

Monthly Report

Fire Department

April 2019

Responses (March)

Town of Amherst – 11 events

- 2 Monitored alarm activation
- 1 Structure fire
- 1 Vehicle fire
- 1 Flue fire
- 1 Alarm – Pull station activated
- 2 Smoke alarm activated
- 2 Wildland fire
- 1 Sprinkler head failure

Contract area (District 2) – 9 events

- 2 Motor vehicle accidents
- 1 Arcing power line
- 2 Flue fire
- 1 Air quality check
- 2 Monitored alarm
- 1 Structure fire

Fire Inspections

8 complete fire inspections were completed during this period. Currently, the fire inspection team is working on a fire inspection guide to assist property owners in preparing for a fire inspection. The intent of this guide is to provide an educational piece around fire inspections within the Town of Amherst. This guide is planned to be implemented later this year.

Professional Development

Our recruit firefighters have completed their fourth month of the basic fire fighter training program. The next phase of their program will focus on fire fighter survival, search & rescue and fire suppression techniques. Also, eleven members of the department have started to take the pump operation course. This program will provide all of the participants with knowledge and skill to effectively operate a fire apparatus mounted pump in any situation.

Events

On behalf of the members of the Amherst Fire Department, I wish to extend my appreciation and thanks for the support of Council, staff and the public following the passing of Truro Firefighter Skylar Blackie, and the recent First Responders' Week. We greatly appreciate your support.

COR Certification (All departments)

Workplace safety is a shared responsibility and is paramount to achieving an effective safety culture. Through demonstrated leadership and commitment to workplace health and safety the Town of Amherst continuously focuses on strengthening our health and safety culture and processes. The process to achieving COR certification will focus on reviewing our current program and processes, including an external COR certification audit. The current plan is to achieve COR certification by mid to late 2020.

The first step in achieving this certification will be to focus our review on one department at a time and then go to the next department and so on. The operations department will be the first department to be reviewed. This review will start with a gap analysis, which will determine how the department currently meets the requirements for COR certification; and define any corrective actions that need to be taken.

The COR certification program is the most widely accepted standard for safety certification. Currently 3 businesses in Amherst and 20 businesses in Cumberland County have achieved this standard and are actively contributing to a positive occupational health and safety culture. Companies with COR certification performed 35% above non-certified companies for Time Loss Accidents.