

The Canadian Fire Service

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Canadian Fire Services

- Largely volunteer (1991 stats)
 - Career = 23,977
 - Volunteer = 76,290
- Municipal responsibility
- Provincial oversight

The Canadian Fire Service : History

- Most Departments established in the mid 1800's (Ottawa 1837)
- Municipal responsibility
- Strong Unions with a long history (Ottawa Unionized in 1919)
- Fire Focus: Highly Reactive
- Respected
- Traditional Organizations



History: Continued



- Large growth after the war 1946-1960
- Para-military (rank structure)
- Large number of fires: entrenched as core services by municipalities
- Powerful within municipal structure
- 60's and 70's expansion in size and power

The Canadian Fire Fighter: History

- Dangerous job (50% injury rate/high death rate 1970,s)
- Heavy equipment, tough work, required physical strength
- Predominately young white males (Anglo Saxon)
- Low levels of formal training (2-3 weeks the norm)

FEDERAL IMPACTS

Indirect

- Codes

 - Fire

 - Building

- Can be adopted by each province

 - Standards

 - Referenced in codes

PROVINCIAL IMPACTS

Legislation

Province of Ontario

Bill 84

Fire Protection and Prevention Act

1997

BILL 84 - FIRE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (cont'd)

- s. 2(7) authority for the Fire Marshal to monitor & review the fire protection services & make recommendations to municipal council for improving efficiency & effectiveness of fire protection services and if serious threat to public safety exists
- s. 2(8), (9) regulation authority for the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations setting level of service in a municipality if serious threat not addressed

BILL 84 - FIRE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS (cont'd)

- s. 6(6), 10(1) broad delegation powers for Fire Marshal & Fire Chief
- s. 9(1)(b) Fire Marshal can direct Assistants to the Fire Marshal
- s. 9(1)(d) development of guidelines
- s. 12(1) easier to introduce regulations in Fire Code (ministerial authority) & broader scope
- Part XI Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council

3 LINES OF DEFENSE

- Fire Safety Education
- Fire Safety Standards
- Efficient & Effective Emergency Response



Fire Protection Is More Than Fire Trucks and Fire Stations



PREVENT EDUCATE



REGULATE IF NECESSARY

FIRE PROTECTION - BILL 84

- delivery system 100% funded by municipalities
- set level & type of service based on needs & circumstances
- cannot jeopardize public safety

DUTIES OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

s. 9(2)

- Fire Investigation
- Develop training programs & evaluation systems
- Maintain & operate a central Fire College
- Develop & maintain statistical records & conduct studies with respect to fire protection services

DUTIES OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

(cont'd)

- Keep a record of every fire reported as required by the Act
- Provide information & advice on fire safety matters & fire protection matters
- Advise municipalities in the interpretation & enforcement of the Act & Regulations

Changing Mandates

“Customer Service Focus”

- Focus is now on Public Safety not only Fire Safety
- Medical Calls Tiered Response (65-75%)
- Public Education
 - Blood Pressure Clinics
 - Car seat inspections
 - Youth Groups
 - F.I.T. (Fire Fighter Intervention Tactics)
- Inspection/Enforcement
 - In service inspection Program

1st LINE OF DEFENSE

- Changing Human Behaviours Through Awareness & Education

2nd LINE OF DEFENSE

- Fire Safety Standards in place

3rd LINE OF DEFENSE

- Maintaining an effective & efficient emergency response capability

OPERATIONS

- Types of apparatus are changing
- Combination units
- Pumper/Aerial devices
- Ambulance/Pumper
- Crew sizes
- # of firefighters on scene

OPERATIONS

(cont'd)

- Diversity
- Human Rights
- Hiring Practises
- Incident command

Fire Fighter Safety

Response:

Global Positioning

Computer Aided Dispatch

Increase in information available

Location, route, type of occupancy, dangerous goods on site, dangerous individuals on site etc.

Traffic Signal Pre-emption

Fire Fighter On Scene Safety

Accountability

- Personal area networks
- Identifies position of every fire fighter on scene
- Transmits vital signs of each fire fighter
- Wireless internet technology
- Bar codes

Fire Fighter On Scene Safety

(cont'd)

Accountability

- Detects structural changes in buildings through signals sent from chips in fire fighters helmets etc.
- New radio clearer communications (filter out noise)
- Video viewing devices part of turn out gear transmit signals to Incident Commander

Technology

- Rapid expansion in this area.
- Focus is on Safety of Fire Fighters
 - Lighter, safer materials
 - Accountability
 - New products
 - Communications
 - New techniques in fire suppression

Technology (con't)

Fighting Fires

- Visibility
- Infra Red Imaging
- Hand held
- Helmet mounted
- Extinguishment

Technology (con't)

Fighting Fires

- Foam
- Nitrogen
- Compressed water cannons
- High Volume hose: low friction loss, low maintenance
- Dry Chemical units

Training

Internet/Intranet

- Personal study: individual controls pace
- Virtual Reality
- TRADE (wide network)



CONCLUSION

The Fire Service of this century will be a fully integrated Public Safety Service.

It will be responsive to Community needs.

It will constantly change to reflect that responsiveness.

It will use technology to meet ever changing roles and mandates.

It will require totally different skill sets and education levels of its fire fighters.

