



# 2020 Community Report



## MESSAGE FROM MAYOR ROB VAGRAMOV



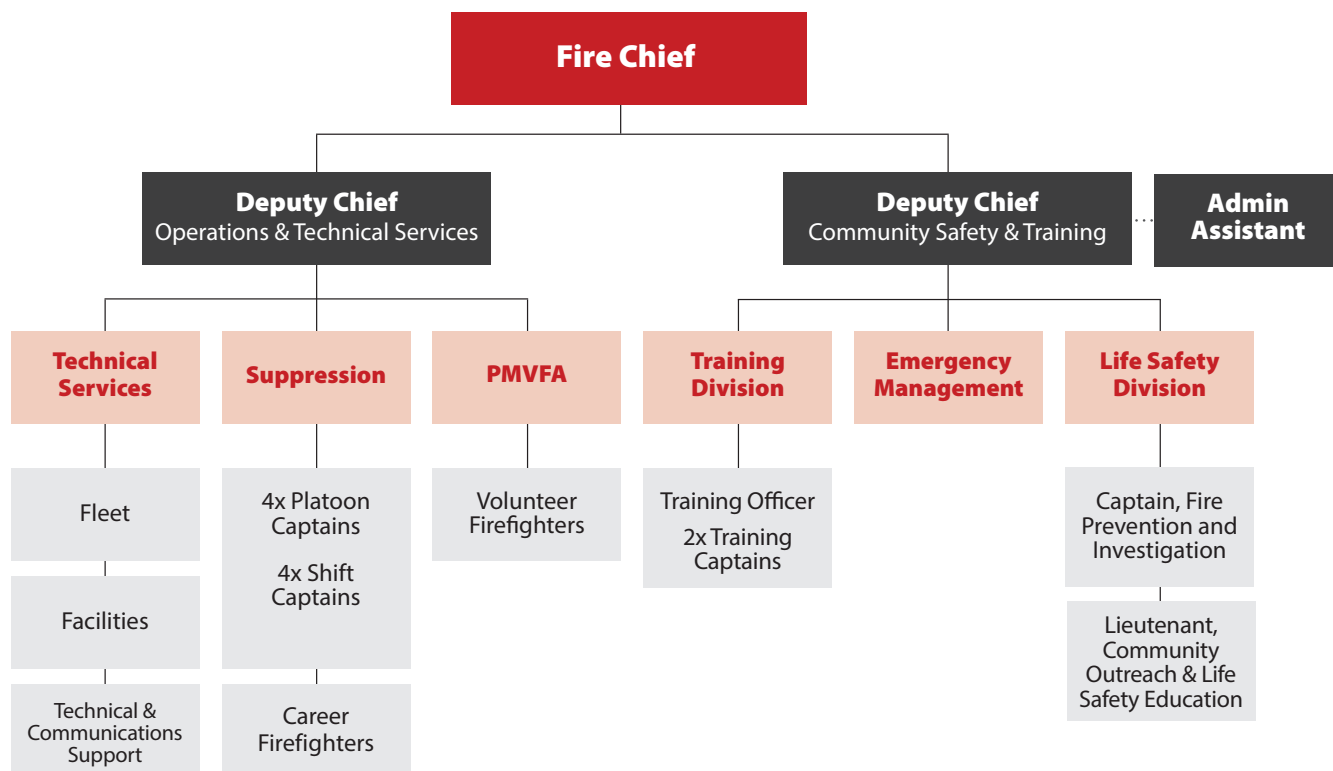
From fire suppression and first responder medical services to disaster response planning and emergency management, Port Moody Fire Rescue (PMFR) plays a crucial role in keeping our community safe. This was abundantly clear in 2020, as COVID-19 forced all of us to adapt to a new normal.

PMFR's professional and highly-skilled staff responded to the pandemic by: continually adjusting response protocols to meet the challenges created by COVID-19; developing comprehensive safety plans to keep staff safe; moving educational programming online; maintaining and improving skills through adapted training methods; and leading events that recognized the heroic efforts of frontline workers.

Throughout, the department continued to serve Port Moody with pride. PMFR personnel responded to 1,008 incidents, participated in 4,414 hours of training, and donated 2,000 hours of charity work. The firefighters' charitable society once again demonstrated unwavering commitment to the community, as they continued to support local agencies and non-profit organizations despite being unable to host their annual, in-person fundraising events.

Please take some time to read this Community Report, which provides a detailed look at the services PMFR provided in 2020. I'm extremely proud of their accomplishments and their efforts to protect and care for our residents and the community as a whole.

## DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE





# MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF RON COULSON



I am again pleased to present the Port Moody Fire Rescue Community Report for 2020. This past year was unlike any other we have experienced as a community, or as a Department. From the time it became apparent that a unique and dangerous strain of the novel-coronavirus had arrived in our region, through the declaration of a global pandemic, a provincial health emergency, and a provincial state of emergency that has become the longest in our history, we have had to adapt all aspects of our service model so that we could continue to deliver services to our citizens in need. As well, PMFR provided structure and oversight for our City's Emergency Operations Centre which has been operational since March 14, 2020. My hope is that this report will give you a view into our operational adaptations, as well as demonstrate how the staff at PMFR has met the challenge of COVID-19 with professionalism and pride.

Our incident volume was significantly lower in 2020 as our community hunkered down in the early days of the crisis combined with an adjusted medical incident response model designed to conserve PPE and keep the risk of exposure to a minimum. That being said, we were still able to continue to deliver our core services and maintain our skills. A significant highlight included the arrival and placement into service of our newest additions to our fleet, Tower 1 and Engine 1. The arrival of a new engine allowed us to retire and donate our oldest engine to the Seton Valley Volunteer Fire Department, serving the communities of Seton Portage and the First Nations community of Shalath.

Our community outreach and volunteer charitable initiatives were severely curtailed or altered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those initiatives went virtual this year, and we are hopeful for the day when we can return to seeing all at our annual pancake breakfast, amongst other events.

Port Moody Fire Rescue prides itself in its dedication to community, and we will continue to be there for our City through the most difficult of times. As I prepare to transfer command to a new Fire Chief in 2021, I'd like to extend my sincerest appreciation for the confidence and trust the community has shown in me as your Fire Chief over the past four and a half years.

.....

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Port Moody Fire Rescue is dedicated to minimizing injury, property loss, and environmental damage in our community in the event of fire, disaster, or other life-threatening incident. Through effective and timely response, prevention initiatives, progressive practices, education, and training, Port Moody aspires to be one of the safest communities in Canada.

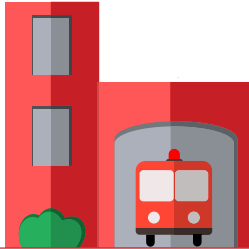


**FIRE RESCUE SERVICES DURING A PANDEMIC**  
Port Moody Fire Rescue responded to the pandemic by adjusting response plans to ensure the highest level of safety for staff and the public. New protocols included heightened pre-incident planning, reduced community programming, and altered inspections to target high-risk premises. Enhanced safety planning included limiting access to our two Fire Halls to ensure staff safety and capacity.



## PORT MOODY FIRE RESCUE

# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS



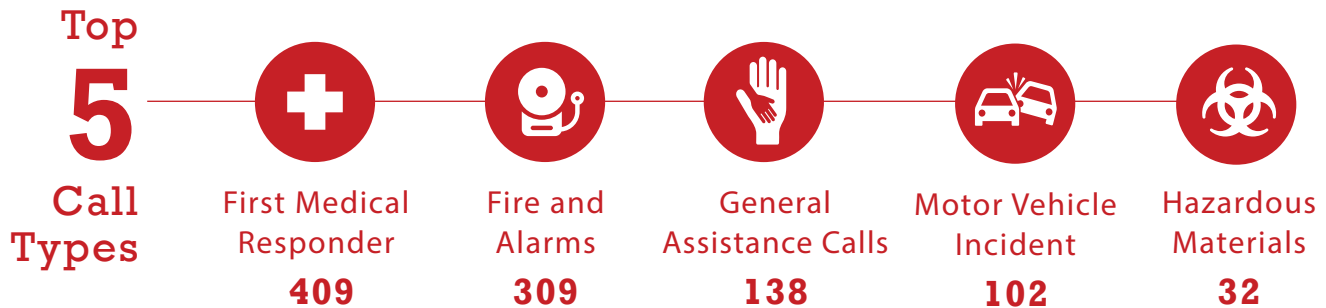
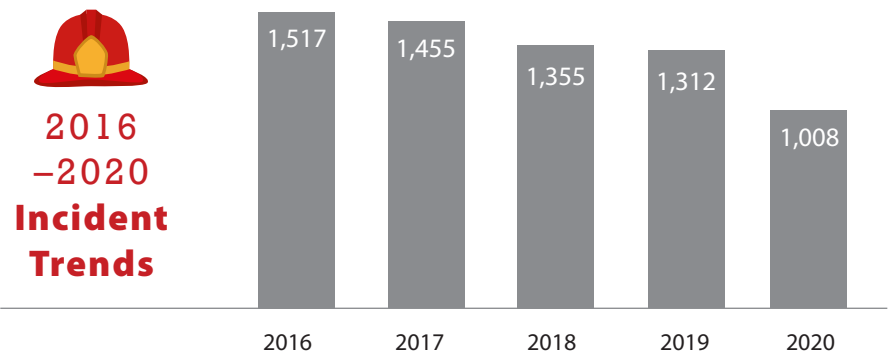
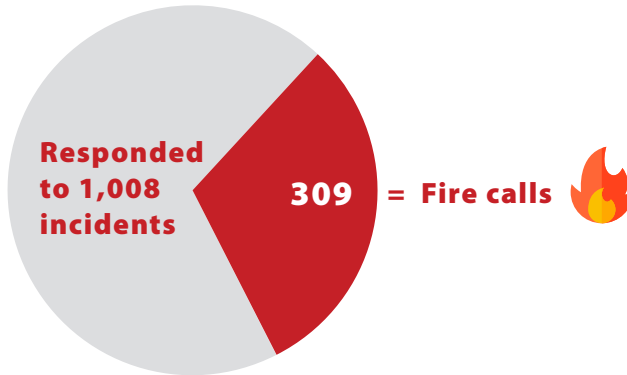
**2 Staffed Firehalls**

**45 career staff**  
**20 volunteers**  
**3 chief officers**  
**1 admin assistant**  
**- provide -**

**24/7/365**

**emergency services to residents and visitors**

## 2020 Number of Incident Responses



**5pm**

is the most common time to get a call



**Friday**

is the most common day of the week to get a call



**January**

is the month with the most calls

Staff engaged in over

**4,414 hours of training**

to ensure readiness to respond to a variety of emergencies



**2,000**

hours of  
charity work



**\$54,419**

raised  
in total

The PMFF's Charitable Society continuously gives back to the community through a number of events. They support the Eagle Ridge Hospital Foundation, Crossroads Hospice, the BC Professional Firefighters' Burn Fund, Muscular Dystrophy, the Cancer Drivers network, and the Tri-City Soroptomists.



**823**

number of regular fire  
inspections conducted



**12**

number of critical lifesaving  
medical interventions

## Budget Bites

- In 2020, Port Moody Fire Rescue had an operating budget of **\$8,886,000**
- **20%** of property taxes that go towards funding city services are used to fund Fire-Rescue.
- An average household paid **\$489** towards the department in 2020.

OTHER CITY SERVICES  
**80%**

PMFR  
**20%**



Staff conducted more than 112 public education events, including Inlet Fire Hall visits, educational events and school tours.

# WHAT WE DO



## OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division is responsible for fire suppression services, first responder medical services, life-safety/rescue response services, and specialized rescue services. Operations also assists in the delivery of community safety initiatives including premise inspections and public education programming. This Division also oversees the management of the Port Moody Fire Rescue apparatus fleet and Department facilities.



## TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division is responsible for the planning, development, delivery, and evaluation of all training of Department staff. Industry best practices, regulatory requirements, and operational needs all drive the scope of the training programs. In 2020, the PMFR Training Division facilitated the delivery of more than 4,414 hours of training.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

The Community Safety Division is responsible for all fire prevention services, life-safety educational programming, and community outreach initiatives. Members of this Division support Operations by providing fire investigative services. Fire prevention services include regular fire safety inspections, problem premise inspections, institutional inspections, fire and building code interpretation and enforcement, and liaising with the City's Building and Bylaw divisions on new construction code compliance.



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Community Safety Division is responsible for emergency management and disaster response planning. The Division's scope includes planning for, and managing, a major emergency response, managing the City's Emergency Operations Centre, managing a complete post-disaster recovery, training staff and community volunteers, and providing emergency planning information to the public.



## PORT MOODY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

The Port Moody Volunteer Firefighter's Association is composed of 20 community-oriented individuals who supplement career staff at major incidents, and are heavily involved in community events. They meet for weekly training, are led by an executive, and fall under the stewardship of the Operations Division of PMFR.



# WHAT THE COMMUNITY CAN DO



## To prepare your household for an emergency:

- Make an emergency phone list with at least one out-of-area contact.
- Pick a meeting spot if you're separated from family members.
- Know where your electrical panel, water and gas valves are located, and learn how to turn them off.
- Store enough emergency water for your family. You will need at least four litres (one gallon) of water per person, per day.
- Store enough emergency food for three days to one week.
- Visit [getprepared.gc.ca](https://getprepared.gc.ca) for more preparedness tips.



## To secure your space in the event of an earthquake:

- Secure tall, free-standing furniture, such as bookcases, china cabinets, and shelving units to wall studs using "L" brackets, corner brackets, or anodized aluminum moulding.
- Move all framed pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and chairs.
- To prevent cabinet doors from flying open, secure them with either a push latch or a pull latch.
- Appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, washers, and dryers can move significantly during an earthquake. Use strong strapping and ratchets or other connectors to secure them.
- Search for "Prepared BC" at [gov.bc.ca](https://gov.bc.ca) for more tips.



## To stay fire safe at home:

- Always make sure your BBQ lid is open before lighting it.
- Change the batteries in your smoke detector when you set clocks for Daylight Savings.
- Make sure your hydrants are clear of debris or snow. Hidden hydrants can cost first responders valuable time in an emergency.
- Keep your doors closed when sleeping.
- Visit [firepreventionweek.org](https://firepreventionweek.org) for more safety tips.



## To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning:

- Have fuel-burning appliances (e.g. furnaces, hot water heaters, fireplaces) in your home inspected annually.
- Install carbon monoxide alarms adjacent to each sleeping area and on every storey of your home, according to manufacturer's instructions, if you have at least one fuel-burning appliance, a fireplace, or an attached garage.
- Visit [technicalafetybc.ca/carbon-monoxide](https://technicalafetybc.ca/carbon-monoxide) for more.

### **Inlet Centre Fire Hall**

150 Newport Drive  
Port Moody, BC V3H 5C3

### **Glenayre Fire Hall**

955 Glenayre Drive  
Port Moody, BC V3H 1J5



[portmoody.ca/firerescue](http://portmoody.ca/firerescue)



604.469.7795



[pmfd.info@portmoody.ca](mailto:pmfd.info@portmoody.ca)



[@PortMoodyFR](https://twitter.com/PortMoodyFR)



[facebook.com/PortMoodyFireRescue](https://facebook.com/PortMoodyFireRescue)



[@portmoodyfirerescue](https://www.instagram.com/portmoodyfirerescue)

