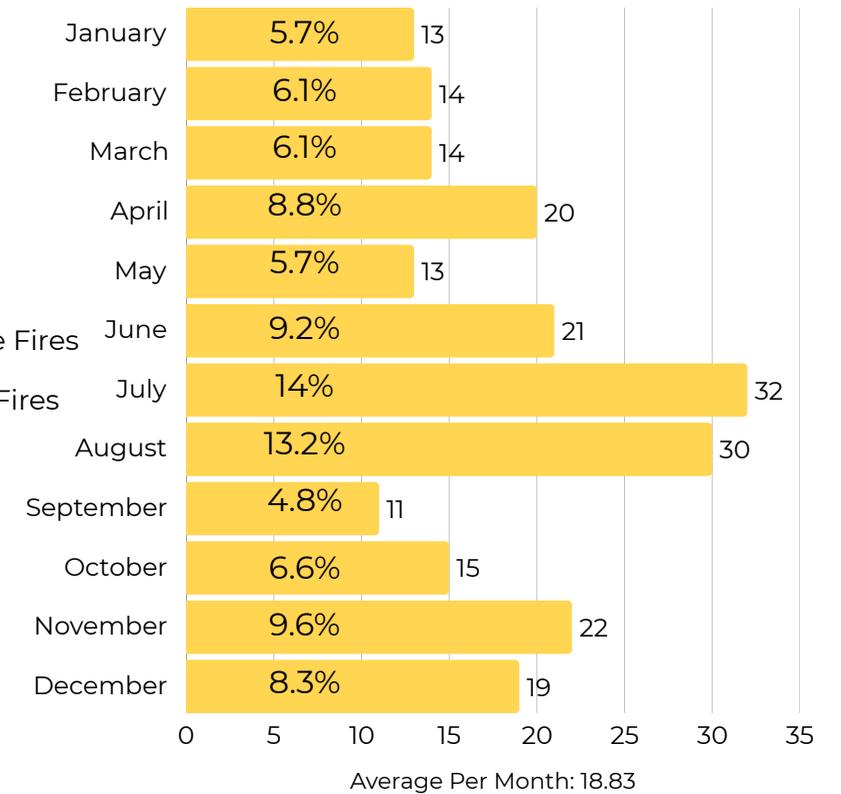


2025 Incidents by Type  
Total Calls: 226



\*Technical Rescues (T.R) , Mutual Aid (M.A.)

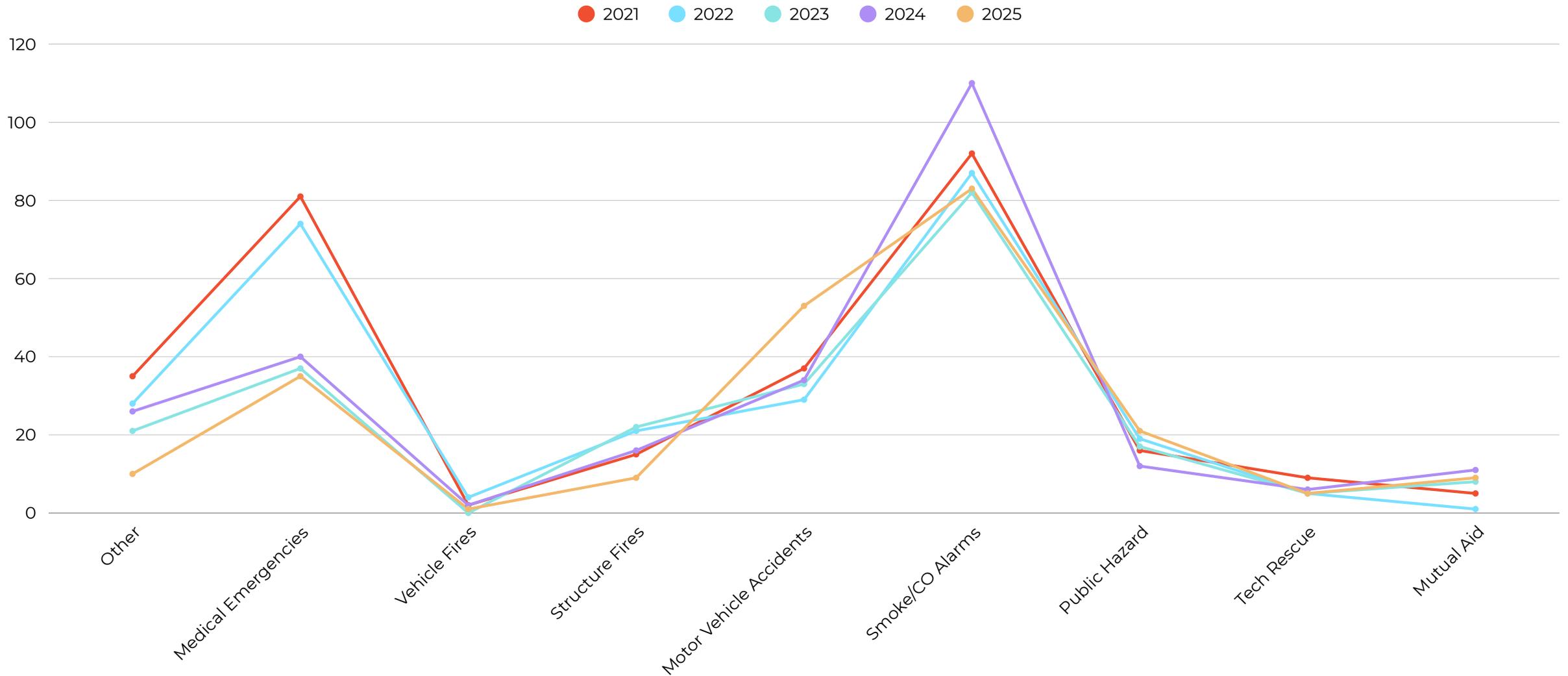
Emergency Incidents by Month





# Emergency Response Statistics

5-Year Incidents by Type





# RESPONSE TIMES

## Average Response Time for all Emergency Incidents

The average time for the first fire truck to arrive at an incident from the time it was dispatched (response time) for all calls was 8:51

## Average Response Time for Emergency Incidents within the Municipality

The average time for the first fire truck to arrive at an incident within the City of Dryden from the time it was dispatched (response time) was 7:52

### NFPA 1750 (ch.7)

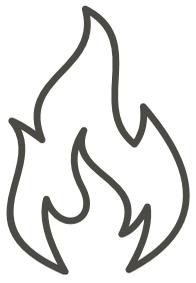
The NFPA 1750 ch.7 standard for response applies to volunteer firefighting services that typically do not have personnel on duty at stations and instead respond to calls from home, work, or elsewhere. Dryden's average population density is 119.7 people per sq. km, giving it a rural population density rating by ULC.

*The NFPA 1750 ch.7 Urban Standard requires 15 firefighters to be on scene within 9 minutes 90% of the time.*

*The NFPA 1750 ch.7 Suburban Standard requires 10 firefighters to be on scene within 10 minutes 80% of the time.*

*The NFPA 1750 ch.7 Rural Standard requires 6 firefighters to be on scene within 14 minutes 80% of the time.*

In 2025, the Dryden Fire Service achieved  
Urban Standard 83.3% of the time  
Suburban Standard 100% of the time  
Rural Standard 100% of the time



# Fires (Structures & Vehicles)

In 2025 the Dryden Fire Service responded to a total of 7 structure fires within the City of Dryden with reported damage, resulting in a total structure fire loss estimated at \$608,000



**Residential**



**Industrial**



**Commercial**



**Mutual Aid**



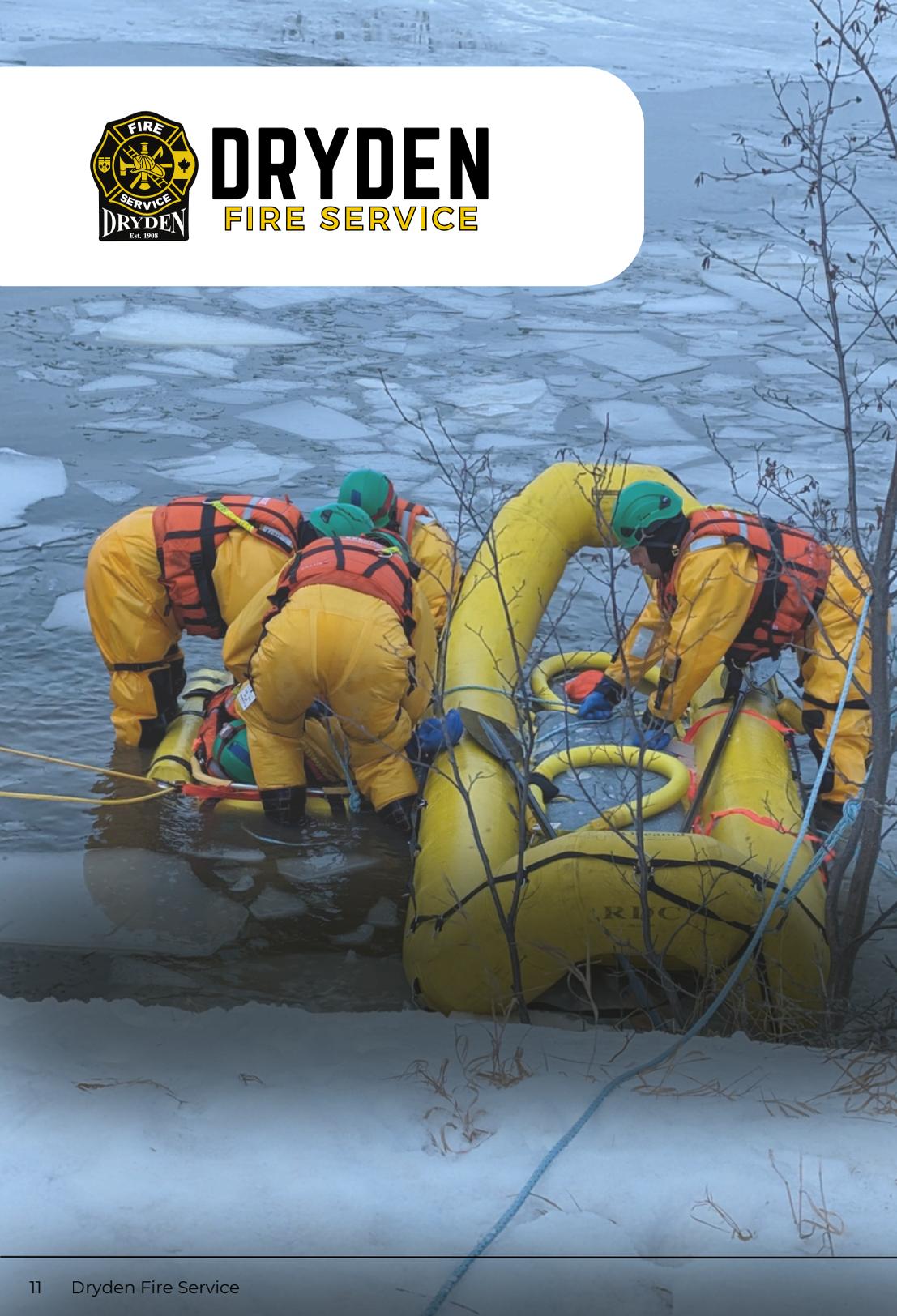
**Vehicle**



# TRAINING DIVISION



**DRYDEN**  
FIRE SERVICE



## Overview

The Training Division's primary focus is to develop and deliver the highest-quality training and education for members of the Dryden Fire Service. Compliance with provincial standards and regulations, as well as department operating guidelines, is achieved by providing the following training as part of the regular firefighter training curriculum:

- NFPA 1001 - Firefighter Level I & II
- NFPA 470 - Hazardous Materials Awareness & Operations
- NFPA 1006 - Surface Water Rescue & Ice Water Rescue
- NFPA 1002 - Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator
- Leadership & Officer Development
  - NFPA 1021 - Fire Officer I
  - NFPA 1041 - Instructor Level I
- DZ Driver Licensing/Driver Training
- Live Fire Training

The Training Division continues to research new equipment, methods, technologies, and programs to improve departmental operations and ensure the safety of all personnel. Routine tasks for the Training Division include:

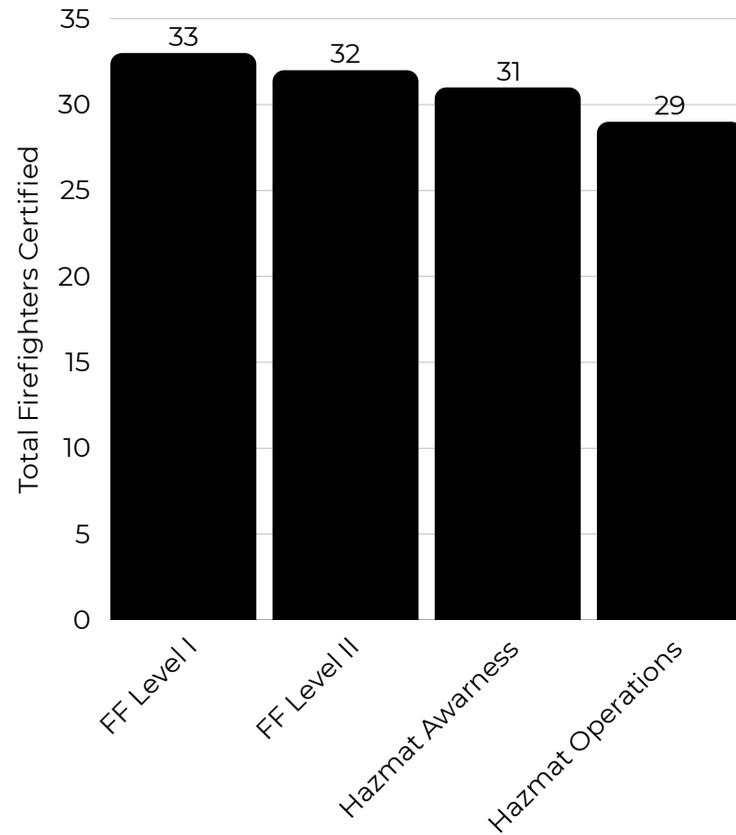
- Development of new training programs
- Revision of the existing training curriculum and programs
- Development of instructor skills
- Acquisition of new training materials
- Development of department SOGs



# Training Statistics

## NFPA 1001 - Firefighter Level I & II Certification

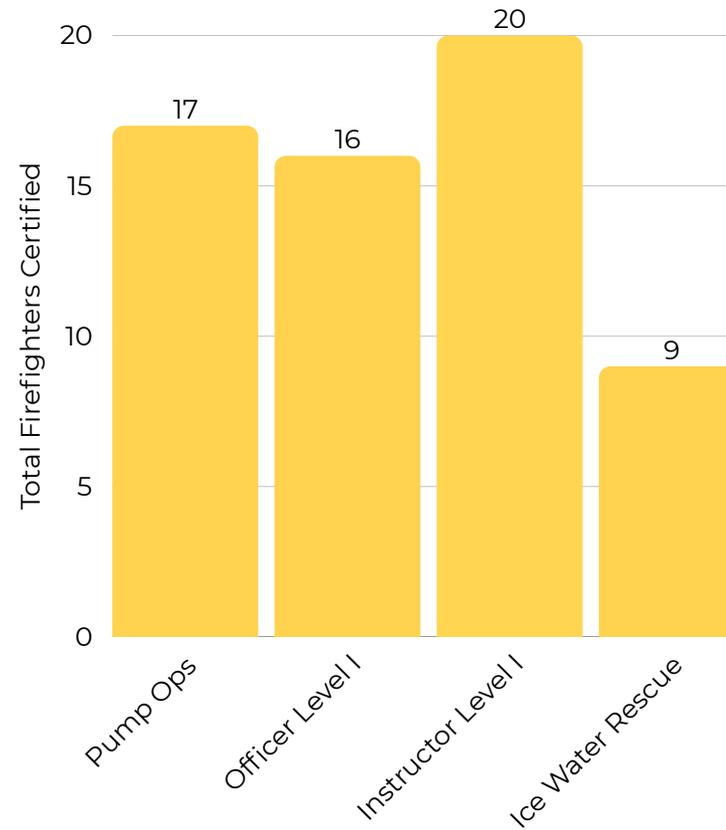
O. Reg. 343/22: FIREFIGHTER CERTIFICATION



NFPA 1001 & NFPA 470/1072

29/37 Firefighters are Fully Certified

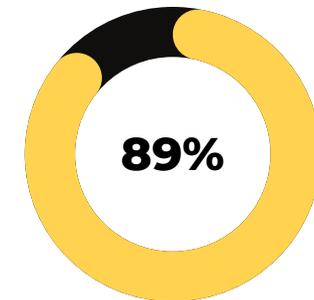
## Other NFPA Certifications



## Total Training Hours

# 3679 HOURS

## Total Firefighters Compliant (O. Reg. 343/22)



NOTE: Dryden Fire Service hired 11 new firefighters to their roster Late 2025. They are not in these statistics due to fire departments having 3 years (36 months) from the date of hire to fully certify firefighters to NFPA 1001 - Firefighter Level I & II



## Training Courses Completed

In 2025, some of the NFPA Course completed by Dryden Firefighters included:

- NFPA 1001 - Firefighter Level II (4 firefighters)
- NFPA 1041 - Instructor Level I (2 Firefighters)
- NFPA 1006 - Common Passenger Vehicle Extrication (1 Firefighter)
- NFPA 1002 - Pump Operations (12 Firefighters)

In addition to the NFPA courses, Dryden Firefighters also completed the following training:

- Firefighter Survival/Rescue/RIT
- Ice Water Rescue & Surface Water Rescue
- Common Passenger Vehicle Extrication
- First Aid/CPR
- Basic Life Support (BLS)
- Ground Ladders
- Low-Angle Rope Rescue
- Forcible Entry
- Aerial Ladder Operations
- Rural & Urban Water Supply
- Hose Operations & Hose Streams
- Fire Dynamics & Reading Smoke
- Incident Command
- Fire Suppression
- DZ License



# **FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**



## Overview

The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for reducing the risk of fire, protecting life and property, and ensuring compliance with the Ontario Fire Code and the Fire Protection and Prevention Act. Through proactive inspections, public education, fire investigations, and enforcement activities.

The Dryden Fire Service conducts proactive and complaint-based inspections across all property classes, including:

- Assembly occupancies
- Residential buildings
- Vulnerable Occupancies (Care occupancies, care and treatment occupancies)
- Industrial and commercial properties
- Construction and renovation projects

Key activities include:

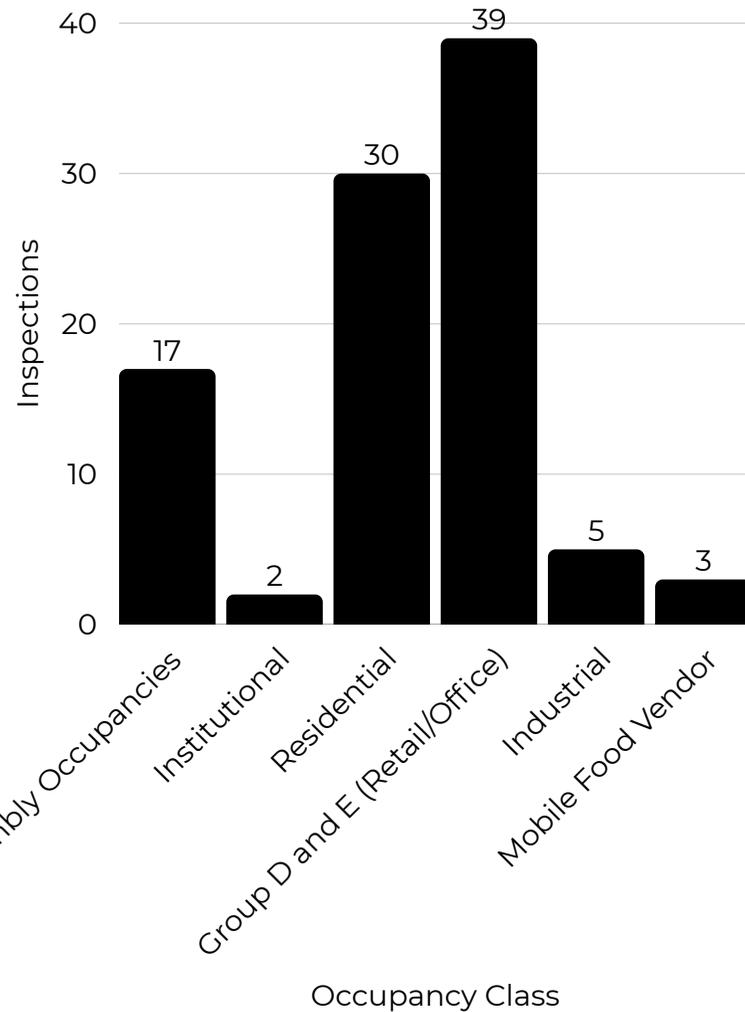
- Annual and cyclical inspection programs
- Follow-up compliance inspections
- Review of fire safety plans
- Issuance of inspection orders where required
- Court proceedings when voluntary compliance is not achieved

The Division emphasizes education-first enforcement while maintaining firm compliance standards to ensure public safety.



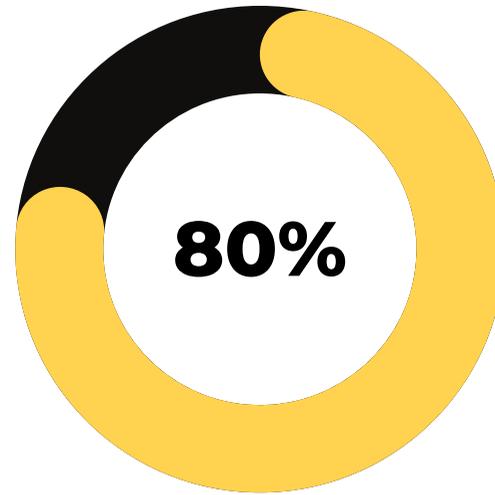
# Fire Prevention Inspection Statistics

### Inspections Completed



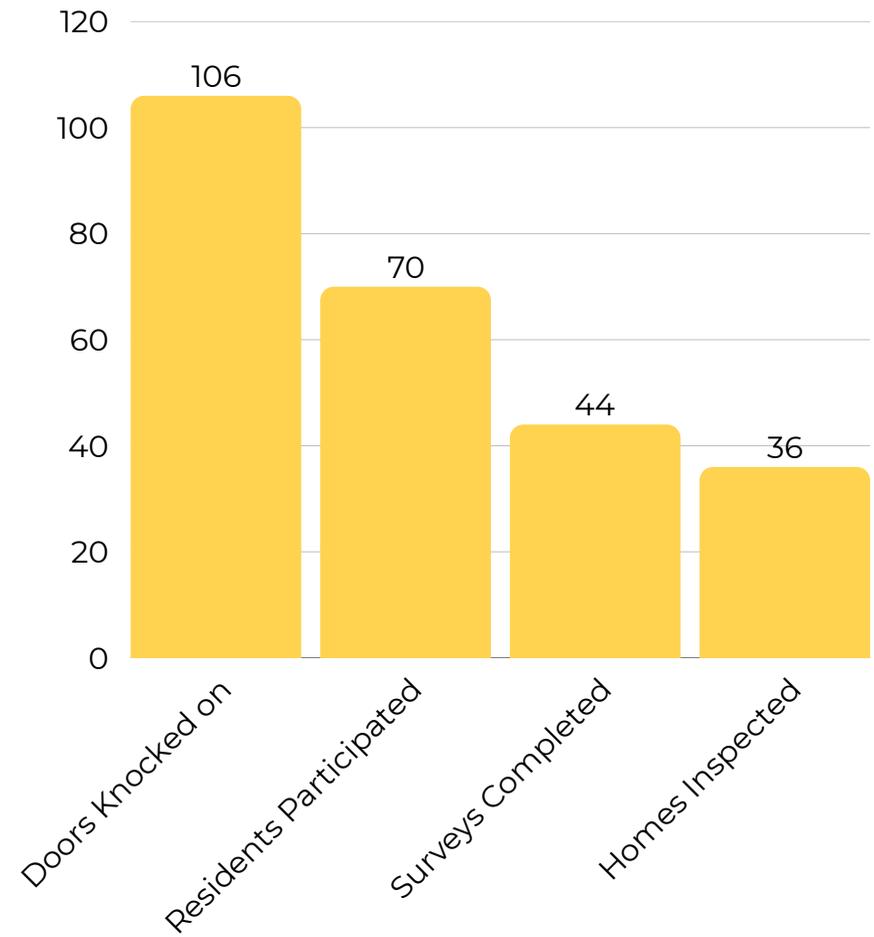
Total Inspections Completed: 96

### Inspections with Violations Found



**Total Violations Found**  
**602**

### Annual Smoke Alarm Campaign



33/44 Homes were Compliant



## Public Education

Public education remains a cornerstone of fire prevention strategy. Programs delivered in 2025 included:

- School-based fire safety education programs
- Smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm awareness campaigns
- Fire Prevention Week activities
- Social media safety campaigns

Initiatives align with provincial themes promoted annually by the Office of the Fire Marshal and national partners.

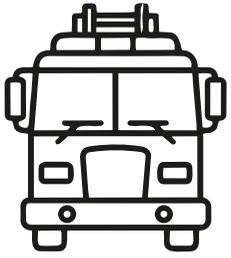
The Dryden Fire Service continues to use local data and incident trends to target high-risk populations and occupancies.

**Total Public  
Education Events**  
**28 EVENTS**

**Total Prevention &  
Education Hours**  
**301 HOURS**



# FLEET, FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT



# Fleet

The Dryden Fire Service, along with the City of Dryden Public Works Department, is responsible for the care, maintenance, testing and management of all fire apparatus. Dryden Fire Service staff complete weekly and monthly inspections to ensure that all vehicles and equipment are in a state of readiness in the event of an emergency call.

## Station 1 (189 Memorial Ave)



**Car 1**



**Car 2**



**Pump 21**



**Ladder 24**



**Rescue 25**



**Equipment 22**



## Station 2 (14378 Highway 17)



**Pump 31**



**Tanker 32**



**Equipment 33**



**Utility 34**





**DRYDEN**  
FIRE SERVICE



## Equipment

The Fire Chief and Deputy Chief, with the assistance of other full-time staff, officers and firefighters, are responsible for coordinating the care, maintenance, testing, replacement, repairs, and management of all firefighting tools and equipment. Each platoon is responsible for regularly inspecting all tools and equipment to ensure they are ready for emergencies. Routinely, various equipment is scheduled to be inspected, tested and maintained according to manufacturer recommendations or legislated requirements, including:

- Flow testing of breathing apparatus
- Hydrostatic testing of breathing air cylinders
- Maintenance, testing and air sampling of breathing air compressors
- Preventive maintenance on all small engines, portable pumps, generators, ventilation saws, rotary saws, etc.
- Preventative maintenance on all auto extrication equipment
- Testing and calibration of all gas detection units
- Testing/inventory of all fire hoses and nozzles
- Bunker gear/PPE inspections, repairs, and replacement
- Testing of all ground ladders
- Inspection and testing of fire extinguishers
- Inventory and conditioning of portable radios
- Maintenance and repair of patient care equipment
- Inspection and maintenance of water/ice rescue equipment
- Seasonal readiness checks (winterization/summer prep)
- Battery management and replacement schedules for electronic equipment



# Grants

Dryden Fire Service is committed to operational readiness, firefighter safety, and community risk reduction through ongoing training, preventative maintenance, and compliance with legislative and industry standards. Responsible stewardship of municipal and grant funding ensures reliable emergency response and long-term sustainability of essential public safety services.

## Successful Grant Applications

### Hydro One - Energizing Life Community Fund

\$25,000



Virtual Reality (VR) Portable Fire Extinguisher Prop used to train firefighters, businesses, and citizens

### Ontario Fire Protection Grant

\$33,000.00



Respirator Fit Testing Machine used to fit test our SCBA masks and a PPE drying rack for decontaminating our structural bunker gear and PPE

### MHS4PSP -Warrior Health and the Grant Program

\$30,000.00



Firefighter training for peer support, critical incident stress management, suicide awareness and other trauma-informed mental health programs

### Enbridge Gas & FMPFSC - Safe Community Project Assist Campaign

\$5,000.00



Textbooks and exam prep books used for mandatory certification and firefighter training



# COMMUNICATIONS



## Social Media

The Dryden Fire Service uses social media as a key communication and public education tool to enhance community awareness, transparency, and engagement. Social media platforms are used to share timely public safety information, emergency preparedness messaging, fire prevention education, and updates during significant incidents or service disruptions when appropriate.

In addition, social media is used to promote community programs, training activities, and recruitment initiatives, and to recognize member achievements and milestones. This outreach strengthens public trust, supports risk reduction, and provides residents with accessible information about the role and activities of the Fire Service, while maintaining professionalism.

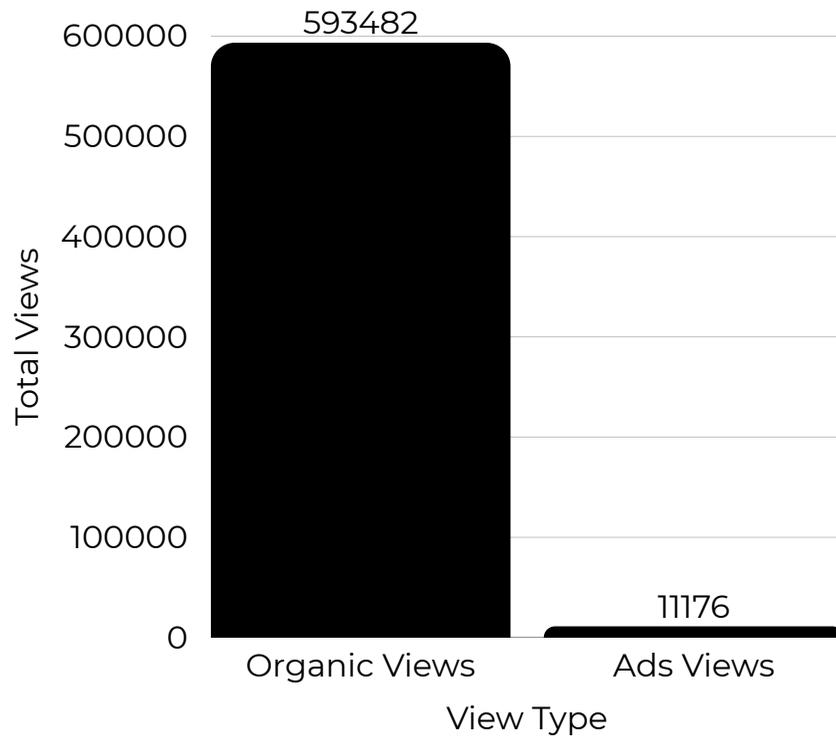
The Dryden Fire Service focused on the following content in 2025:

- Public safety messaging and emergency preparedness information
- Fire prevention education (smoke alarms, fire extinguishers, escape planning, seasonal safety)
- Training activities and firefighter skill development
- Paid-Per-Call Firefighter recruitment
- Community events, school visits, and public education programs
- Recognition of member achievements, certifications, promotions, and service milestones
- Updates on new equipment, technology, and grant-funded initiatives
- Incident-related public information when appropriate
- Partnership activities with municipal departments, industry, and regional agencies
- Health, wellness, and safety awareness initiatives
- Public reminders related to burn bans, extreme weather, and seasonal hazards

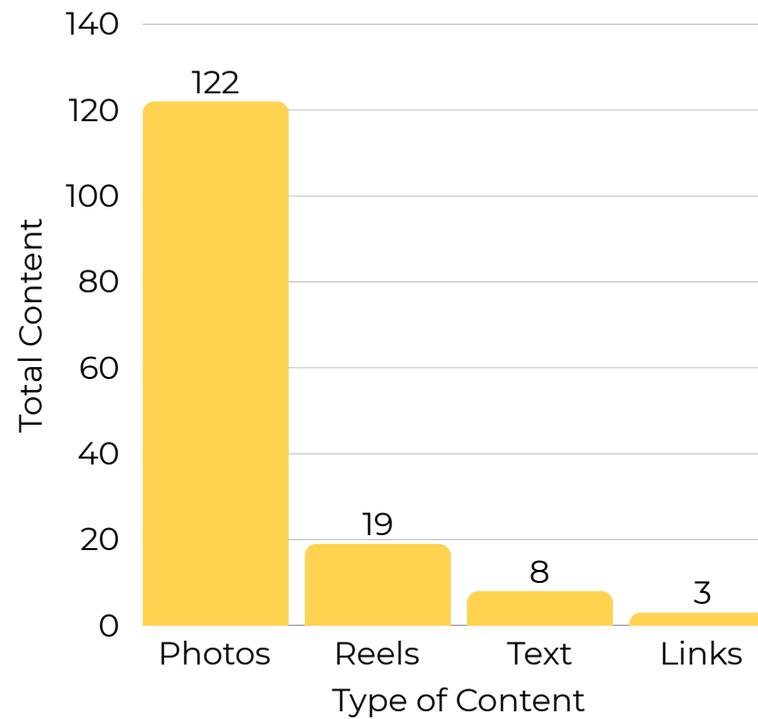


# Social Media Statistics

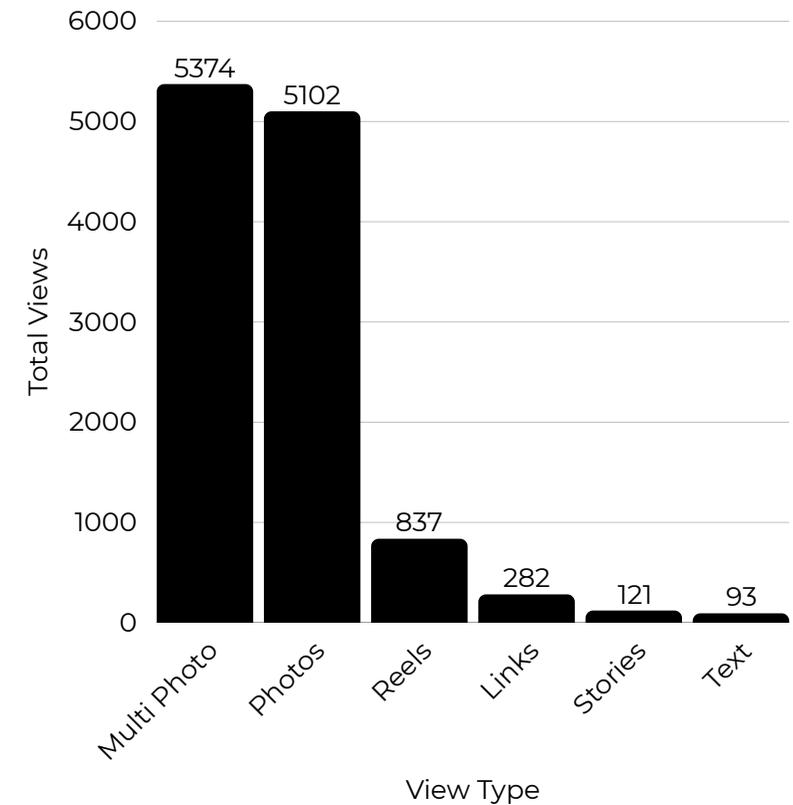
Total Views on Meta  
(Facebook & Instagram)  
604.7K Total Views on Content



Type of Published Content



Content Interaction  
The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies on your content, including ads



Dryden Fire Service currently uses Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and X (Twitter) to reach our audience



# 2026 PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES



**DRYDEN**  
FIRE SERVICE



## 2026 Goals & Objectives

- Train and certify eleven (11) recruit firefighters to NFPA 1001 – Firefighter Levels I and II
- Train and certify twelve (12) experienced firefighters to NFPA 1006 – Surface Water Rescue
- Review and update the Respiratory Protection Program to ensure ongoing compliance and best practices
- Review and update the Cancer Prevention Program to support firefighter health and safety
- Review and update the Emergency and Response (E&R) By-law
- Develop and implement a Dryden Fibre Emergency Response Training Program
- Continue the development, review, and refinement of Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)
- Continue to pursue grant funding opportunities that support emergency response, training, prevention, and public education initiatives
- Update and modernize our PTSD Prevention Program with new training on Peer Support and Critical Incident Stress Management
- Increase fire department hosted public education events
- Offer fire safety training to external organizations in the community
- Aim to reduce the number of noted violations found during inspections by maintaining our proactive approach of scheduled routine inspections



189 Memorial Ave  
Dryden, ON P8N 2M6



[www.dryden.ca/fire](http://www.dryden.ca/fire)  
(807) 223-1178