



INCORPORATED 1855

TOWN OF WHITBY REPORT

RECOMMENDATION REPORT

REPORT TO: Operations Committee	REPORT NO: FR-2-09
DATE OF MEETING: May 25, 2009	FILE NO(S): A-2115
PREPARED BY: Fire Department	LOCATION: Town Wide
REPORT TITLE/SUBJECT: 2008 Annual Report	

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive as Information

Message from Fire Chief:

Each year our Annual Report details the highlights and successes of our service and programs that have occurred over the past year. Our successes are achieved in most part through the expertise, hard work, dedication and courage of all our staff. Our achievements are also credited to the success in partnering with our businesses and community organizations to enable us to deliver our programs to the residents, which to a large extent, include the children in our community.

We recognize our accomplishments would not be possible without the ongoing support of Council, Durham Regional Police, Durham EMS, and the citizens we serve each day. I would also like to thank the Fire Department personnel who have taken a special interest to get involved in the many in-house programs we perform each year. This would also include those involved in fund-raising for the Charitable Foundation.

I extend a sincere thank you to all members of Whitby Fire and Emergency Services for their dedication and service both on and off the job.

HIGHLIGHTS

FIRE LOSS SUMMARY

Reported fires and fire losses in 2008 were the lowest they have been over the past five years. Fires were down by almost 27% over the previous year and our fire losses were down by over 50% during that same period.

Attached is an account summary of the major fires that occurred in the Town of Whitby during the past year. Major fires are classified as those incidents where fire damage exceeded \$50,000.

	DATE	LOCATION	OCCUPANCY TYPE	ESTIMATED DOLLAR LOSS
1	March 29 th	6 Campbell Street	Restaurant	\$154,000
2	March 30 th	1600 Charles Street	Multi-Unit Apartment	\$150,000
3	March 30 th	2000 Wentworth Street	Small Truck	\$56,000
4	April 24 th	14 Rolling Acres Drive	Shed	\$100,000
5	April 30 th	945 Donovan Crescent	Detached House	\$60,000
6	May 18 th	280 Hopkins Street	Business Office	\$200,000
7	July 4 th	31 Sleepy Hollow Place	Detached House	\$70,000
8	July 11 th	111 Consumers Drive	Pharmaceutical	\$95,000
9	July 29 th	9 Tunney Place	Detached House	\$180,000
10	August 7 th	201 White Oaks Court	Multi-Unit Apartment	\$100,000
11	December 4 th	44 Puttingedge Drive	Detached House	\$70,000
12	December 8 th	112 Rossland Rd. W, Unit 30	Townhouse	\$100,000

HIGHLIGHTS **(CONTINUED)**

TRAINING

In 2008 we engaged the services of McDonald Green, who are a full service Human Resources firm, to assist us in Team Building and Officer Development. The program was offered to 39 of our Officer personnel which included Acting Captains, Captains, Platoon Chiefs and Chiefs. The program was well received and participation was almost 95% of those eligible to attend.

Advanced Rope Rescue

Our major training initiative for 2008, involved embarking on advanced rope rescue skills for our Fire Suppression Division. In January we had eight firefighters trained by Advanced Rescue School of Canada to the Technician Level / Train-the-Trainer in Advanced Rope Rescue. Our eight Trainer/Technicians then delivered a 40 hour Operations Level Training Program to their respective crews. This training involved teaching fire fighters how to rescue persons that are trapped or require removal from heights that involve the use of advanced rope techniques. This advanced level of training has added another level of protection for the citizens of Whitby as well as our industrial and commercial tenants.



HIGHLIGHTS

(CONTINUED)

STAFFING

2008 saw the addition of Shawna Coulter as our new full-time Public Education Officer. This move allowed staff who were currently sharing this role to move back into their inspector roles and keep up with the needs of the community.

Fire Chief Kent MacCarl retired after 33 ½ years of service. Kent was Chief of the department for 7 ½ years. A reception was held for Kent at Cullen Gardens on December 18th and we all wished him well on his retirement.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Home Depot, Whitby (south and north stores) entered into a partnership with Whitby Fire and Emergency Services to enable the expansion of the Alarmed for Life Program. As part of the program, fire suppression crews visited 4,000 homes to deliver and discuss fire safety information in an effort to reduce the occurrence of fires. An analysis of fires throughout Whitby revealed that there was a significant reduction in the number of fires in the areas visited.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT

This was a very productive year in our efforts to promote public education and enhance our inspection programs. The continued hard work of our Prevention and Suppression staff can certainly be attributed to our very fire-safe year.

Public Education – 300% increase in the number of people addressed.

Alarmed for Life – 100% increase in the number of homes visited by Suppression crews.

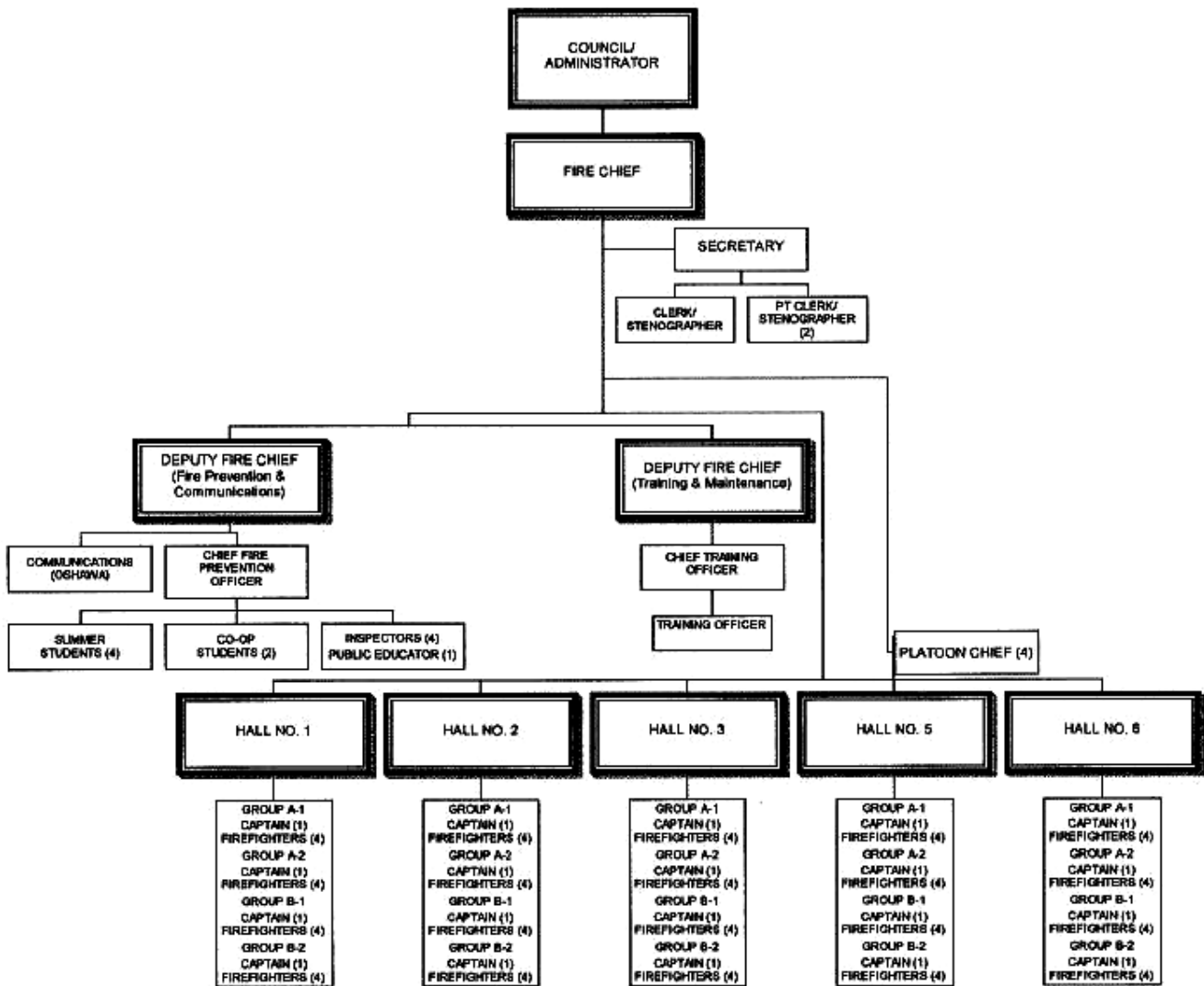
Fire Code and Building Code Inspections – 25% increase in the number of inspections.

Enforcement fines – 115% increase in fines for failing to comply with the Fire Code.



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF WHITBY
 FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES (2008)**

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES:	118
PART-TIME EMPLOYEES:	2
SUMMER STUDENTS:	4
CO-OP STUDENTS:	3
TOTAL:	125



PERSONNEL

At the end of 2008, the total strength of the department stands at 125 employees. Of this number we have (3) Management staff, (4) Clerical staff, (27) Officers, (84) Suppression and Prevention staff, (4) Summer Students, and (3) Co-op Students.

RETIREMENTS	
Full Time Section	Years of Service
Fire Chief K. MacCarl	33
Captain D. Chalmers	33
Platoon Chief K. Crouch	29

NEW APPOINTMENTS	
Full Time	Classification
J. Sotiriou	Probationary Fire Fighter
R. Cannon	Probationary Fire Fighter
S. Coulter	Public Education Officer
W. Lavery	Probationary Fire Fighter

TRAINING AND MAINTENANACE DIVISION

DEPUTY CHIEF B. MOWAT

In an effort to maintain our high level of proficiency, listed below are our major accomplishments for the past year.

Training Hours

In 2008 our Fire Suppression Division had a total of 10,658 hours of Theoretical Training, 14,442 hours of Practical Training for a total of 25,100 hours of training.

Auto Extrication

Each year we bring in cars from auto wreckers to practice our auto extrication skills. This year we had the benefit of having three newer vehicles donated by General Motors for auto extrication purposes. Vehicle technology has changed at a dramatic rate over the last few years and it is very difficult for fire fighters to stay current with changes in technology. Using our auto extrication skills on new vehicles gave us the advantage of training on vehicles with newer technologies, such as side impact curtain airbags, and newer exotic metals. Training on these newer vehicles proved to be beneficial, greatly enhancing our firefighter extrication skills.

Base Hospital Advanced Life Support Program for Durham

In 2008 Whitby Fire and Emergency Service's Emergency Medical Response Training was conducted by Base Program staff at our Fire Service locations. For the first time, all of the Instructor time was provided by Base Hospital. The Department would like to thank Shift Instructors Rob White, Rob Lovelock, Doug Miller and Bob Brandon for their efforts in delivering this curriculum in-house up to and including 2007. Their efforts are certainly appreciated.

Recruit Firefighting Training

In 2008 we hired three fire fighters as replacement for retiring personnel. Due to the timing of retiring personnel, three separate 4-week classes were conducted to complete recruit training for the three new firefighters. All of our new firefighters have previously graduated from approved College Pre Fire Service programs.

Water Rescue

In June we conducted our annual water rescue training off the shores of Lake Ontario. The training was done for our entire Fire Suppression Division. This training involves fire fighters in survival suits doing actual rescues using our inflatable water rescue craft.

Continuous Education

We continue to address succession planning and technology update needs through the participation of several staff in the Company Officer Diploma and Fire Prevention Officer Diploma programs and other training opportunities.

TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION

(CONTINUED)

Repairs & Maintenance

In 2008, major repairs and maintenance items included the following:

- All Fire Department vehicles were serviced by our Works Department staff and all fire truck pumps were tested by a listed fire equipment manufacturer.
- All Fire Department ground ladders were tested by a qualified company.
- All fire trucks were inspected and certified as required by the Ministry of Transportation at our Operation's Centre.
- A stock Seagrave Rescue Pumper was purchased and will be placed into service at Station 1.
- Our MSA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus was maintained through our in-house technicians. Our thanks to Glenn MacLean, Mike Matthews, Ray Burns and Pat Fitzpatrick for their efforts in maintaining this equipment.
- Thanks to Fire Fighter Kevin O'Neill for his efforts in repairing and maintaining our Fire Stream Nozzle Maintenance Program.

FIRE PREVENTION
AND
PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION

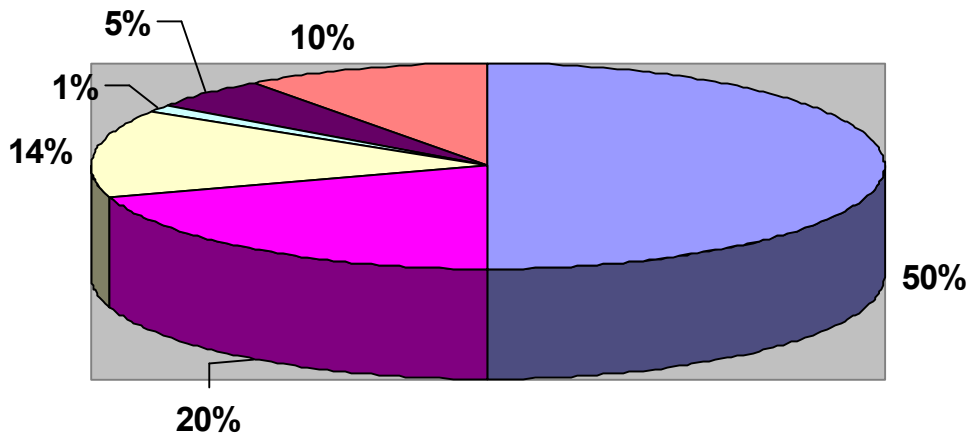
DEPUTY CHIEF D. ARMSTRONG

The goal of Whitby Fire and Emergency Services' Fire Prevention and Public Education Division is to reduce the number of fires that occur in Whitby each year. The best way to fight a fire is to stop it before it starts.

The Division is lead by Deputy Chief Drew Armstrong and is comprised of the Chief Fire Prevention Officer, four Fire Prevention Officers, and one Public Education Officer.

The Fire Prevention Division deployed the majority of its resources towards conducting inspections to ensure compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. The remainder of the time was allocated to delivering and coordinating public education programs, reviewing plans for new construction, training, fire investigations and prosecution for non-compliance. 2008 saw a greater focus on training and prosecution efforts.

Fire Prevention Division Allocation



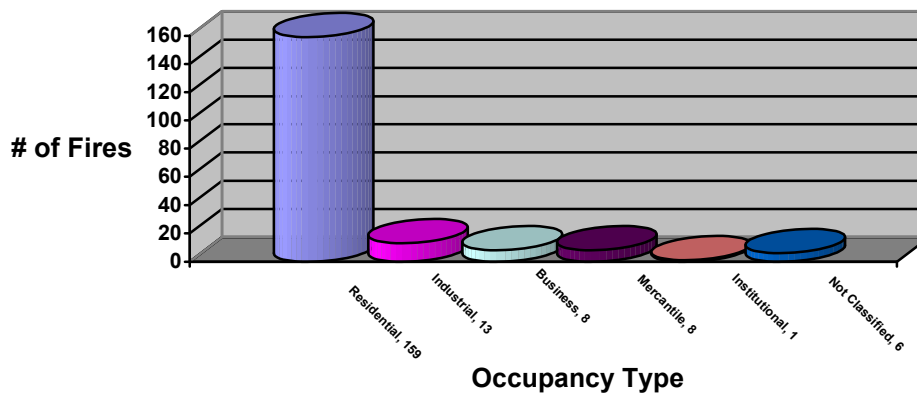
■ Fire Code Inspections - 50%	■ Public Education - 20%
■ Plans Examination - 14%	■ Fire Investigations - 1%
■ Prosecution - 5%	■ Training/Administration - 10%

FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION (Continued)

Whitby Fire Statistics

Based on the findings from the 2007 fire occurrence analysis, Public Education and Inspection efforts continued to be focused on residential inspections.

2003-2005 Structural Fire by Occupancy



Public Education

Fire Suppression Door to Door Program

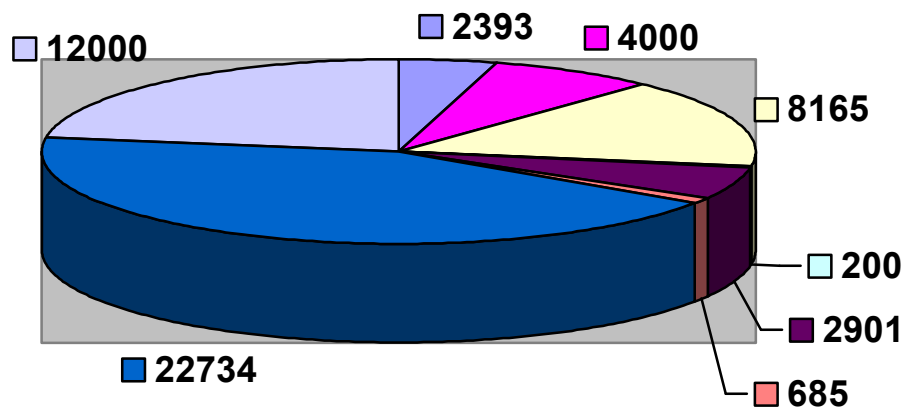
Fire Suppression Crews visited 4,000 homes, reaching approximately 12,000 people. The goal of the program was two-fold:

- 1) Reduce the number of fires by educating people about where and how fires are occurring, and
- 2) Re-emphasize the legislative requirement to have a working smoke alarm on every storey of every home in Ontario.

FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION (Continued)

Public Education Programs

In addition to the Fire Suppression Public Education program, a total of 41,078 people were addressed through Public Education efforts:

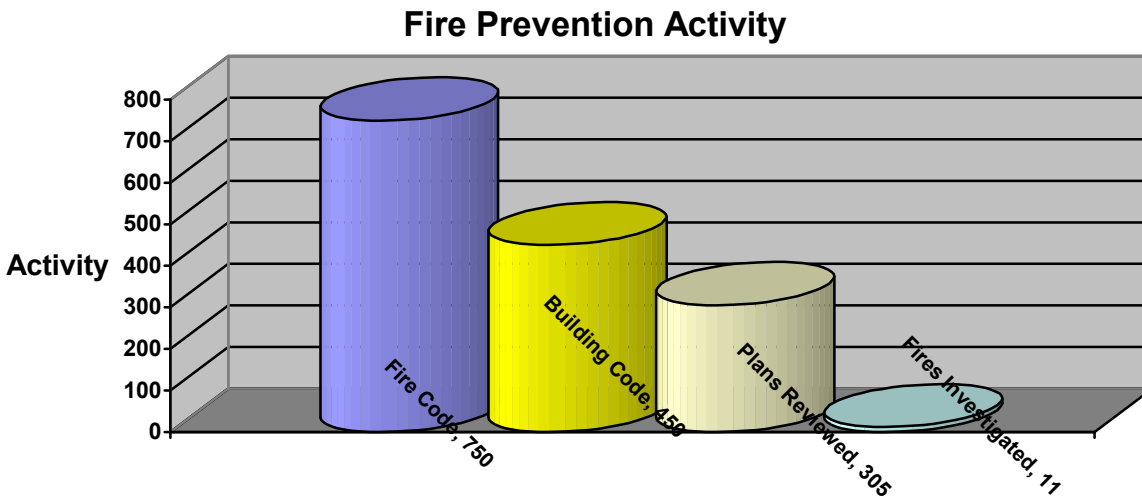


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|--|----------------------------------------|
| | Hall Tours and Presentations - 2393 |
| | Community Safety Day - 4000 |
| | Community Events - 8165 |
| | Junior Fire Dept - 200 |
| | Learn Not to Burn Co-op Program - 2901 |
| | Racing Against Drugs - 685 |
| | School Fire Drills - 22734 |
| | Door to Door - 12000 |

FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION (Continued)

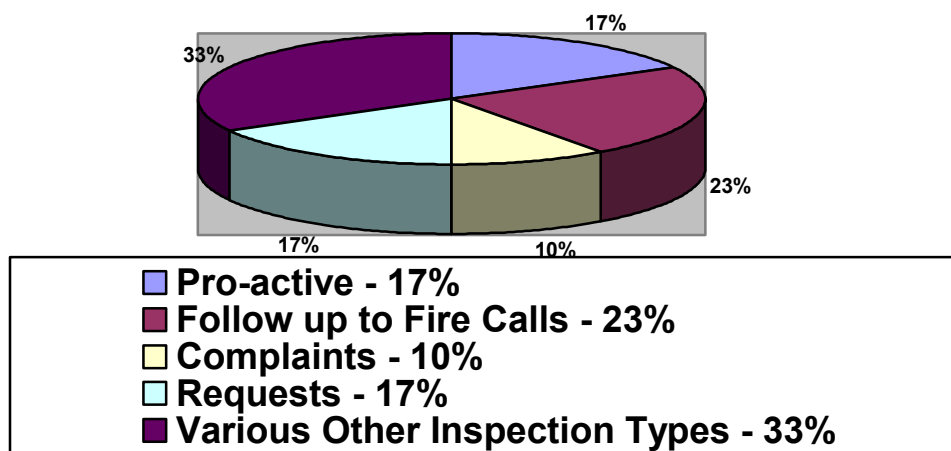
Fire Inspection and Code Compliance

Whitby Fire and Emergency Services is mandated by the Fire Protection and Prevention Act to provide fire prevention services, including responding to complaints and requests for Ontario Fire Code inspections. In addition, Fire Prevention staff reviewed hundreds of drawings to ensure compliance with the fire and life safety requirements of the Ontario Building Code.



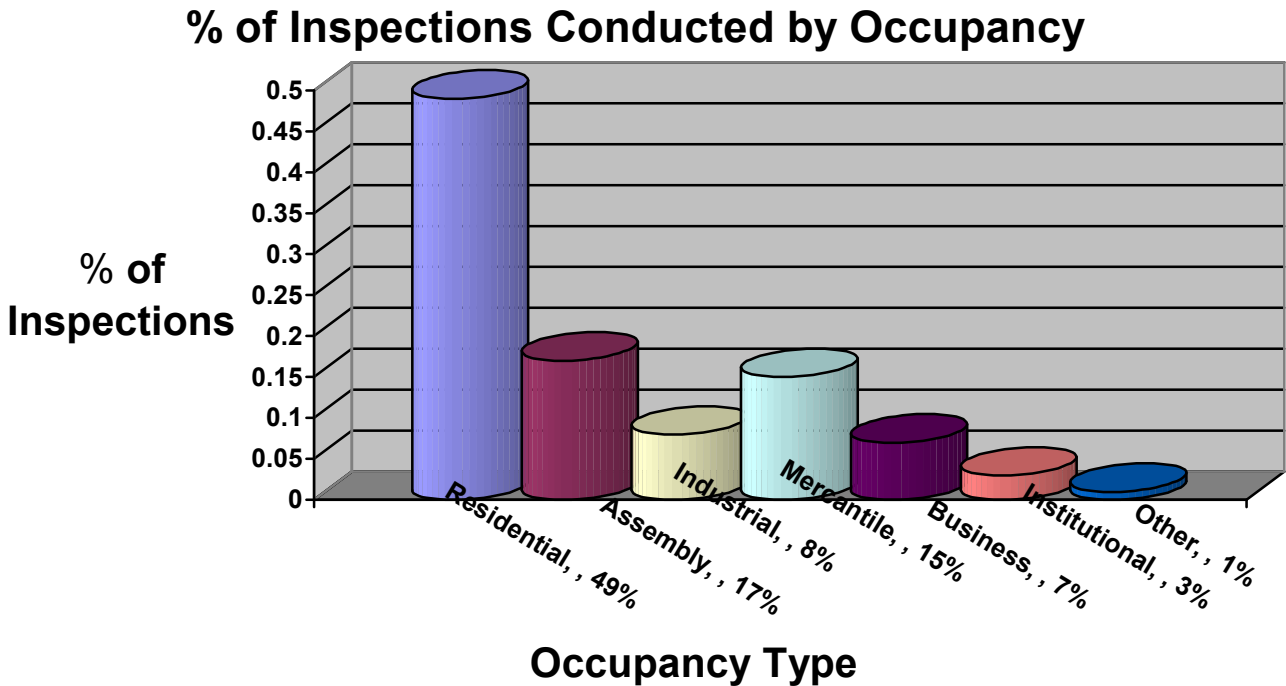
Fire Code inspections are conducted for a variety of reasons. They are currently broken down into 18 types. These range in nature from a serious life safety complaint to a simple request from a financial institution. In 2008, the most frequent single inspection type was following up on hazards identified by Suppression Crews observed during fire calls. The five most frequent inspection types were:

2008 Most Frequent Inspection Types



FIRE PREVENTION AND PUBLIC EDUCATION DIVISION (Continued)

Based upon the fire statistics analysis, the majority of inspection efforts were focused on residential occupancies.



Prosecution Activity

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act provided the Fire Service with an ability to pursue prosecution for those cases where a building owner refuses to comply with the Fire Code. In 2008, the total fines levied by the courts through prosecution were \$42,900, an increase of over 100% from 2007.

Additional Accomplishments

- 469 hours of training were received in Retrofit, Building Code, Fire Code, FPPA, Investigations, and Fire Alarms
- New fire investigation safety equipment was acquired to ensure that investigators are safe while on a fire scene
- Smoke alarms and installation kits were placed on each fire department vehicle
- Six new operating guidelines were developed to ensure service to the public is efficient and consistent
- A Fire Prevention Officer was relocated to Hall 3 (1501 Brock Street South, Whitby) to improve public service levels

FIRE STATISTICS

5-YEAR FIRE LOSS STATISTICS						
YEAR	FIRE LOSS	VEHICLE LOSS	CIVILIAN INJURIES	FIRE FIGHTER INJURIES	FATALITIES	ARSON
2008	\$1,652,514	\$102,752	8	0	0	6
2007	\$3,325,616	\$273,717	6	2	0	5
2006	\$2,433,311	\$182,200	9	9	0	12
2005	\$2,951,376	\$265,940	15	4	1	5
2004	\$2,014,015	\$248,245	6	5	0	8
TOTALS	\$12,376,832	\$1,072,854	44	20	1	36

5-YEAR ALARMS BY RESPONSE TYPES					
INCIDENT TYPE	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
911 UNKNOWN	163	193	253	261	207
ACCIDENTS	560	678	658	611	613
ALARMS	493	541	510	534	570
FIRE/EXPLOSIONS	365	483	330	391	310
MEDICAL	2,057	2,314	2,471	2,630	2,710
PUBLIC SERVICE	37	42	40	40	34
PUBLIC HAZARD	539	675	665	766	717
RESCUE	26	23	27	40	28
TOTAL	4,240	4,949	4,954	5,273	5,189

The above charts illustrates that our calls for service in 2008 dropped about 1.5% over the previous year. Medical calls continue to be on the rise and represent over 52% of all calls we respond to. This was a very successful year as fires were down, fire losses were down and there were no fire fighter injuries. It was also our 3rd consecutive year without a fire fatality.

For further information contact:
Drew Armstrong, Acting Fire Chief, Ext. 4332

Department Head's Signature, Title and Extension
Drew Armstrong, Acting Fire Chief, Ext. 4332

CAO Signature, Title and Extension
Robert Petrie, Chief Administrative Officer, Ext. 2211