

Hudson Fire  
Department

# 2023 ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT



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## WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Hudson Fire Department's activities report summarizes the significant events that have taken place in our territory as well as in assisting neighbouring cities/towns such as Vaudreuil-Dorion, Saint-Lazare, Rigaud, and Sainte-Marthe, to name a few.



The annual report allows us to paint a picture of the actions and efforts of all personnel who are part of our team, both in prevention and operations. It also becomes an essential step in reflecting on past achievements and projecting actions for the future in a context of continuous improvement.

The Fire Department also maintains its primary mission, which is to ensure the protection of people and property in the community against fires and all other disasters, including optimal protection against all hazards while maintaining a standard of quality.

We are proud to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Hudson Fire Department. This important milestone allows us to reflect on the founders who started in 1948 and the constituent elements that have brought us to where we are today. We must ensure that we continue to innovate and maintain the level of service that makes us who we are.

The hiring of a prevention officer remains a top priority for the Fire Department. To ensure compliance with the risk coverage plan of the MRC, an external consultant was hired to carry out inspections of commercial buildings for both the year 2023 and those from previous years.

In 2023, firefighters responded to **790** calls, an increase of **14%** compared to 2022 (**680**), and I would like to emphasize the effort of each member of the Fire Department. Although the part-time on-call firefighter profession is becoming increasingly demanding, your firefighters and first responders have faced unique challenges while maintaining an essential and professional service to the residents of Hudson.

I also take this opportunity to wish you a good read and to personally thank you for the support you offer us and demonstrate throughout the year.

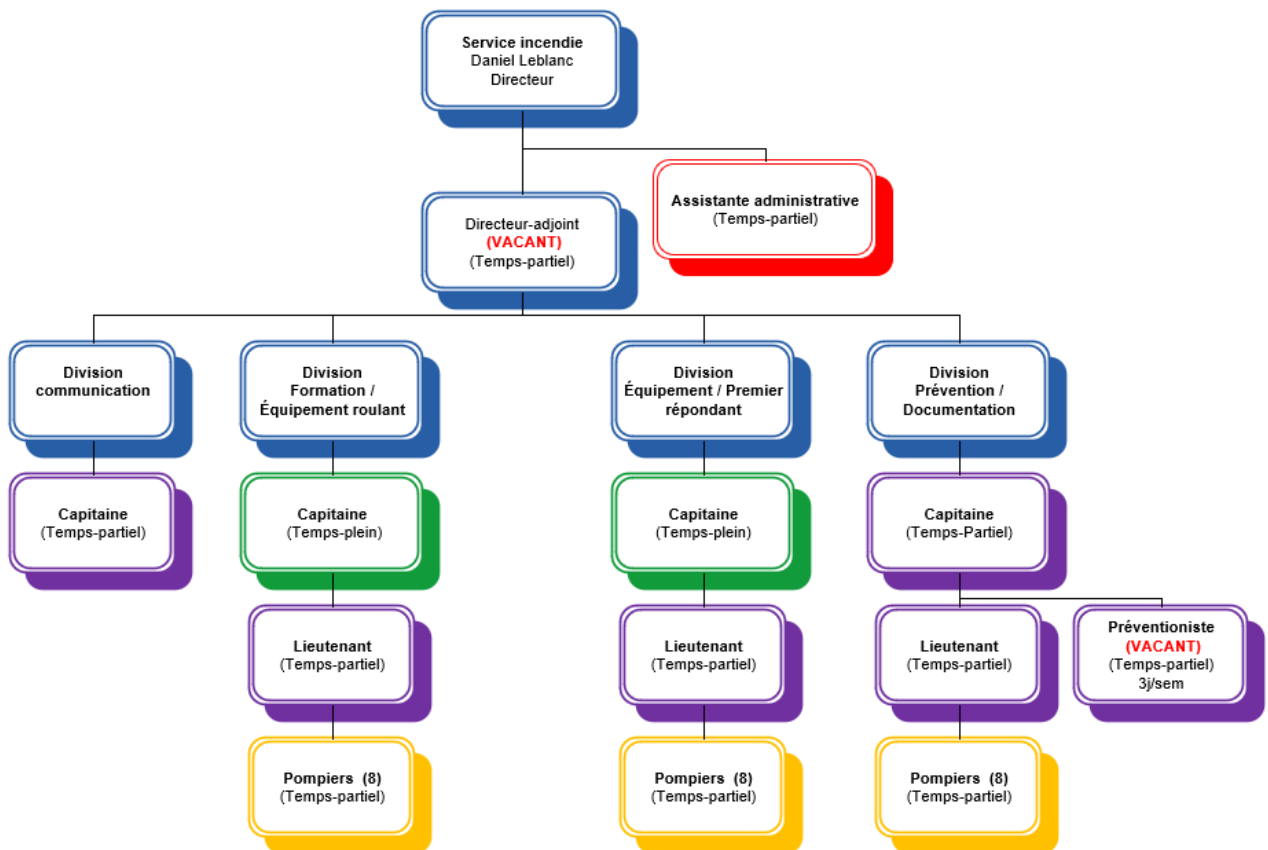
***Daniel Leblanc***  
*Director*

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The organization of the Fire Department is composed of part-time firefighters and 2 full-time captains. The total staff is distributed as follows: 2 management positions (1 director, 1 **vacant** assistant director), 4 captains, 3 lieutenants, 24 firefighters, and 1 **vacant** Prevention Officer.

In the organization, one captain has the mandate to ensure the coordination of **training / fleet equipment**, one captain has the mandate to ensure the coordination of **first responders / firefighting equipment**, one captain has the mandate to ensure coordination in **prevention / documentation** and one captain has the mandate to ensure **operational communications**. All staff respond to emergency situations and assume various administrative and/or occupational tasks, day, night and weekends.

\*\* Some positions are currently vacant due to departures, and replacements are planned for 2024.





## AREA SERVED BY THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

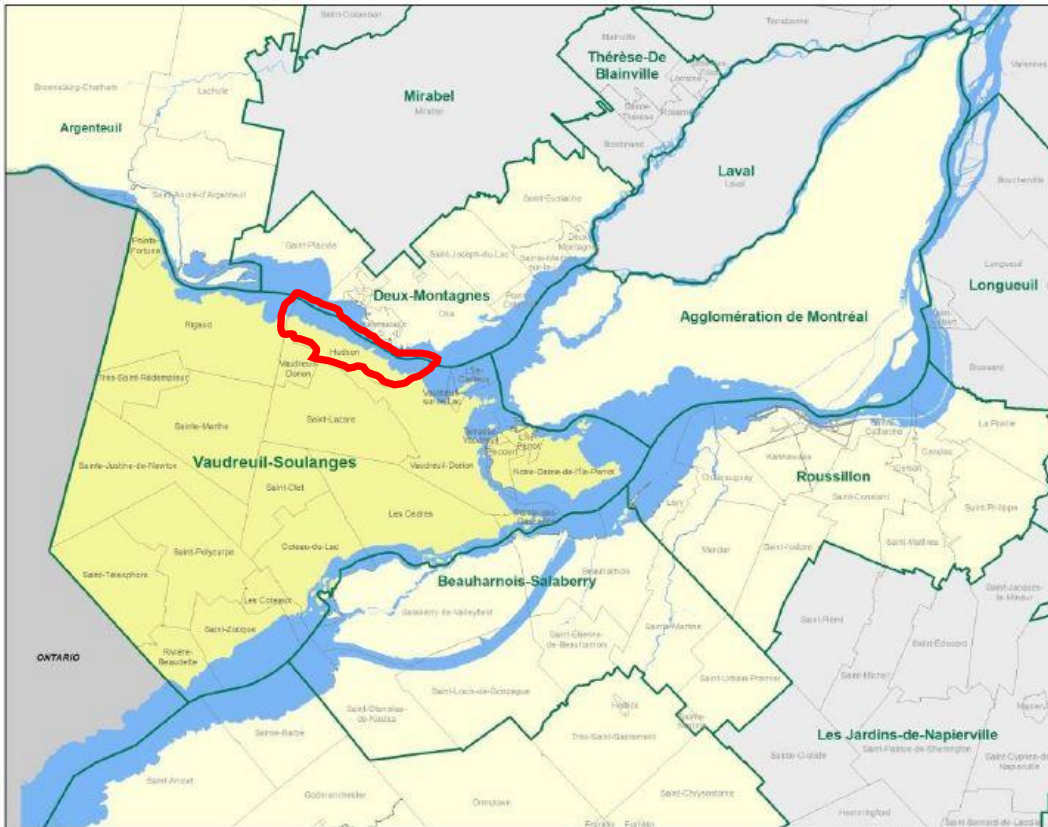
According to the latest census published in December 2022, there are a total of **5,614 residents**. Regarding the buildings in the area, the Fire Department uses a management system to classify them into 2 categories: **residential** or **commercial**.



The inventory of these buildings is divided as follows:

**2,712** Residential buildings/dwellings  
**200** Commercial buildings/dwellings

**36,39 km<sup>2</sup>** Total area      **21,79 km<sup>2</sup>** Land area  
**14,68 km<sup>2</sup>** Lake of 2 Mountains      **11 km** of public trails



# FLEET OF VEHICLES

Here is a summary of the use of the Fire Department vehicles in terms of mileage and hours of use:



**202 (2013)**

**Total**  
44,198 kms  
2253 hrs

**2023**  
3,647 kms  
215 hrs



**302 (2013)**

**Total**  
29,379 kms  
1422 hrs

**2023**  
2,130 kms  
111 hrs



**502 (2012)**

**Total**  
12,758 kms  
1289 hrs

**2023**  
1,005 kms  
99 hrs



**4002 (1995)**

**Total**  
46,975 kms  
3312 hrs

**2023**  
522 kms  
62 hrs



**802 (2023)**

**Total**  
4,916 kms  
182 hrs

**2023**  
4,916 kms  
182 hrs



**1102 (2014)**

**Total**  
79,158 kms

**2023**  
2,074 kms



**902 (2020)**

**Total**  
13,714 kms  
1,059 hrs

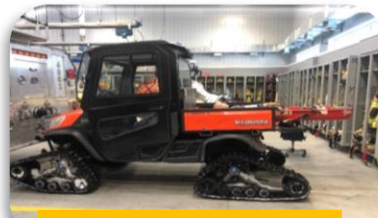
**2023**  
3,738 kms  
314 hrs



**1502 (2004)**

**Total**  
395 hrs

**2023**  
9 hrs



**1902 (2016)**

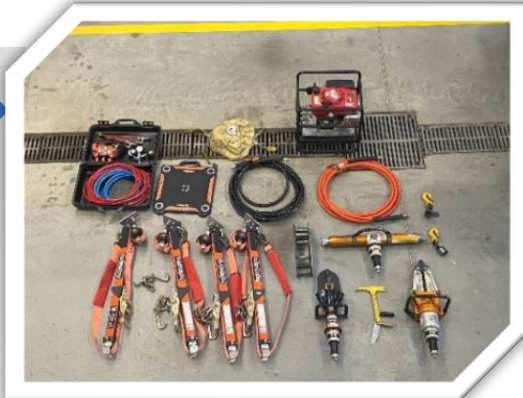


## SPECIALITY SERVICES

In addition to regular services, the Fire Department offers the following specialty services to the population:

### Specialty

- **Extrication;**
- **Water Rescue;**
- **Ice Rescue;**
- **Off-road Rescue;**





## OPERATIONS DIVISION



Fire responses represented **63%** of our calls, while the other **37%** were First Responder calls. In 2023, firefighters responded to a total of **498** fire calls, which represents a total of **2021 labour hours**.



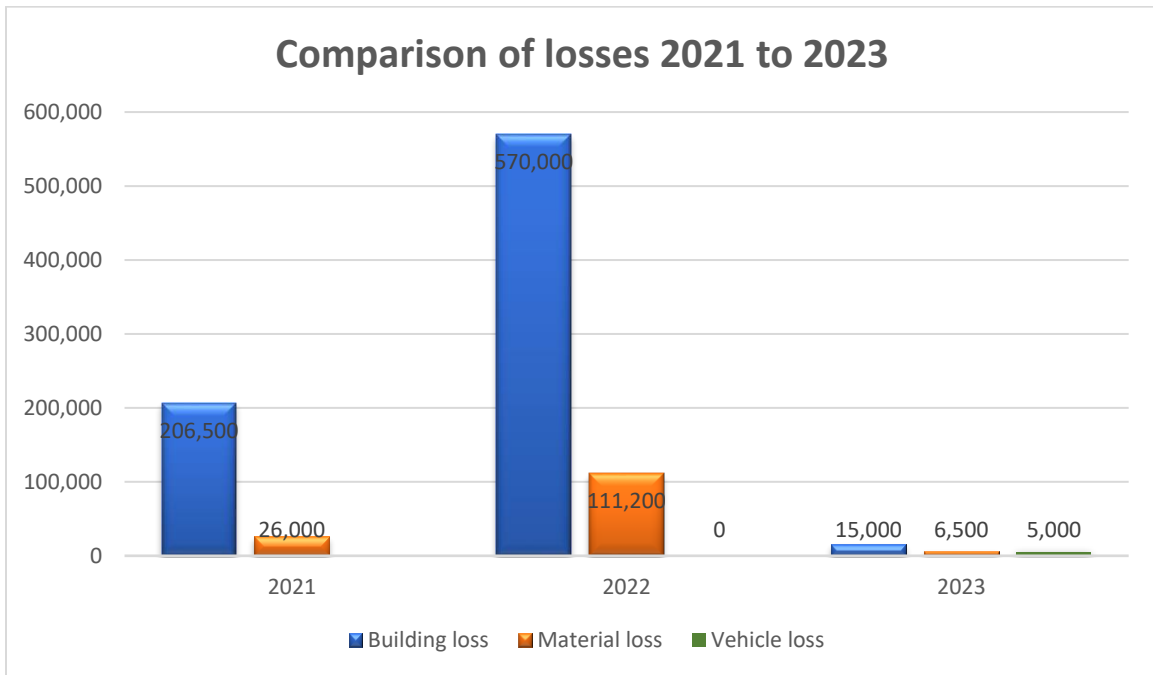
On the territory of Hudson, the types of interventions that have resulted in losses include:

- 4 residential building fires (1 kitchen fire, 1 fire in an attached room, 1 balcony fire, 1 shed fire)
- 3 vehicle fires
- 1 tractor fire



The distribution of losses is as follows:

- **Building loss: \$15,000**
- **Material loss: \$6,500**
- **Vehicle loss: \$5,000**



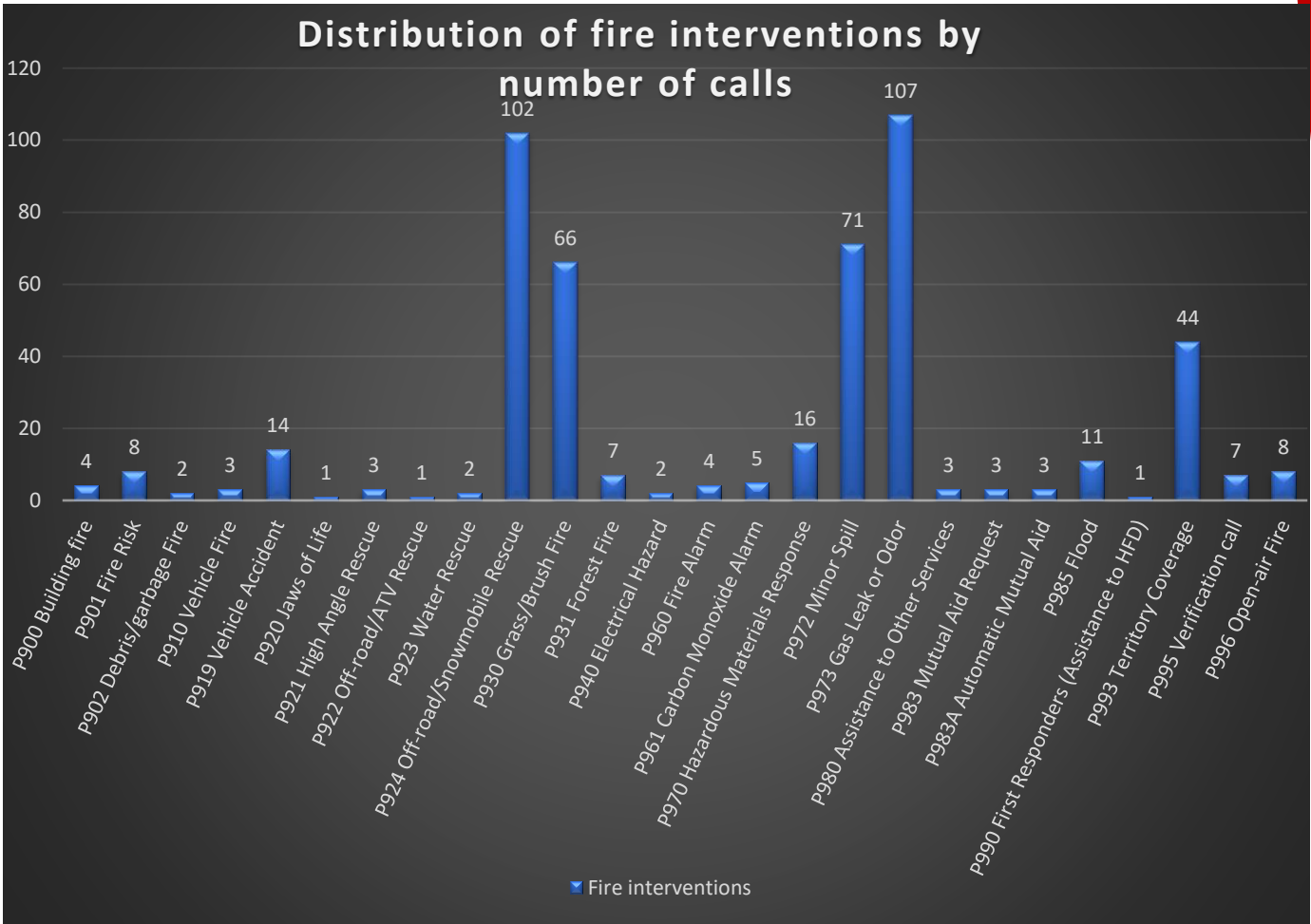




## DISTRIBUTION BY CALL TYPE

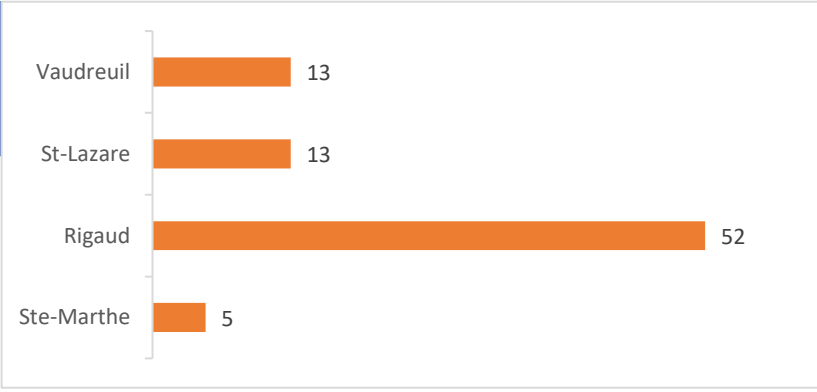
See the table below for the breakdown by call type of the 498 fire interventions responded to:

CALL TYPE	# of calls	%	HH:MM
P900 Building fire	4	1%	95:15
P901 Fire Risk	8	2%	75:44
P902 Debris/garbage Fire	2	0%	14:17
P910 Vehicle Fire	3	1%	40:07
P919 Vehicle Accident	14	3%	124:06
P920 Jaws of Life	0	0%	00:00
P921 High Angle Rescue	1	0%	5:21
P922 Off-road/ATV Rescue	0	0%	00:00
P923 Water Rescue	3	1%	51:48
P924 Off-road/Snowmobile Rescue	1	0%	14:08
P930 Grass/Brush Fire	2	0%	21:50
P931 Forest Fire	0	0%	00:30
P940 Electrical Hazard	102	20%	79:56
P960 Fire Alarm	66	13%	137:34
P961 Carbon Monoxide Alarm	7	1%	29:40
P970 Hazardous Materials Response	0	0%	0:00
P972 Minor Spill	2	0%	5:30
P973 Gas Leak or Odor	4	1%	9:26
P980 Assistance to Other Services	5	1%	7:38
P983 Mutual Aid Request	16	3%	272:43
P983A Automatic Mutual Aid	71	14%	611:48
P985 Flood	107	21%	103:31
P990 First Responders (Assistance to HFD)	3	1%	18:56
P993 Territory Coverage	3	1%	12:04
P995 Verification call	3	1%	13:35
P996 Open-air Fire	11	2%	34:22
P997 UST Call	1	0%	3:20
P999 Any Other Interventions	44	9%	15:05
Multiple Calls Situation	7	1%	18:00
Emergency Measures	8	2%	205:40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2021:35</b>



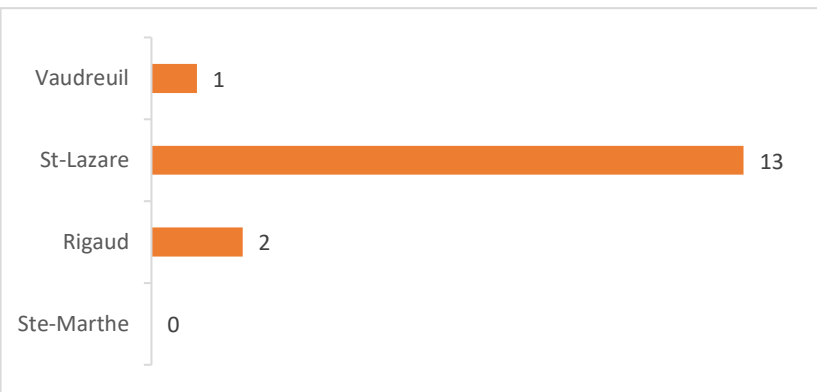
**Requests for assistance provided to other Fire Departments**

**Total : 83**



**Requests for assistance received by the Hudson Fire Department**

**Total : 16**



# ANNUAL CERTIFICATIONS

Regarding the requirements to maintain emergency equipment and vehicles, the Fire Department conducted testing and performance evaluations of equipment and accessories as follows during the year. All tests and inspections are based on current NFPA standards.



## Type of Equipment

## Certification

Firefighting gear	47 certified inspections
Vehicle fire pump	3 certified vehicles
Preventive maintenance program (PMP)	7 certified vehicles
Aerial ladder	1 certified vehicle
Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA)	26 certified devices
Breathable air cylinders	87 hydrostatic and visual tests completed
Fire station breathable air compressor	Certification completed
Portable ladders	16 certified inspections
Fire hoses, nozzles, and adapters	185 visual inspections and tests completed
Hose tower	Certification completed
Extrication equipment	Certification completed
Water/ice rescue equipment	Inspections completed
Rescue equipment (ropes)	Inspections completed





## FIRST RESPONDER DIVISION

The **PR-3** First Responder service of the Fire Department represented **37%** of our calls in 2023. This corresponds to **292** first responder calls for a total of **442 labour hours**.



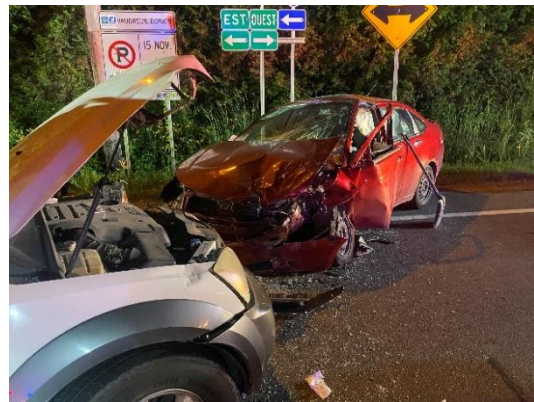
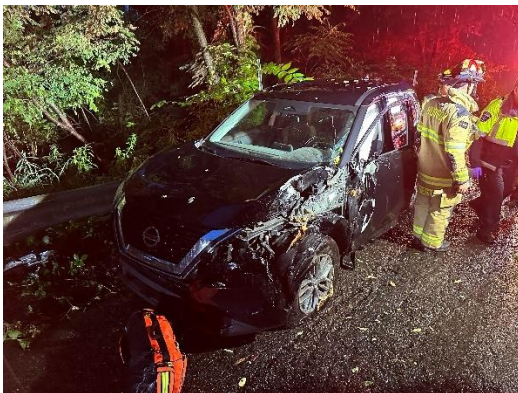
In addition, the team of 30 firefighters dedicated **26,280 hours** to on duty schedules 24 hours a day.

The CIUSSS sent us mentions of excellence in resuscitation care provided by first responders for 6 of our members who performed CPR on April 14 and April 29, 2023. This is a new recognition program for the CIUSSS and the following members received a Heart of Survival pin.

- Adrian Bonnemayers
- Kris Sodo
- Erik Foster
- Brigitte O'Driscoll
- Salvatore Schiavone
- Dorothee Brousseau



On average, 35,000 Canadians experience out-of-hospital cardiac arrest each year, with only a 10% success rate in resuscitation. The actions of the members of the Fire Department's First Responder team, through their prompt intervention and their skills in applying resuscitation maneuvers, have contributed to the survival chances of our residents.





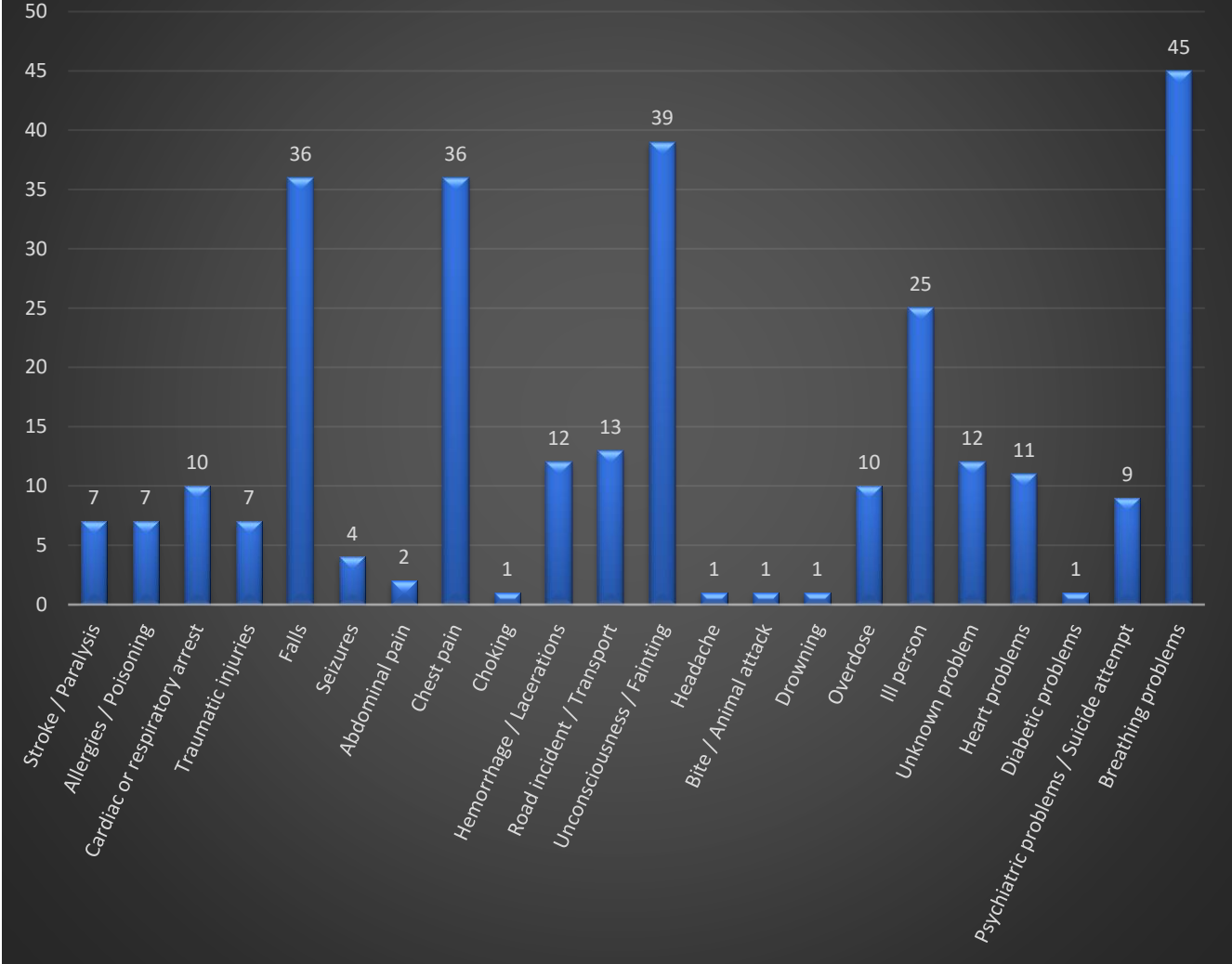
## DISTRIBUTION BY CALL TYPE

See the table below for the breakdown by call type of the 292 First Responder interventions responded to:



CALL TYPE	# of calls	%	HH :MM
Stroke / Paralysis	7	3%	10:32
Allergies / Poisoning	7	2%	11:10
Cardiac or respiratory arrest	10	4%	21:18
Traumatic injuries	7	3%	13:37
Falls	36	12%	63:30
Seizures	4	2%	6:48
Abdominal pain	2	1%	2:26
Chest pain	36	12%	62:43
Choking	1	0.5%	1:21
Hemorrhage / Lacerations	12	4%	15:00
Road incident / Transport	13	1%	00:38
Unconsciousness / Fainting	39	14%	64:27
Headache	1	0.5%	1:58
Bite / Animal attack	1	0.5%	00:48
Drowning	1	0%	1:29
Overdose	10	3%	12:22
Ill person	25	9%	39:58
Unknown problem	12	4%	13:54
Heart problems	11	4%	14:53
Diabetic problems	1	0.5%	2:30
Psychiatric problems / Suicide attempt	9	3%	10:05
Breathing problems	45	16%	70:30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>442:09</b>

### Distribution of medical interventions by number of calls



## PREVENTION DIVISION

The Prevention Division has once again contributed to the mission of the Fire Department this year through responsible risk management in its territory.

Even though 2023 was marked by the absence of an accredited prevention officer, we are proud to demonstrate that this team has once again shown adaptability, perseverance, and determination to achieve the maximum of its objectives and focus on the residents' safety.

Hiring the services of an external prevention officer from the *Groupe GPI* allowed us to complete the 2023 objectives regarding inspections of commercial buildings, as well as to catch up on previous years.

Regarding the buildings in the area, the Fire Department uses a management system to classify them into 2 categories: **residential** or **commercial**. Then, according to the guidelines of the Ministry of Public Security, buildings or dwellings are classified into **4 categories of risks**.

The inventory is distributed as follows:

**2,508** Residential buildings  
**200** Commercial buildings

For residential and commercial buildings and/or dwellings, here is the breakdown by risk category:

<u>Residential</u>	<u>Commercial</u>
<b>2,263</b> low-risk category	<b>83</b> medium-risk category
<b>40</b> medium-risk category	<b>99</b> high-risk category
<b>117</b> high-risk category	<b>18</b> very high-risk category
<b>88</b> very high-risk category	



# ANNUAL REPORT OF PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

In 2023, firefighters visited **423 residences** in various sectors of the Town for a total of **259 labour hours**. A total of 273 residences were fully inspected, while 150 were absent, even after several visit attempts. Of these 150, a door hanger was left, and 28 were returned completed. This represents a completion rate of **65%** and a door hanger return rate of **7%**.



Regarding inspections in buildings/units at higher risk, the number of inspections is distributed as follows: **82 category 2** buildings/ units, **56 category 3** buildings/ units, and **39 category 4** buildings/ units. This represents **177 visits** against a target of **68 visits**, achieving **260%** of the planned target due to the catch-up work needed for previous years due to the absence of a certified prevention officer.

**Public Education**  
195 hours

- School visits.
- Daycares,
- Town events.

**Fire Drills**  
9 hours

- 3 Schools visited,
- 2 Daycares visited,
- 2 Commercial buildings visited.

**Various Fire Prevention Events**  
844 hours

- Plan approvals,
- Reports for Urban Planning,
- Site visits,
- Open houses,
- Halloween patrol,
- Prevention Week,
- Scout visits,
- Assistance for FSP,
- Etc...





# MUNICIPAL BYLAWS



## UPDATE OPEN-AIR FIRE BY-LAW

The Fire Department tasked the Prevention Division to evaluate the current open-air fire regulation. This project was carried out with the assistance of Urban Planning and the Town Clerk. The orientations of the elected officials were also considered in the update process, and the by-law came into **effect on December 8, 2023**.

## ON-GOING PROJECT

### DRAFT BY-LAW REGARDING UNHEALTHY LIVING CONDITIONS

In 2015, the Integrated Health and Social Services Center (CISSS) of Montérégie-Ouest created an Intersectoral Committee for the Unhealthy Living Conditions for Vaudreuil-Soulanges, which established an intervention trajectory for unhealthy living conditions.

This trajectory has helped to better define the roles and responsibilities of each member, as well as to develop tools to facilitate coordination between agencies to act together in cases of unhealthy living conditions.

This has also helped people living in conditions of unhealthy living by giving them access to support services, to then correct the state of unhealthiness or clutter and contribute to improving the quality of life of the person in need and their environment.

The Committee is composed of elected officials, general managers, prevention officers, and urban planners from the municipalities of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, the Sûreté du Québec, the Cooperative des Techniciens Ambulanciers de la Montérégie (CETAM), the CISSS de la Montérégie-Ouest, the Corporation de Développement Communautaire (CDC), representatives from the Public Curator of Quebec, and the MRC de Vaudreuil-Soulanges, with the support of the Direction of the Public safety in the Montérégie.

For several years now, representatives from the Fire Department and the Urban Planning Department have been working together to address cases of unhealthy living conditions that arise in our Town. In 2021, the managers of the Fire Department and Urban Planning began working meetings to develop a municipal by-law on unhealthy living conditions, which will become a support document for field workers. **This work is ongoing.**



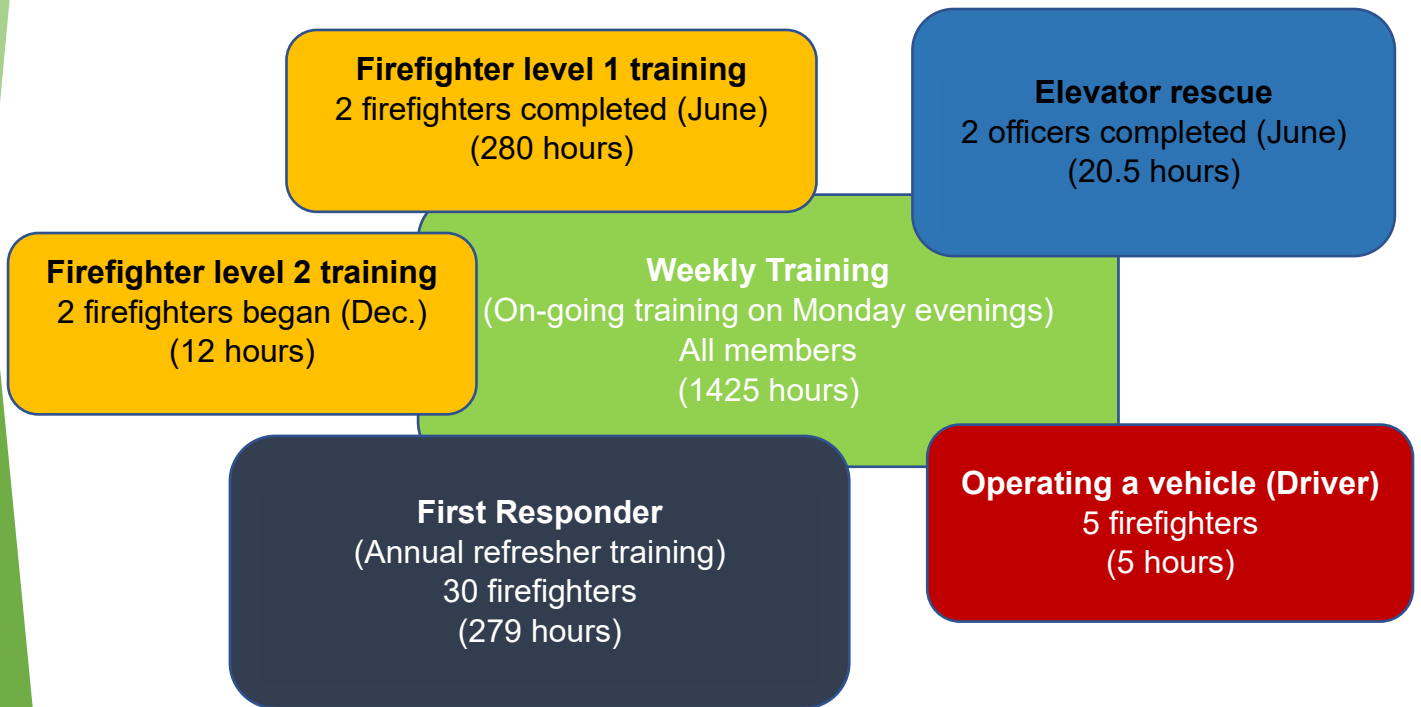
# TRAINING DIVISION

The Fire Department maintained its training program based on best practices guidelines, MSP guidelines, and the Regulation on conditions for working within a municipal fire department.

It is essential for the Fire Department to be able to respond safely, adequately, and effectively to interventions with qualified firefighters and thus comply with training obligations according to the Implementation Plan of the Risk coverage plan of the MRC.



Here are the highlights for the year:

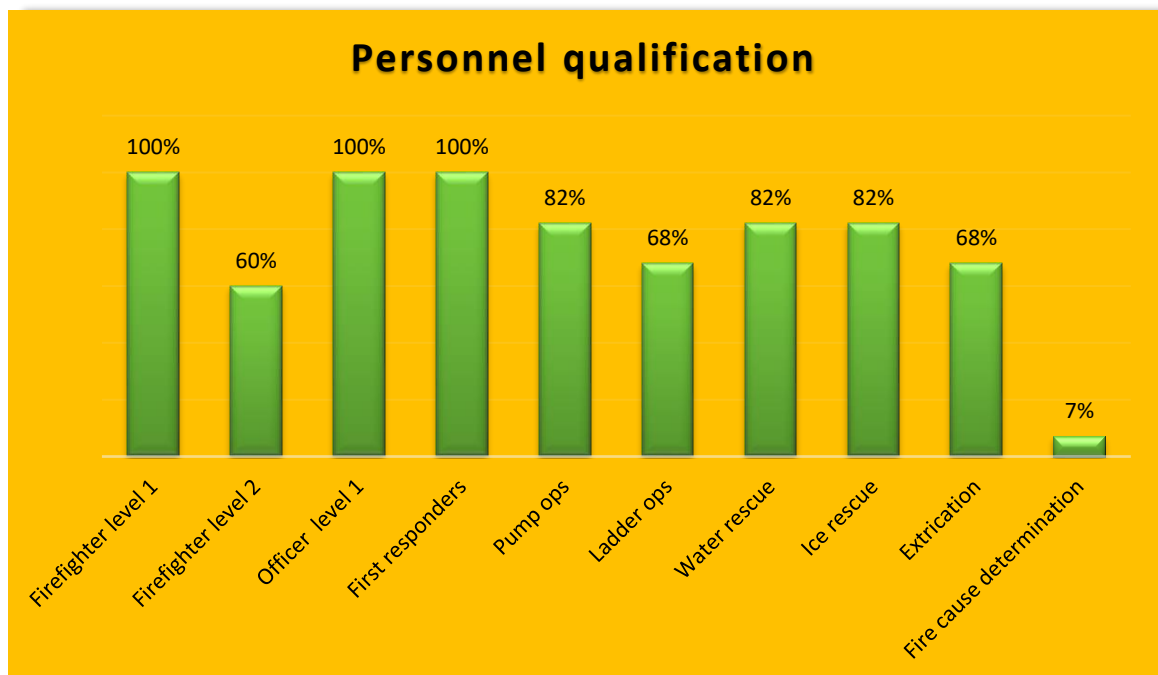


\*\*\*\*We also had development training for officers that did not take place due to the lack of availability of teachers. These trainings have been rescheduled for 2024 and 2025:

- Electric vehicles (2024)
- Mayday management (how to manage an emergency situation for a distressed firefighter) (2025)

In addition to the basic training required according to best practices, here are some examples of topics that contributed to the development of personnel this year during weekly training sessions:

- Pumping operations and vehicle driving simulations,
- Aerial ladder operations and vehicle driving simulations,
- Hose and nozzle operations simulations,
- Self-contained breathing apparatus and victim search,
- Basic operations including portable ladders and ventilation,
- Water (summer) and ice (winter) rescue,
- Extrication,
- Technical off-road rescue (SUMI).



## CIVIL SECURITY

Under the Civil Security Act, every local municipality must ensure that a Civil Security Plan (CSP) is in effect in its territory, including alert and mobilization procedures and minimum rescue resources to protect the safety of individuals and property in the event of specified disasters.



In collaboration with the Town's general management, the Fire Department ensures that the civil security plan is updated, and its content optimized. In this regard, information sessions, tabletop exercises, and training become important steps, all aimed at ensuring that individuals involved in the municipal civil security plan reach and maintain the minimum required skills. Furthermore, the Fire Department conducts risk assessments in the territory and ensures actions and follow-ups to achieve the objectives of the civil security plan.

To enhance the Town's level of preparedness to face the potential risks in the territory, budget planning allowed us to request the services, through a call for tenders process, of a firm specializing in emergency management and civil security. The company PRUDENT was selected, and the project will begin in early 2024.

More specifically, the objectives of this improvement process in preparedness are:

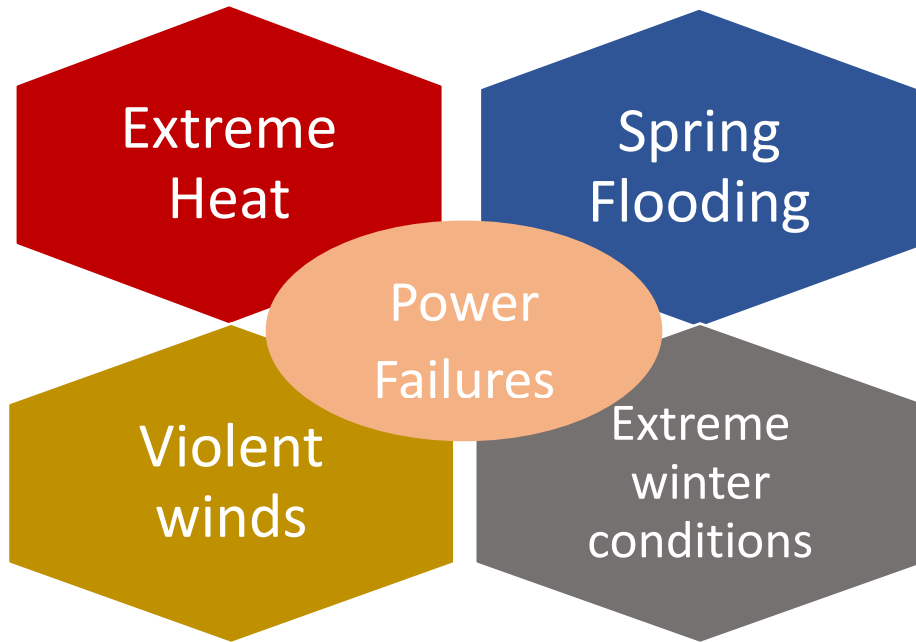
- Identify, prevent, and mitigate risks to which individuals, the environment, property, and the city's interests may be exposed.
- Establish the city's vulnerability to the risks to be identified.
- Limit the impacts on the environment resulting from the identified risks.
- Provide the city with a structured municipal civil security plan.
- Improve the municipality's state of preparedness to respond to a major disaster.

The project will be carried out according to the practices and guidelines of the Ministry of Civil Security and will consist of 6 steps:

- Project launch;
- Environmental assessment;
- Vulnerability and risk identification;
- Prevention measures;
- Municipal civil security plan;
- Implementation plan



# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



February / March 1 hour / week

- Data collection on current conditions in the territory as well as the far north.

April 2 hours / week

- Territory visits and meetings with residents for preparation for potential floods.

May Team mobilization

- Minor threshold level reached
- Preparation of sandbags and distribution to residents
- Monitoring visits to the affected area



# FINANCIAL RESOURCES



## EXPENSES

The financial expenses of the fire department include the following divisions:

- Operations division;
- Fire Prevention division;
- First Responder division.

The financial results for the year 2023 include operational expenses as well as human resource hours, and the data is as follows:

Division	Annual Budget	Result	Difference	% difference
Operations	\$852,000.00	\$845,053.96	(6,946.04)	99.18%
Prevention	\$108,500.00	\$61,387.40	(47,112.60)	56.58%
First Resp.	\$257,300.00	192,371.49	(64,928.51)	74.77%
<b>Total FD</b>	<b>\$1 217,800.00</b>	<b>\$1 098,812.85</b>	<b>(118,987.15)</b>	<b>90.23%</b>

The civil security budget is an important part that is connected to the Fire Department, however, this section represents the needs and expenses of all departments of the Town. The ice storm and spring floods created a significant impact on this budget.

Here is a breakdown of some key expenses during the year:

- Ice storm branch collection - \$120,932.50;
- Containers for flood debris - \$6,650.78;
- Community Patrol contract - \$123,835.46

The data on the financial results of civil security for the year 2023 are as follows:

Division	Annual budget	Result	Difference	% difference
Civil Security	\$179,900.00	\$307,693.53	+127,793.53	171%

## REVENUES

Fire Department revenues mainly come from multi-station agreements and mutual aid with municipalities in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC. Also considered as revenue are reimbursements from the financial aid program for training, from the CIUSSS, and from the SAAQ.



The revenue results for the Fire Department for the year 2023 are as follows:

Name	Revenue estimates	Revenue received	Difference	% difference
Mutual Aid	\$35,000.00	\$50,934.40	\$15,934.40	145.53%
Remb. CIUSSS	\$6,500.00	\$7,179.75	\$679.75	110.46%
Remb SAAQ	\$2,500.00	\$8,242.00	\$5,742.00	329.68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,000.00</b>	<b>\$66,356.15</b>	<b>\$22,356.15</b>	<b>150.81%</b>

## 2024 CHALLENGES



### GOALS AND ACTION PLAN

The Fire Department's activity dashboard is constantly evolving.

The action plan for 2024 submitted and presented to the elected officials serves as a reference for achieving the objectives.

Compliance with the objectives of the Risk Coverage Plan for the MRC remains at the forefront of priorities. Here are some of the priorities of the Fire Department's action plan:

- Ensure compliance with the implementation plan of the Risk Coverage Plan of the MRC,
- Improve the preparedness of the Town of Hudson with the assistance of PRUDENT,
- Hiring a part-time prevention officer,
- Hiring a consultant for the purchase of a new pumper truck,
- Launching a call for tenders in late 2024 for the purchase of a new vehicle (replacement of the leased pumper truck),
- Meeting the objectives of the Fire Department's equipment replacement programs,
- Maintaining firefighters' skills with ongoing training,
- Maintaining the annual certifications of Fire Department equipment and vehicle,
- Follow-up on the unhealthy living conditions draft by-law file,
- Ensuring the implementation of prevention programs,
- Increasing resident awareness on social media and the Town's website,
- Development and succession plan for senior firefighters.



# OTHER ACTIVITES

Here are some events that the Fire Department participated in 2023:

Bike day  
St-Thomas  
school



St Patrick 's  
Parade



Santa Drive-  
Through



Hudson  
Day



Halloween



- End of school year event (St-Thomas/Mt-Pl)
- Canada Day
- La Grande Évacuation
- Lighting of Lights
- Terry Fox Run
- Remembrance Day Parade
- Fireworks at HYC



Christmas  
baskets

# RECOGNITION

## Years of Service

Every year, the fire department management recognizes the years of service of its firefighters. During the council meeting on December 4, 2023, the Town of Hudson and the Hudson Fire Department paid tribute to the following firefighters:



For the **10-year** service bar, we are proud to congratulate the following:

- Robert Dumas
- Erik Goudkuil

For the **15-year** service bar, we are proud to congratulate the following:

- Lieutenant Bruce Best



The year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the Hudson Fire Department, which remains proud to serve its community and citizens. The original fire service was established in 1948 and served the three villages of Hudson, Hudson Heights, and Como under the direction of the first Fire Chief, Lorne Dufresne, who was also the chief of the local police.

This tribute was also mentioned at the council meeting on December 4th. An evening event with former members was held in December to celebrate this milestone.

