



FIRE AND RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT 2022



[DNV.org/FireAnnualReport](https://dnv.org/FireAnnualReport)

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District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services (DNVFRS) provides essential emergency response, public education, and support services to our community.

We are committed to protecting life and reducing property loss due to fire and promoting public safety through community education and outreach campaigns.

This report is a concise summary of our work and achievements in 2022.

Thank you to Silvester Law for contributing many photos that appear in this report.

A WELCOME FROM CHIEF BRIAN HUTCHINSON

The District of North Vancouver Fire Rescue Services (DNVFRS) takes great pride in providing fire and safety services to our 90,000 residents and over 1 million visitors annually.

The DNVFRS strives to be a leader in our field. This includes our proactive approach to understanding fire behaviour, leading-edge training and response to technical rescues and wildland fires and years-long dedication to becoming one of only 9 fire departments in Canada accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International/Center for Public Safety Excellence.

This annual report reflects the many accomplishments, incidents, and programs our Fire & Rescue Services and its team members have initiated, responded to or been actively involved in during the last year. It also highlights the short and long-term challenges we have overcome and continue to work through.

Innovation is a shared value at DNVFRS, and you will see that reflected throughout these pages.

Our team is critical to our success and make the DNVFRS a progressive, inclusive and proactive Fire & Rescue Service.

We are proud that our Fire & Rescue Services team remains one of North America's most highly trained and innovative, resilient, and compassionate emergency service agencies.

Respectfully,

Brian Hutchinson, MA, CEM®, ECFO, CFO



DNVFRS Fire Chief, Brian Hutchinson MA, CEM®, ECFO, CFO

1. LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DNVFRS



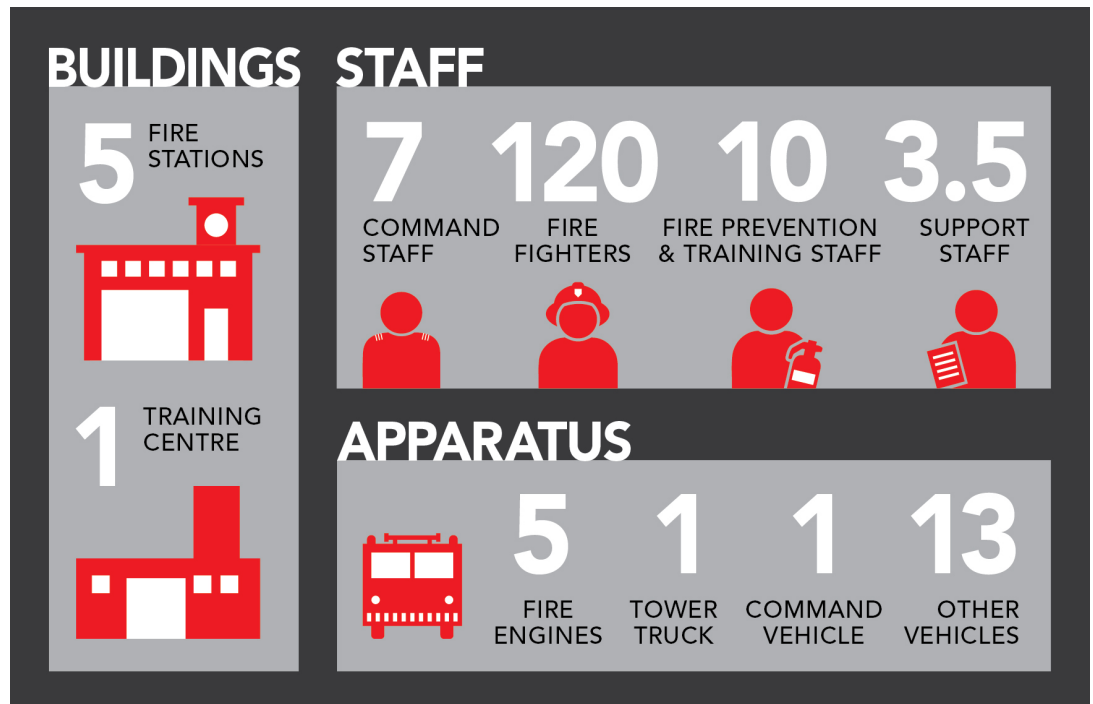
The District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services (DNVFRS) is a mission-oriented emergency services agency focused on the safety and well-being of our community.

Our members provide caring and compassionate fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to our citizens and visitors.

We deliver services through an integrated approach encompassing emergency response for fire, rescue, life safety and community risk reduction through public safety programs, including risk-based inspections, fire investigation, and public education.

YOUR DNVFRS AT A GLANCE

With 140 uniformed personnel, including firefighters, command, training, and support staff, we serve the District's 91,767 residents and 160 square kilometres of urban and wilderness land from five strategically located fire stations and a training centre.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

OUR MISSION

We proudly serve our community by providing exceptional fire suppression, medical aid, technical rescue, fire prevention, and public education services.

OUR VISION

To be an inclusive and progressive leader that consistently provides our community with excellent service.

OUR VALUES

- **Community** — Treat people with kindness and respect
- **Integrity** — Do the right thing
- **Wellbeing** — Foster physical, mental, and emotional well-being
- **Innovative** — Drive change for the good



PART OF A REGIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SYSTEM

A unique emergency response partnership exists on the North Shore. We work alongside West Vancouver Fire and Rescue and the North Vancouver City Fire Department under a Cooperative Fire/Rescue Services agreement. This agreement was initially signed in 2017 and was reviewed and re-signed by all three Fire Services in 2022.



As a participating agency, the DNVFRS has agreed to eliminate jurisdictional borders for fire and rescue responses to support a timely and effective response. This agreement directly enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of responding to calls for assistance within the District and across the three municipalities. Our approach continues to be seen as a model within British Columbia and across Canada.

RESOURCE DEPLOYMENT

We have moved to a 'Closest Hall' dispatching model to further remove municipal boundaries in deploying fire and rescue services and to ensure the timeliest response to emergencies across the North Shore.

2. REDUCING RISK

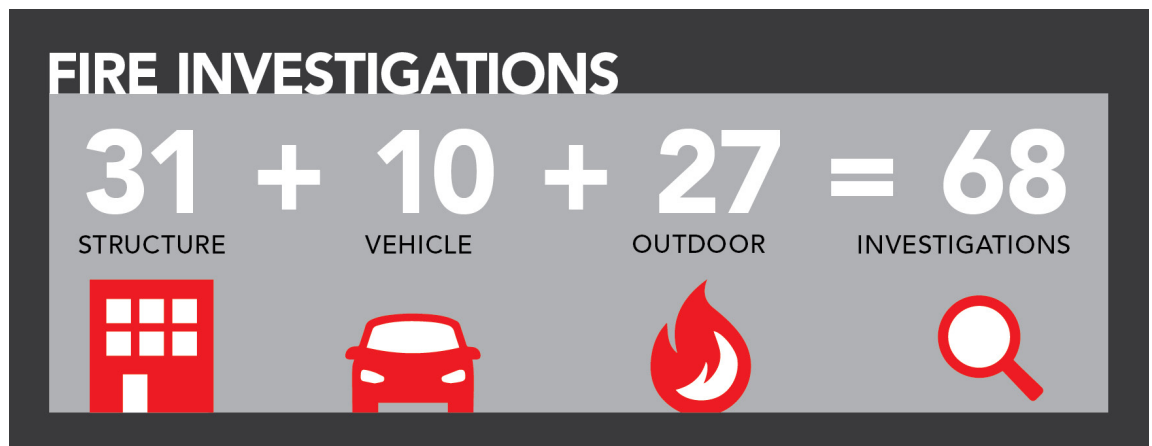


A primary focus of the DNVFRS is mitigating the impacts of fire and reducing the number of fires that start in the first place.

We pursue this goal by investigating fires to determine cause and origin and working with builders and developers to ensure that measures are in place to limit fire risk. We also regularly inspect commercial, industrial, and multi-family buildings to check for compliance with all fire codes and standards. Here are highlights of our work in 2022 that helped minimize fire risk in the District.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

We act as Local Assistants to the BC Fire Commissioner, which means we are responsible for investigating fires in our municipality to determine whether the fire was due to accident, negligence, or design flaw.



We investigated 68 structure, vehicle, and outdoor fires in 2022. DNVFRS recovered \$2,500 for five of the billable fire investigations. Cost recovery is a Fire Bylaw requirement that provides direct costing for these investigations.

PRE-FIRE PLANNING AND MOBILE INSPECTIONS

The mobile computers and digital devices on all fire engine apparatus have been linked to a new mobile software program launched in 2021. The program allows for real-time updates and access to pre-incident plans that provide important details about buildings and properties and helps to ensure the safety of our firefighters. Work continues to update information on our existing buildings in the District and is being expanded to include high-risk construction sites and to include communities at most significant risk of wildfire.

The new software program also provides us access to pre-incident plans for our shared service partners in the District of West Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver.

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

Our Captain of Public Safety and Community Risk Reduction is focused on increasing public engagement, reviewing and revising our programs, and identifying new ways to reach at-risk groups.

This position helps DNVFRS build a comprehensive assessment of the specific risks to our community and create a community risk-reduction plan. The goal is to make targeted public education programs for our community and stakeholders, including redesigning our traditional educational programs to leverage technology through innovation.

In 2022 we developed and launched a new high school CPR program that will reach over 500 students in North Vancouver and provide lifesaving training from certified fire service personnel.

In 2022, our public education programs provided 128 presentations on topics that included fire station tours, FireSmart information sessions, and campfire safety with Girl Guide groups. This provided over 187 hours of educational content that reached approximately 7,100 people.

FIRE INSPECTIONS

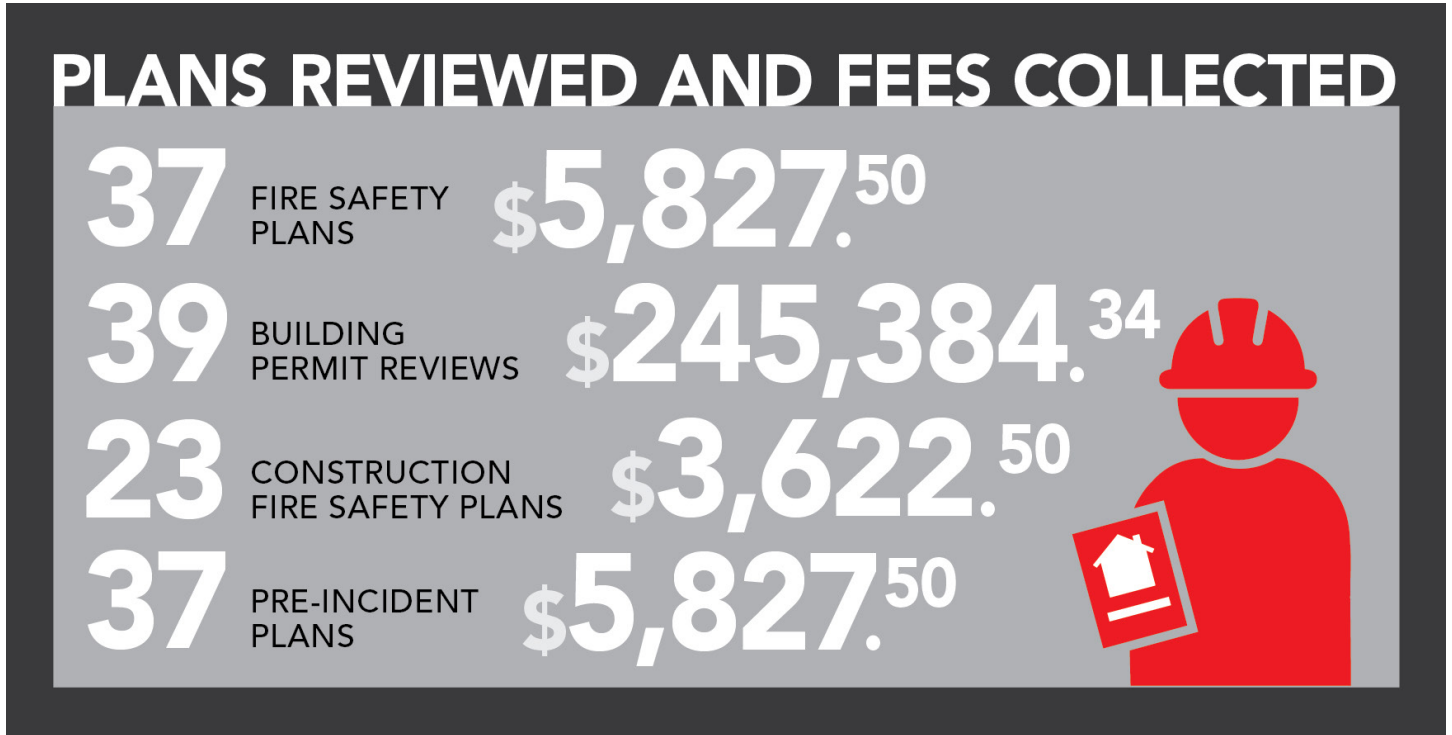
Our Public Safety Officers routinely inspect public buildings, industrial, commercial and multi-residential buildings and lodging houses.

In 2022, we conducted 5,757 inspections, generating \$3,990.00 in cost recovery from non-compliance and re-inspection fines. After modifying our regular inspection programs due to COVID-19 in early 2020, our Fire Inspection program was back to operating at normal capacity in 2022 with proper safety protocols in place.

As a result of the most recent upgrade of the Fire Data Records Management System (FDM), the Public Safety Division has shifted to a fully mobile inspection program that saves time, improves data entry and enhances our customer service to the community.



PLANS REVIEWED AND FEES COLLECTED



FIRE SAFETY PLANS

As part of fire inspection work, our staff also processes fire safety plans. In 2022, we processed 37 fire safety plans for buildings that meet these minimum requirements:

- Buildings that the BC Building Code requires to have a fire alarm
- Demolition and construction sites
- Storage areas
- Where flammable liquids are stored or handled
- Where hazardous processes or operations occur
- Buildings that have assembly, care, treatment, or detection uses

BUILDING PERMIT REVIEWS

For 2022, we have separated our Building Permit reviews from our Construction Fire Safety Plan reviews to better illustrate the different work and ways our Public Safety Staff engage with the development and construction activity within the District. During a project's design and build phase, Public Safety Staff work directly with developers to ensure that new buildings comply with the BC Building Code and the BC Fire Code and meet fire department operational requirements while under construction, during an occupancy inspection, and over the life of the building. In 2022, 39 detailed permit reviews were provided and \$245,384.34 in fees were recovered.

CONSTRUCTION FIRE SAFETY PLAN REVIEWS

Our Public Safety Division staff work directly with developers during a project's design and build phase to ensure all new construction is carried out safely, and that the areas surrounding the project are protected. This process allows us to engage with the contractors and owners ensuring ensure that new buildings comply with the BC Fire Code and meet fire department operational requirements while under construction.

In 2022, our Public Safety members reviewed 23 detailed plans and collected \$3,622.50 to offset staffing cost.

PRE-INCIDENT FIRE PLAN REVIEWS

Our staff maintain a database of building details and plans for properties in the District, and we're working on updating an online access program. The building database supports fire department operations with timely access to information during an emergency. In 2022, developers submitted 37 plans to DNVFRS personnel for review and implementation and paid \$5,827.50 in review fees.

We also created 38 new building preplans, updated 138 buildings and added 5,659 images to update building information.

DIRECT FEE/COST RECOVERY

The Public Safety Division provides other services directly to the community that result in cost recover. These include the following services:

- Fireworks permitting and vendor site inspections: \$3,695.00
- False alarm recovery: \$14,521.85
- Property information requests: \$2835.00

3. FIRE SERVICE ACCREDITATION



In 2022, DNVFRS became formally accredited through the Commission on Fire Service Accreditation (CFAI). We are proud to be one of 9 fire departments in Canada to have achieved this status, alongside the 301 accredited agencies worldwide.

This journey began in 2018, seeing us transition through several phases of the accreditation process over the ensuing years. Accreditation exemplifies our commitment to building on our proactive fire department culture, emphasizing self-improvement and providing the community with an innovative, progressive fire department that meets and exceeds expectations.

Accredited agencies are often described as being community-focused and data-driven. They are well-organized, adequately equipped, and their teams are properly staffed and trained.

WHAT'S INVOLVED

- Gaining international accredited agency status is a rigorous process. DNVFRS is the first career fire department to achieve accreditation in British Columbia and one of only 9 in Canada. Building an accreditation team



WHY BECOME AN ACCREDITED AGENCY?

The accreditation process sets a foundation for continuous improvement in the future.

We are committed to attaining and maintaining CFAI accreditation. The path to achieving this goal provides the opportunities to:



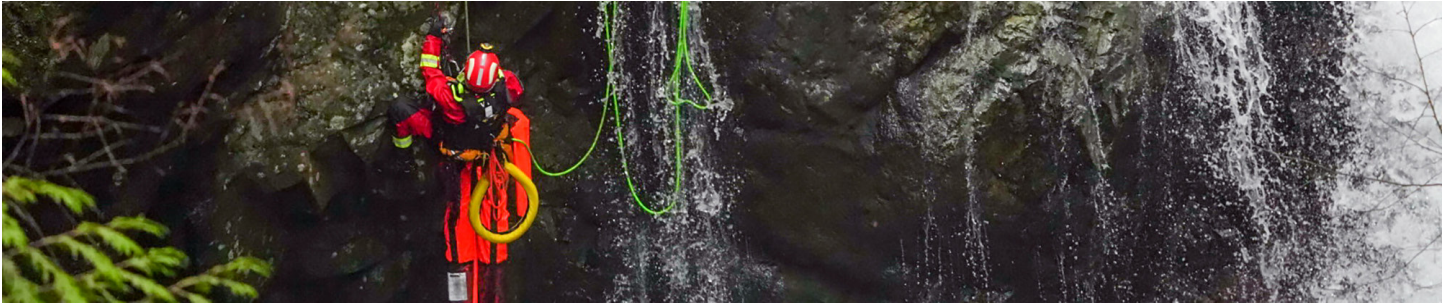
GOALS AND PERFORMANCE

The goals and performance of the DNVFRS are articulated in the three companion documents of accreditation:

- **Community Risk Assessment /Standards of Cover 2020-2025 (CRA/SOC)**
- **Fire & Emergency Service Self-Assessment Manual 2021-2026 (FESSAM)**
- **Strategic Plan 2020-2025**

Learn more at [DNV.org/FireAccreditation](https://www.dnv.org/FireAccreditation)

4. RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS



Our highly-trained firefighters are industry certified to fight fires of all types, from structure blazes to fires in vehicles and boats.

Our firefighters also routinely respond to calls for medical assistance, rescues of all kinds, hazardous material concerns, requests for public assistance, and more.

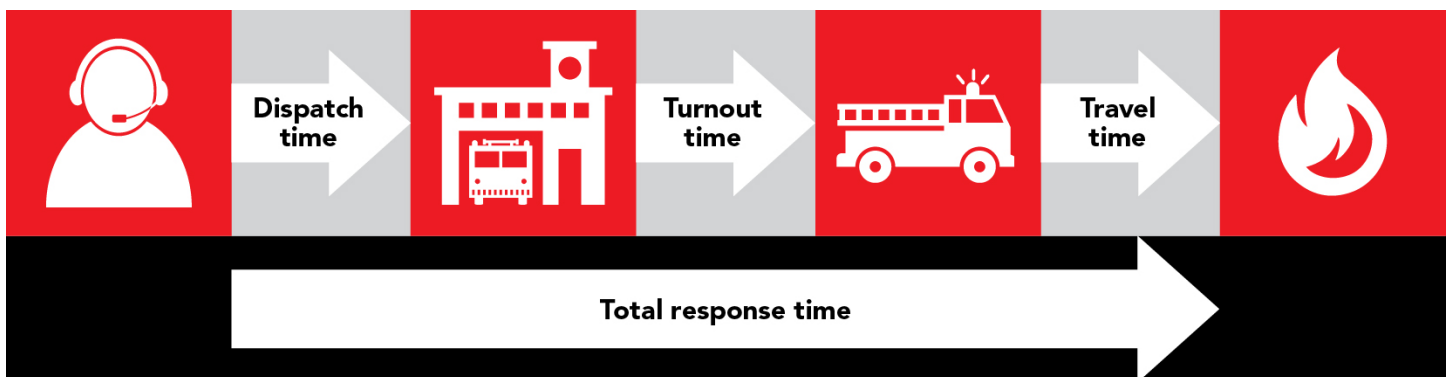
HOW WE MEASURE TURNOUT AND TOTAL RESPONSE TIMES

TURNOUT TIME

This is the elapsed time from when a fire engine is dispatched until all firefighters are on the vehicle, properly attired, and heading out the station doors.

TOTAL RESPONSE TIME

This is the elapsed time from when the 911 call is answered to when the fire engine arrives at the street address and includes call processing time, turnout time and travel time.

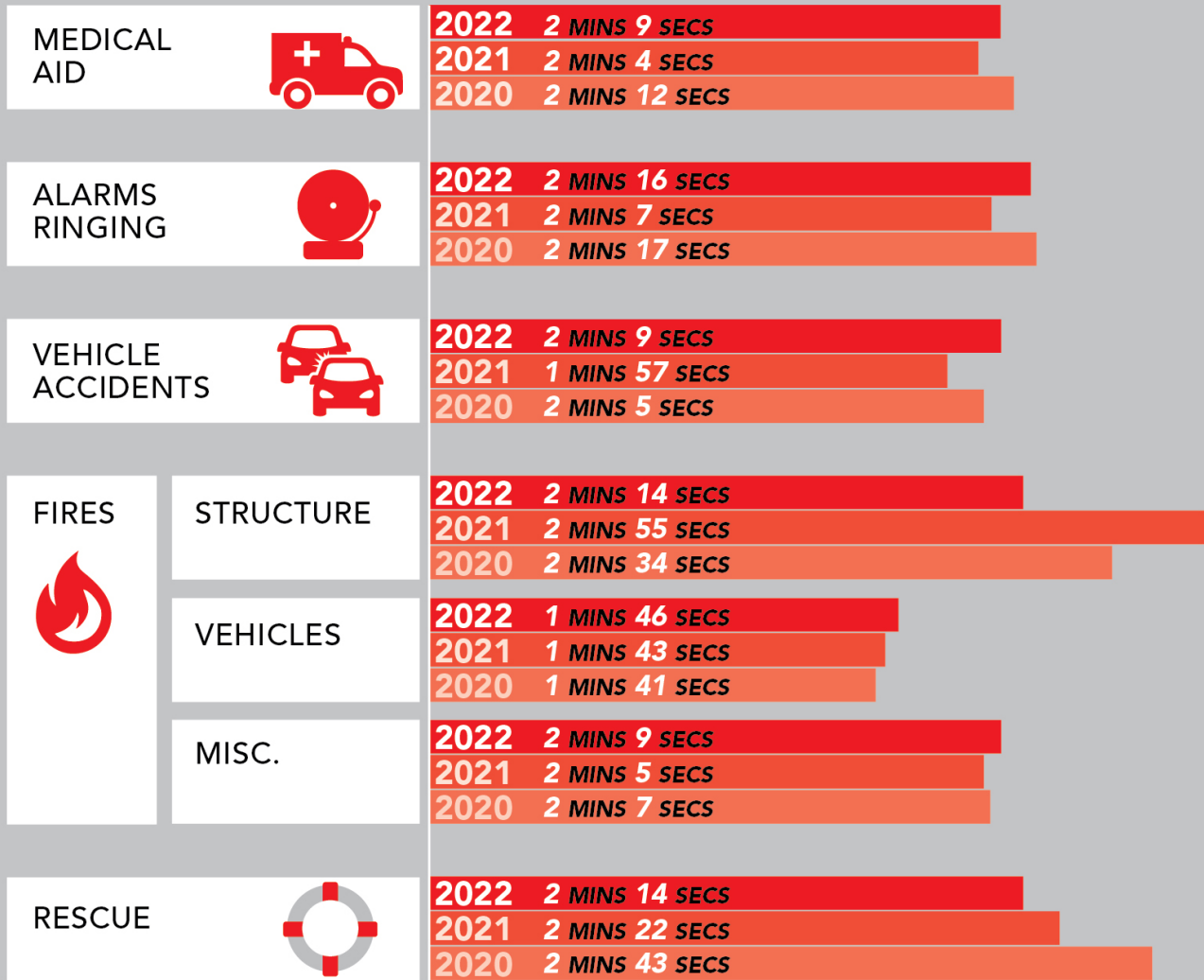


TURNOUT TIME BY INCIDENT

Turnout time measures the firefighters' ability to stop what they are doing, get to the appropriate fire engine, put on their personal protective equipment, board the fire engine, and safely secure themselves for travel to the emergency.

90th percentile means that nine times out of 10, we meet the times indicated or better.

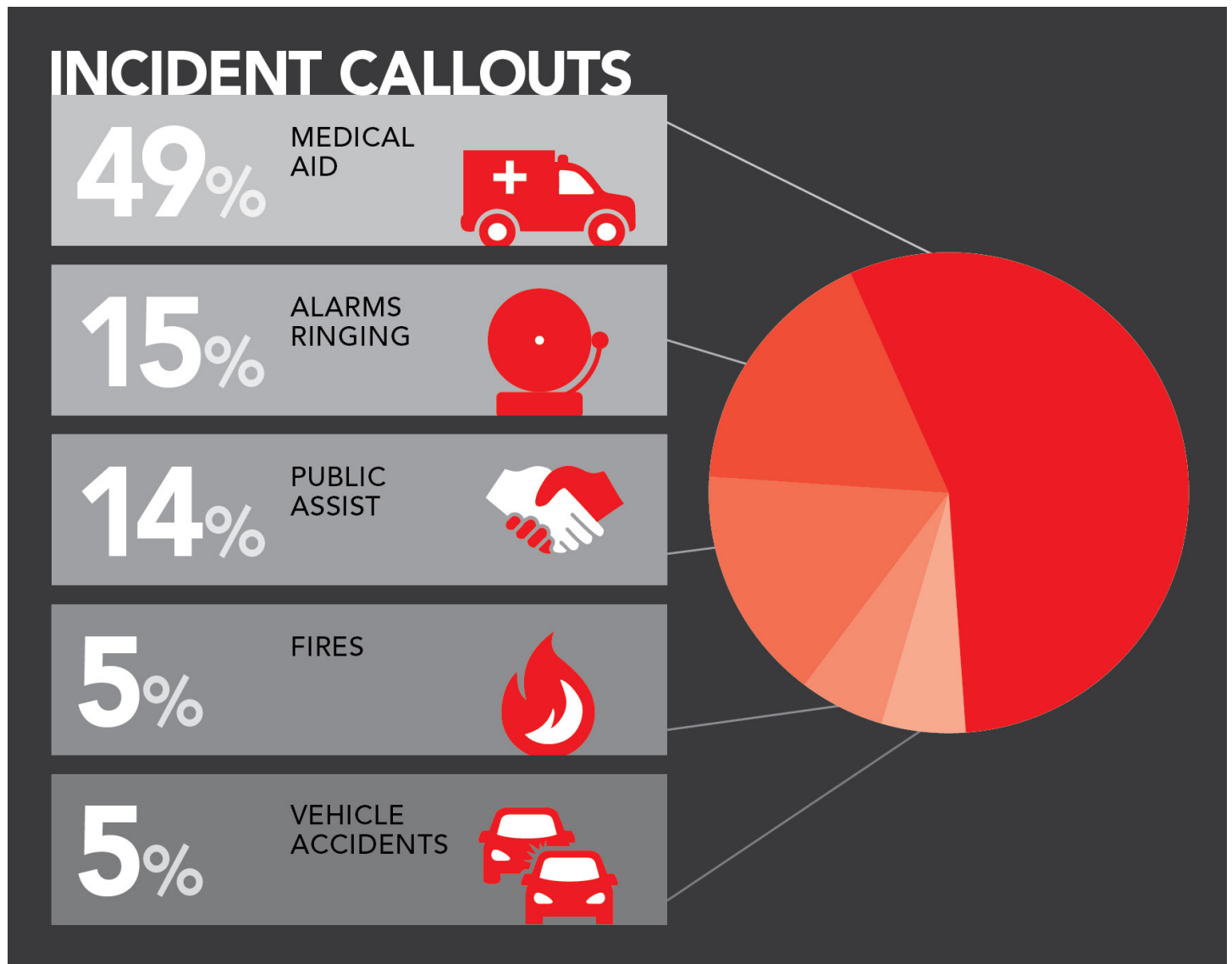
TURNOUT TIME BY INCIDENT*



*NOTE: These times reflect the response times measured at the 90th percentile for all Fire Stations.

TOP FIVE INCIDENT CALL OUTS FOR 2022

DNVFRS firefighters respond to a wide range of incidents, including fires, accidents, rescues, and medical emergencies.

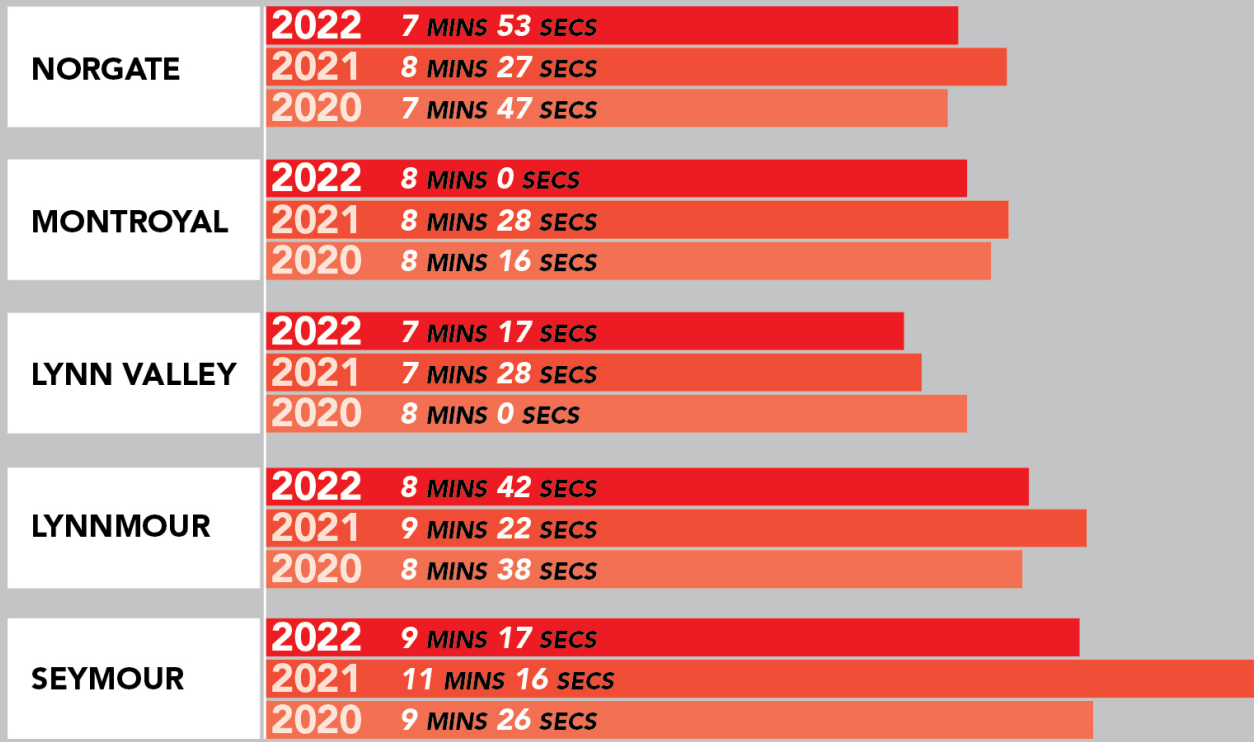


RESPONSE TIME BY FIRE STATION

Firefighters respond to incidents from one — or more — of five strategically situated fire stations, depending on the emergency’s location and size.

Response time is the amount of time that elapses between when the fire department receives a call and the first arrival of firefighters on scene.

RESPONSE TIMES*



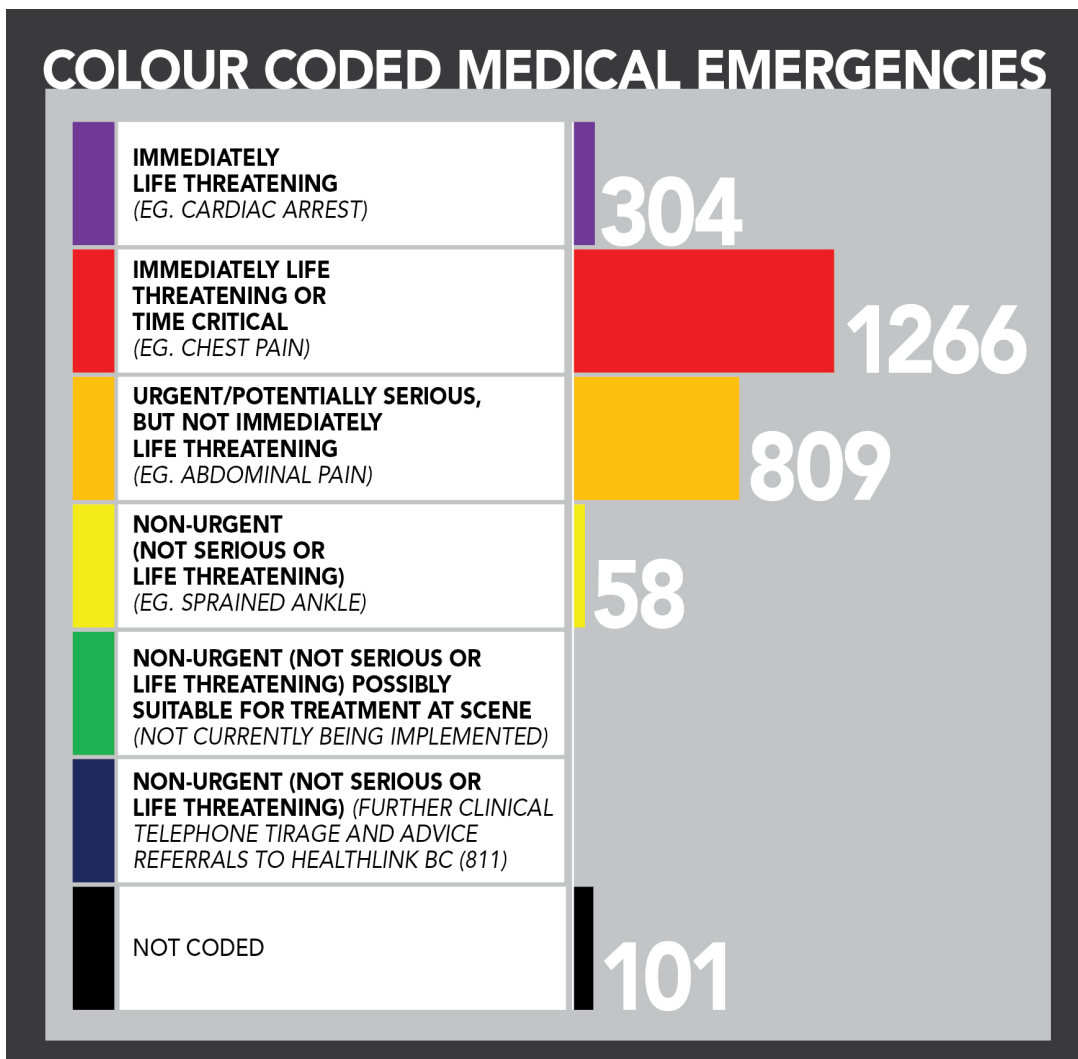
*RESPONSE TIMES = CALL PROCESSING + TURNOUT TIME + TRAVEL TIME

*NOTE: These times reflect the response times for all call types measured at the 90th percentile.

RESPONSE TO MEDICAL EMERGENCY SERVICE ASSISTS (MESA)

DNVFRS responds to numerous Medical Emergency Service Assists (MESA) every year. Our members are well equipped with the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) for the various situations they encounter. All the DNVFRS members are trained in first aid at varying levels depending on their role in the department. DNVFRS members also respond to many Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVAs) on local streets and the portion of Highway 1 that runs through North Vancouver.

Since 2020, BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) has used its Clinical Response Model for Medical Emergency Service Assists (MESA) calls, as outlined below. This change was made to ensure the patients with the most challenging medical conditions were better prioritized. This new system also aligned first responders and fire departments to provide patients with the most appropriate care and utilize resources effectively. These colour coded medical call categories are also explained in the diagram below.

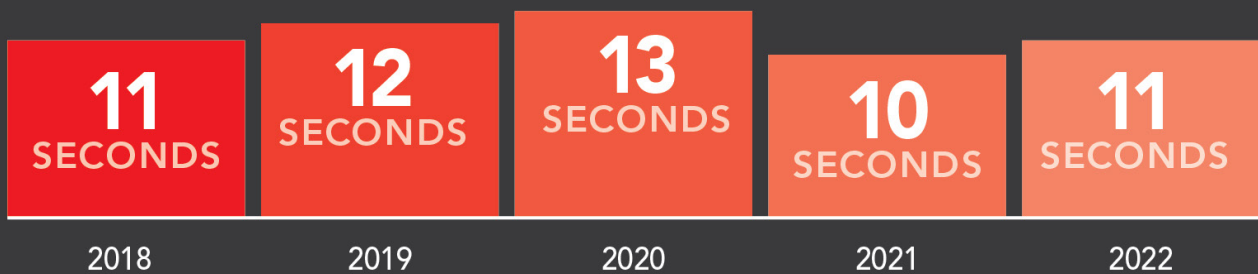


DISPATCH PERFORMANCE

The Surrey Fire Regional Dispatch Centre continues to provide top-quality service to the DNVFRS and District residents. The graph below demonstrates how Surrey Dispatch's call processing and dispatch times have continually met and exceeded service expectations over the past five years.

Dispatch performance is based on call processing, which captures the time between the call for service being received and Fire/Rescue resources being alerted and assigned to the incident. As described previously, the 90th percentile means that nine times out of 10, we meet or exceed the times indicated.

DISPATCH @ 90th PERCENTILE



AVERAGE 90% CALL HANDLING (5-YEAR PERIOD)

37.2 seconds CALL PROCESSING

11.4 seconds DISPATCHING

48.6 seconds TOTAL



A CLOSER LOOK AT TECHNICAL RESCUES

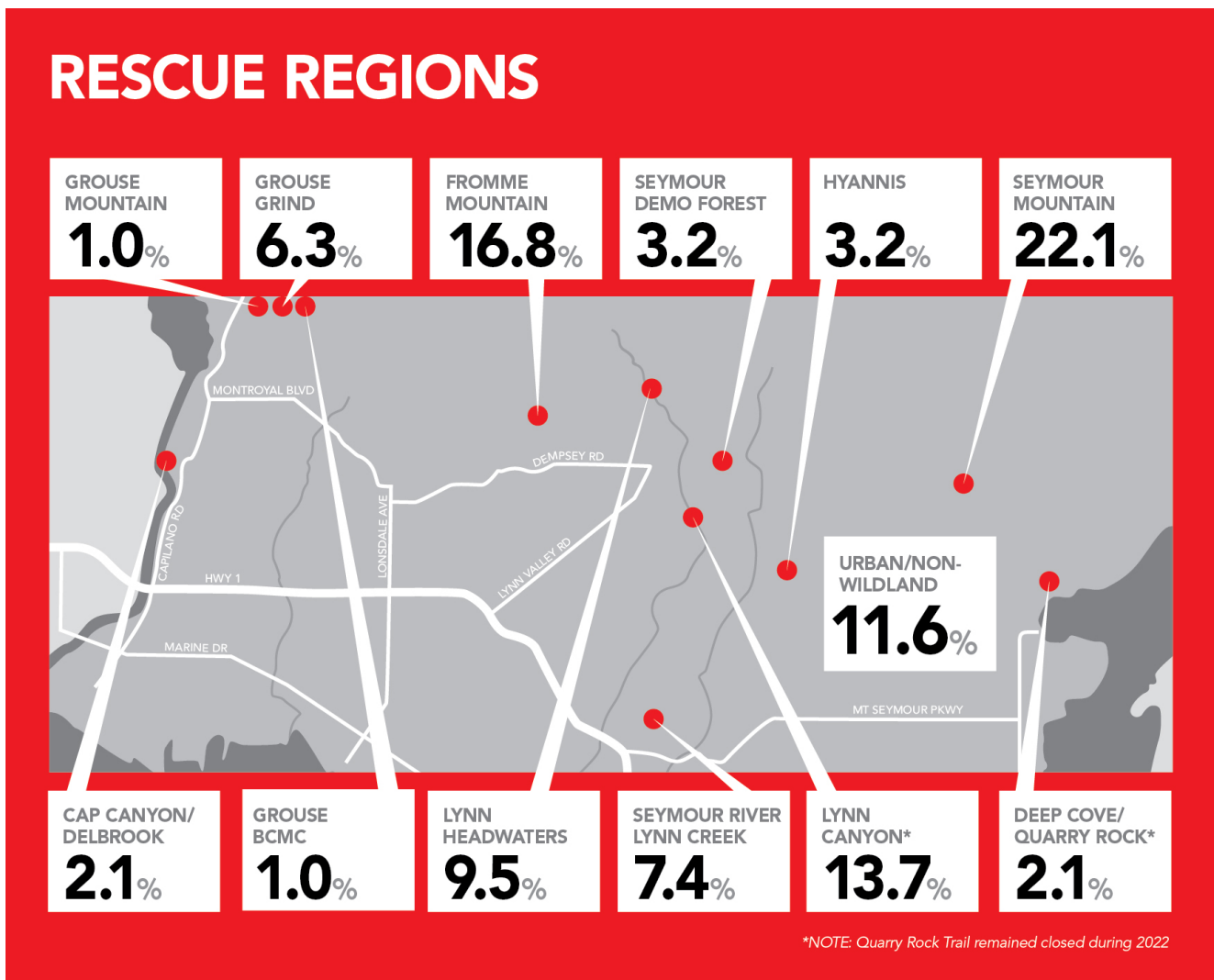
The District's urban core is surrounded by hundreds of square kilometers of rugged mountain wilderness that's etched with a vast network of hiking, mountain biking trails and fast-moving rivers.

We are also home to Grouse Mountain and Seymour Mountain ski operations and the Grouse Grind, BC Mountaineering Club and Baden Powell trail systems.

That makes the District a popular outdoor playground for visitors and locals alike.

The DNVFRS team is unique in Metro Vancouver because of the number of highly technical rescues we conduct each year and the close mutual support relationship we have with the all-volunteer North Shore Rescue (NSR) team.

In 2022, we attended 95 rescue incidents, with 52% occurring on Mount Fromme, Mount Seymour and Lynn Canyon.

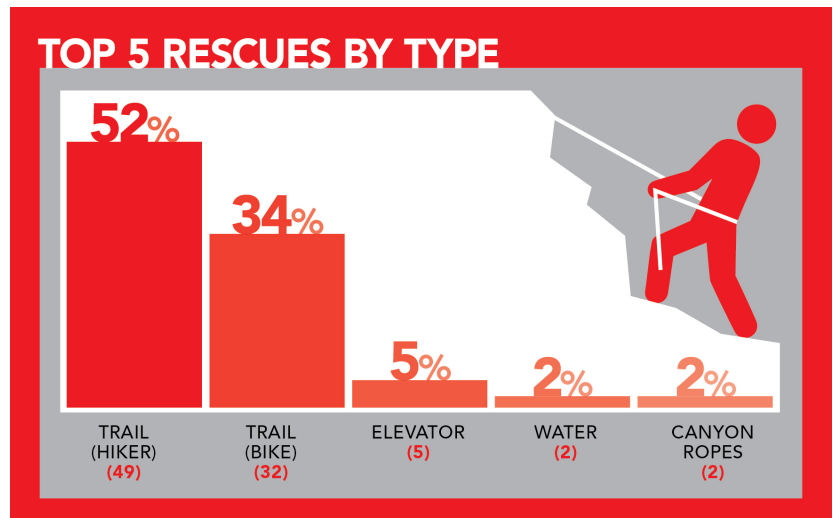


TYPICAL RESCUES OCCURRING ON THE NORTH SHORE

Nearly 95% of the rescue calls our members attended in 2022 involved outdoor recreation in our forested areas (hikers, mountain bikers, swimmers, kayakers, etc.). Elevator rescues were next at 5%.

DNVFRS firefighters are trained to meet and, in many cases, exceed industry standards in high-angle rope rescues and swift-water rescue techniques that are used every summer in Lynn Canyon, Capilano Canyon, and Quarry Rock in Deep Cove.

In response to the complexity of rescue calls in recent years, we have equipped our three new wildland trucks with rescue equipment and medical gear to respond effectively to outdoor recreation-related emergencies.



RESPONDING TO MARINE EMERGENCIES WITH ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE SEARCH AND RESCUE

We work with Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) to respond to all marine and waterfront emergencies in the District.

This includes transporting firefighters and equipment to remote and boat-only access locations, providing water-based information and intelligence for shore-based emergency operations, and performing water rescues in areas that are inaccessible to firefighters.



DNVFRS works closely with RCMSAR to share information and provide training that capitalizes on each agency's strengths. This collaboration includes preplanning and preparing for access to the Indian Arm communities of Cascades, Sunshine Falls, and Woodlands.

In 2022, DNVFRS re-engaged in crew training opportunities with RCMSAR. Our fire companies participated in vessel orientation, reviewed vessel and team capabilities, performed communication drills and contributed to roundtable discussions between our agencies to preplan for the specific events DNVFRS responds to within our unique geographical location.

For more information about North Vancouver Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue, visit rcmsar.com.

WORKING WITH NORTH SHORE RESCUE

When responding to wildland search and rescues and technical trail and water rescues in the District, we immediately connect with North Shore Rescue (NSR) to coordinate efforts and ensure that each agency knows about the incident.

Our strong working relationship with NSR allows us to utilize the skill sets of both agencies to best serve residents and visitors while providing an efficient and coordinated response to all emergencies on the North Shore.

Marking a milestone for NSR, in 2022 we saw our partners receive authorization to not only use Night Vision technology for low-light search operations, but in a 1st of its kind in Canada, NSR gained permission to conduct nighttime hoist operations with Talon Helicopters using this technology. Working with an innovative and leading edge partner like NSR enhances our cooperative efforts in the realm of public safety.

We also work collaboratively to exchange information and host training programs that focus on our respective strengths as response agencies.

In 2022, DNVFRS participated with NSR in field training exercises, advanced medical training with Emergency Room doctors and helicopter training. Staff from both agencies are using their combined knowledge and training to work effectively together to respond to various incidents within the District.

You can read more about the life-saving services that North Shore Rescue provides at northshorerescue.com.



5. PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES



Helping prepare for, respond to, and recover from major North Shore-wide emergencies is a priority for our fire department.

The comprehensive Major Emergency Operations Plan and our Pandemic/Infectious Disease Plan are living documents that are continually updated to stay relevant and effective.

All three North Shore fire departments, along with our partner agencies, strive for continuous improvement in our approaches to emergency management, focusing on organizational and community resiliency. We achieve this through committed agency collaboration, ongoing training, and simulated event exercises to ensure we remain operationally ready for emergencies now and into the future.

MAJOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (MEOP)

Each year we participate in a tri-municipal training exercise designed to prepare us to respond to large-scale incidents resulting in the failure of critical infrastructure, communications, and supply chains.

The Major Emergency Operations Plan (MEOP) resulted from the District's Earthquake Ready Action Plan, designed to strengthen our earthquake resiliency in four key areas — mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery — by focusing on the people, buildings, infrastructure and the most vulnerable systems.

All three municipalities review and test the plan annually during field exercises that replicate a post-disaster environment when all resources are overwhelmed.

In 2022, with participation from all three municipalities, NSEM facilitated training exercises to practice activating our MEOP. This provided simulations to assess our procedures that we may encounter in a Department Operation Centre (DOC), which is used to coordinate response activities, gather real-time intelligence, provide logistical and operations support, and maintain a chronological report of incidents and status updates in the event of an emergency.

The timing of the field exercises aligned again with the annual Great British Columbia ShakeOut earthquake drill to coordinate the District's earthquake initiatives with provincial efforts.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) provides critical resources and a specially trained task force of personnel with medical, fire suppression, emergency response, search and rescue, and engineering backgrounds.

In 2022, DNVFRS completed outfitting a response-ready structural collapse/urban search and rescue trailer. This coincided with a two-day exercise involving the 12 members of this team. USAR teams deploy in the field with specialized tools, training, and equipment to remove debris and help extract people trapped in major structural collapses during naturally occurring emergencies such as earthquakes.

Our members regularly attend monthly training sessions alongside Canada Task Force (CANTF-1), the provincial Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) team based in Vancouver. This ensures a high level of interoperability and enhances our interagency relationships.

Following program guidelines set by Public Safety Canada, DNVFRS continues working towards ensuring all our firefighters have the training and equipment to support our team at the appropriate levels and to be interoperable with our CANTF-1 partners.



MARINE FIREFIGHTING

DNVFRS is an active partner alongside West Vancouver Fire & Rescue, North Vancouver City Fire Department, and Vancouver Fire & Rescue when responding to marine emergencies.

In 2022, 14 additional North Shore firefighters completed Shipboard Firefighting for Land based Firefighters. This training was to prepare for, respond to, and recover from several emergencies that can occur on the water. This increases the number of North Shore firefighters qualified to this standard to over 100, including 82 from the DNVFRS.

The Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC) delivered this training program hosted by our partners at Seaspan Vancouver Shipyards.

The programs are a model of interagency collaboration, with the following agencies actively participating in each session:

- Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR)
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police Marine Unit
- Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services Fireboat
- Vancouver Police Department Marine Unit
- Port of Vancouver



NORTH SHORE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

North Shore Emergency Management (NSEM) is an inter-municipal agency that provides emergency management services to all three North Shore municipalities. In 2022, DNVFRS participated with NSEM in training initiatives and disaster relief exercises that emulate real-life responses to scenarios such as urban interface fires, earthquakes, floods, and other emergencies.

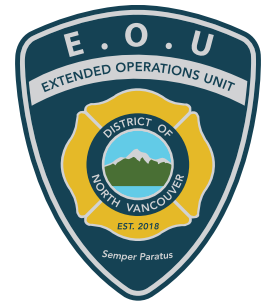


NSEM is a valued partner agency that also supports the Disaster Emergency Readiness Training (DERT) program, which aims to improve the District's operational resiliency in the event of large-scale emergencies.

You can learn more about the work that North Shore Emergency Management does for North Shore Communities at [NSEM.info](https://www.nsem.info).

35-MEMBER EXTENDED OPERATIONS UNIT

In 2018, we established the District of North Vancouver Extended Operations Unit (EOU) to strengthen the response to local, naturally occurring emergencies, increase community resiliency, and facilitate swift recovery from a natural disaster.



The 35-member team consists of DNV employees — many of whom already have relevant skills and experience from their 'day' jobs (arborists, heavy equipment operators, and so on). In the event of earthquakes, landslides, floods, wildfires, and other natural disasters, this team would be called on to support DNVFRS.

During large or significant naturally occurring emergencies, this group of trained staff will enhance our capacity and capability to mitigate incidents.

EOU TRAINING IN 2021

In 2022, DNVFRS instructors delivered the following training opportunities to EOU members to enhance emergency response skills and knowledge:

- Wildfire Basic Fire Suppression and Safety (S-100)
- Wildfire Entrapment Avoidance (S-185)
- Red Cross First Aid Level I Training
- Initial Attack Crew Training
- CISM/Resilient Minds Training
- Chainsaw Safety



6. IN THE COMMUNITY



We are a community-based service and pride ourselves on being available to support residents, businesses and visitors to the District in emergency situations and beyond.

Being a part of the fabric of our community is important to us, and we prioritize it in our daily business.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OUTREACH

Our firefighters regularly attend local events like Lynn Valley Days and other community celebrations to meet our neighbours and teach about fire safety.

Each year we also host Hot Summer Nights, where our crews set up at local parks with our fire engines to spray water for kids to play. Kids and caregivers can cool down at the events, meet the firefighters, ask questions and get some safety tips.

One of our favourite new events in 2021 was continued in 2022 – stopping by local elementary schools with our firetrucks to help kids celebrate the last day of school with a bit of a cool down from our trucks.



Cooling down at a Hot Summer Nights event.

Our training division hosts firefighter career days for Indigenous communities and high school students. These active and fun days run participants through training scenarios wearing full gear to offer a glimpse into what being a firefighter is like. Other popular community programs include fire extinguisher training and firefighter recruitment.

We regularly visit various neighbourhoods within the District to promote the BC FireSmart program designed to help residents protect their homes and communities from wildfires. Firefighters are also out and about in our community in various other ways, from assisting seniors with smoke detectors, educating the public and businesses about fire safety, teaching CPR at high schools and visiting all kindergarten classrooms annually, to name a few.

GIVING BACK

The District of North Vancouver Firefighters Charitable Society is highly active in our community, with members volunteering hundreds of hours yearly.

In November 2022, they received the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Award from the Government of Canada for service to the community.

In 2022 the Society raised approximately \$300,000. These funds benefit important causes like youth mental health, the BC Professional Firefighters Burn Fund, Athletics 4 Kids, the Seymour Salmonid Society, Muscular Dystrophy Canada, high school scholarships and bursaries, as well as other local organizations and initiatives.

Key 2022 fundraising events included:

Initiative	Charity or benefactor	Amount raised
Barn Burner music concert and youth mental health initiatives	Buddy Check for Jesse	\$90,000
DNV Firefighters Charity Fishing Derby	Seymour Salmonid Society and Athletics 4 Kids	\$65,000
Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive	Muscular Dystrophy Canada	\$8,400
Pumpkin Drop	The ‘Movember’ initiative – men’s health	\$2,500
Canyon Lights at Capilano Suspension Bridge	BC Professional Firefighters Burn Fund	TBA
SD44 - High school scholarships and bursaries	North Vancouver high school students with interests in fire or emergency services	\$1,000 Scholarships (2)
Clothing donation bins	DNV Firefighters Charitable society	\$75,000



Collecting donations during the Muscular Dystrophy Boot Drive.



A display of T-shirts from the annual DNV Firefighters Charity Fishing Derby that raises money for the Seymour Salmonid Society and Athletics 4 Kids.

In addition to our larger events and partnerships, donations were made to:

- BC Cancer Drivers Society
- BCPFFA Burn Fund
- North Shore Mountain Bike Association
- BC Children’s Hospital
- Camp Ignite 2022
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Lynn Valley Days
- Lynn Valley Community Association
- Parkgate Society
- Callanish – Cancer support
- Defend Ukraine Foundation



Auction items at this year’s Barn Burner included a signed Barney Bentall guitar.

For more information, please visit the DNV Fire Charitable Society at dnvfirecharity.ca.

7. WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



Compared with the significant and devastating wildfire season in 2021, with more than 1,600 fires burning nearly 8,700 square kilometres of land, 2022 was a quieter year for wildfires.

On average, according to our partners at BC Wildfire Services, there are 1,403 wildfires per year in BC. That said, the DNVFRS was once again called upon in 2022 to assist with structure defense and structure protection operations across the province.

DNVFRS has long recognized that the District has a significant area where its community meets the forest, which may be especially vulnerable to wildfire damage. Therefore, DNVFRS enhances its wildfire preparedness and readiness capabilities through programs, partnerships, training, and grant and funding opportunities.

WILDFIRE DEPLOYMENTS AND SPECIALIZED TRAINING

For various reasons, including climate change, urban encroachment, and increased public use of wildland areas, there are increasing risks to communities with wildland urban interface (WUI).

We continue to see urban interface fires raging across Canada and the United States, often resulting in property loss and significant risk to human life. Consequently, the DNVFRS continues to enhance its capability to respond effectively to wildfire incidents. Our approach has been and continues to be a multi-year effort to ensure our personnel are equipped and trained to safely and effectively respond to the challenges of wildland and urban interface fires.

This also entails creative and innovative initiatives and building close working relationships with key partners. In 2022, the DNVFRS supported the provincial response to the wildfire season by filling 18 positions for BC Wildfire Service throughout the summer.

Our foremost priority is protecting and serving District residents, and our provincial deployments are undertaken when we can ensure appropriate personnel and resources remain response ready for the DNV. Here's a brief overview of these deployments:



STRUCTURE PROTECTION

DNVFRS personnel are trained to provide many specialty disciplines, including our Structure Protection Crews and Structure Protection Units, deployed throughout the province this wildfire season to protect threatened homes and infrastructure.

- **Keremeos Creek (Keremeos)** – We deployed a five-person Structure Protection Crew for four days to this incident
- **Downton Creek (Lillooet)** – We deployed a second five-person Structure Protection Crew to this incident for two days, at which time they were redeployed to the Prince George Fire Centre
- **Bearhole Lake (Hudson Hope)** – Our five-person SPC redeployed to support operations for two weeks on this incident and the Battle Mountain Fire, protecting homes and critical infrastructure

STRUCTURE DEFENSE

- **Cummings Creek (Sparwood)** – We deployed one of our Wildland Squads (Type-5 Wildland Engine) to the Town of Sparwood. Working alongside personnel from across the province, our three-person crew undertook structure protection operations. It was also tasked with providing training to personnel as deemed appropriate by the Incident Management Team.

WILDFIRE FAQs

What is the difference between Structure Defense and Structure Protection?

Structure Defense is wildland firefighting and involves standard wildland strategy and tactics. It also may include removing wildland fuels around structures and using water enhancers and or foam on surrounding vegetation and the structures. Structure Protection strategies and tactics are used when there's a possibility that a wildfire could move into an urban environment. These specialists also use FireSmart principles that can be very useful in helping to protect homes and buildings in a wildfire's path.

What is a Structure Protection Unit, and how many does DNVFRS have?

A Structure Protection Unit (SPU) is a cache of equipment stored in a trailer used by trained specialists to set up sprinklers on and around a structure. SPUs can effectively reduce wildfire threats to some types of buildings, such as houses, cabins, barns or other outbuildings. Each SPU can protect upwards of 35 homes or structures, and the DNVFRS has three of these units that meet and exceed BC Wildfire Services requirements.

What is a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)?

A CWPP is a written assessment of identified risks for our community, including homes, infrastructure, and forested areas. A CWPP helps us as a community to document local risks and create an action plan strategically. It will help everyone understand how making improvements to their home and surrounding area can reduce the wildfire risk to property, infrastructure and public safety.

SPECIALIZED WILDLAND TRAINING

DNVFRS firefighters participate in regular annual training to ensure readiness to respond to any wildfire threat quickly. In addition, the DNVFRS seeks out opportunities to innovate, implement best practices in the field, and introduce ground-breaking initiatives. Some highlights from our 2022 training programs and exercises included:

- **Interagency Wildfire Exercise** – In April 2022, DNVFRS deployed a Type-5 Wildland Engine with three firefighters and two Chief Officers to participate in the Interagency Soames Hill Park Wildland Fire Scenario. This full-day field exercise was hosted by Gibsons & District Volunteer Fire Department, with participation from its fire service partners on the Sunshine Coast. It was a valuable experience to work alongside fire departments from across the region
- **Wildfire Initial Attack Crew (DNV-IAC)** – This 25-person special teams program, unique to a BC municipal fire department, has been established to fight wildfires within or adjacent to the wildland areas of the District. These fires may be inaccessible to our fire engines, so personnel have the training to deploy and operate in remote settings for extended periods. The capacity to halt or control a wildfire before it infringes on our urban area is our goal
- **HydroSub-60** – In 2022, we added an innovative approach to accessing and moving large volumes of water for firefighting operations by acquiring two HydroSub-60 units. These highly portable self-contained units are deployed on trailers and can access water sources, freshwater or sea water, in areas normally inaccessible to our fire engines and other apparatus. Developed and utilized throughout the Netherlands, the District is one of only three municipalities in Canada using this technology. While primarily focused on supporting wildfire operations, the HydroSub-60s provide an additional layer of post-disaster resiliency to our firefighting water supply across the District



- **Wildfire Engines** – We added three new Wildfire Engines (Type-5) to our fleet as part of our multi-year approach to building internal capacity to fight wildfires. These ‘Squads’ serve a multi-purpose response role for the DNVFRS while also meeting the requirements needed to integrate into the BC Wildfire response system
- **Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit** – Initiated in 2021, and continuing through 2022, the DNVFRS is collaborating with BC Wildfire Services and FireSmartBC to host the inaugural Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit in 2023. Senior leaders from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) will share operational lessons learned on May 12. Following that, over 300 personnel from across BC will be engaged in hands-on training in the DNV from May 13-14, 2023

PARTNERSHIP WITH METRO VANCOUVER

DNVFRS continues to work with Metro Vancouver Watershed Protection on a variety of initiatives to enhance our inter-agency relationship and increase interoperability in the event of a wildfire emergency or technical rescue. We will continue to:

- Work with the Metro Vancouver Watershed Protection team on joint initiatives such as the Wildfire Initial Attack Crew (DNV-IAC) training, dangerous tree assessment, watershed familiarity, helicopter training and overall wildfire protection across the North Shore and in our two watersheds (Capilano and Seymour)
- Coordinate communications through weekly fire danger rating reports to update our new signage and social media channels throughout the hot and dry season

In the fall of 2022, we participated in a full-day wildfire tabletop exercise with our partners from Metro Vancouver Watershed Protection, Coquitlam Fire/Rescue, and West Vancouver Fire & Rescue.

This level of interagency collaboration builds resiliency across the region. As one of the three primary fire departments adjacent to the Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam watersheds, we have a vested interest in ensuring our approaches and responses at the strategic and tactical levels are aligned and we can support one another through mutual aid.

FIRESMART COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Expanding on our FireSmart neighbourhood recognition program, we introduced a new FireSmart Home Partners program in 2022. Ten of our cadre of 25 Local FireSmart Representatives were trained as Wildfire Mitigation Specialists (WMS). They can now assess individual properties and provide suggestions to homeowners to better protect their homes from wildfire.

From June to December, 30 homes received this assessment and detailed report for their property. We continue to support the 15 communities through the neighbourhood recognition process through 2022, with two earning FireSmart certifications.

DNVFRS members, trained as Local Fire Smart Representatives (LFRs), assessed and provided recommendations to reduce risks to property by wildfire and increase the community's resiliency. As of 2022, 25 members qualified through FireSmart Canada as LFRs.

The Public Education side of the FireSmart program is managed by a dedicated FireSmart coordinator through the hot summer months. In addition, as part of the community program, we attend numerous community events, community AGMs, and host our own information and education sessions to deliver FireSmart information and tips to all residents in North Vancouver while focusing on those living in wildland interface areas.

We will continue to partner with the community and other agencies on the North Shore to increase FireSmart awareness and community risk reduction by meeting weekly with these partners to discuss information about potential fire dangers and preparedness tactics when the fire danger rating reaches high or extreme.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Urban interface fires typically require more personnel and equipment resources than any single department has available, so cooperation and coordination between multiple departments, agencies, and organizations is needed.



The DNV Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), updated in 2020, helps DNVFRS prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfires, particularly in areas where its community meets the forest, known as the “wildland urban interface.”

The CWPP contains 52 recommendations for improving DNVFRS emergency response and training, community education, emergency communications, building practices, and more to make the district as fire safe as possible. DNVFRS is moving forward with many of these recommendations.

For more information on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan please visit [DNV.org/sites/default/files/edocs/dnv-cwpp-update-2020.pdf](https://www.dnv.org/sites/default/files/edocs/dnv-cwpp-update-2020.pdf).

GRANT AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In 2021, we received \$150,000 through the Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) grant from the Union of BC Municipalities and \$150,000 from the FireSmart Economic Recovery Fund (FERF) grant. These grants were extended through 2022 to continue our programs. As well, DNVFRS added an additional \$24,000 for a FireSmart coordinator through 2022 from UBCM as part of a total of \$150,000 received, with the majority of that going towards forest and fuel mitigation managed by the DNV’s environmental department.

The CRI and FERG grant programs allowed us to move forward with pursuing several recommendations that Mayor and Council adopted as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). We were pleased to partner with both the Tsleil-Waututh Nation (TWN) and Squamish Nation to engage the public through the following programs:

- Outdoor Burning Awareness
- Wildfire Community Preparedness Days
- FireSmart Days
- FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Projects
- Critical Infrastructure FireSmart Assessments
- Community Emergency Preparedness: Wildfire Focus
- FireSmart Home Partners Program
- LFR & WMS Training

8. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The District of North Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services (DNVFRS) continually seeks out and provides opportunities to attract and develop our staff.

This process begins with our Tri-Municipal Recruitment partnership with the District of West Vancouver and City of North Vancouver to recruit high-caliber and diverse individuals. This recruitment program has been in place for several years and continues to foster collaboration among all North Shore Fire Departments.

In 2022, DNVFRS' Officer Development Course (ODC) trained and certified 12 DNVFRS and 3 City of North Vancouver firefighters to NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Professional Qualifications, Fire Officer Level II.

In November, all company officers attended our Annual Officer Meeting. This one-day session, held over two-days to accommodate all four of our platoons, allows officers to attend from outlying fire stations and opposing platoons, to receive information on updated training and operational procedures. Continuing education sessions were also provided in the areas of mental wellness, media relations, and marginalized/vulnerable citizen groups. This also included presentations from the RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, and local media.

TRAINING

To ensure we deliver the highest level of service that our community deserves, the DNVFRS provides comprehensive ongoing training to its members. In 2022, the DNVFRS training budget was \$425,000, which allowed DNVFRS to provide 12,226 hours of specialized training to 134 firefighters.



In 2022, we provided 12,226 hours of specialized training to 134 firefighters.

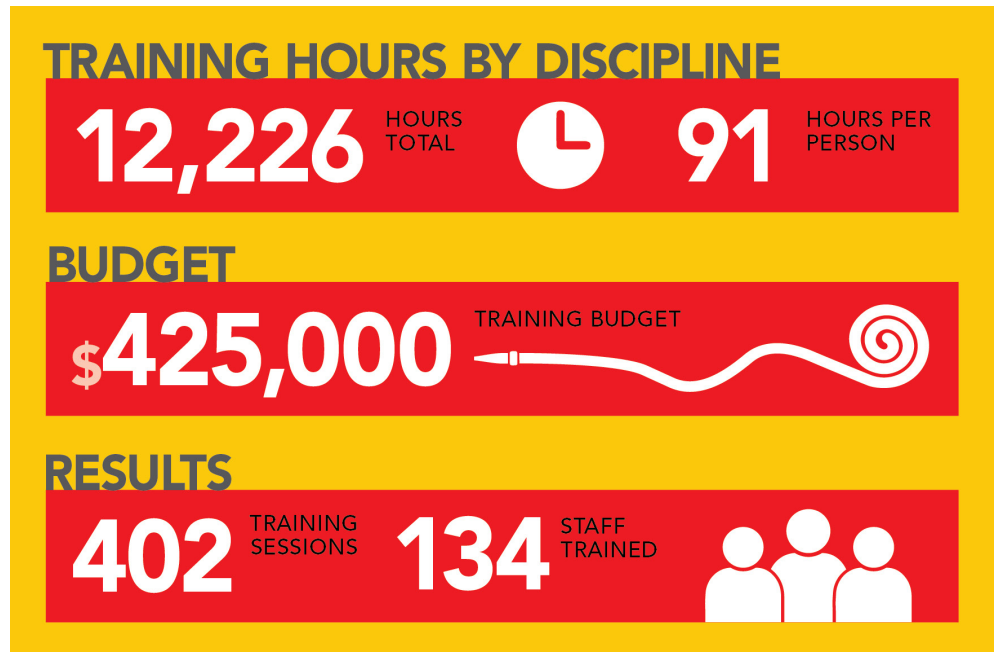
SPECIALIZED TRAINING (OVERVIEW)

Each year, DNVFRS provides specialized training in multiple fire and rescue disciplines, including fire behaviour, swift-water rescue, high-angle rope rescue, vehicle extrication, fire ground operations, wildland firefighting, emergency vehicle operator and emergency medical responder.

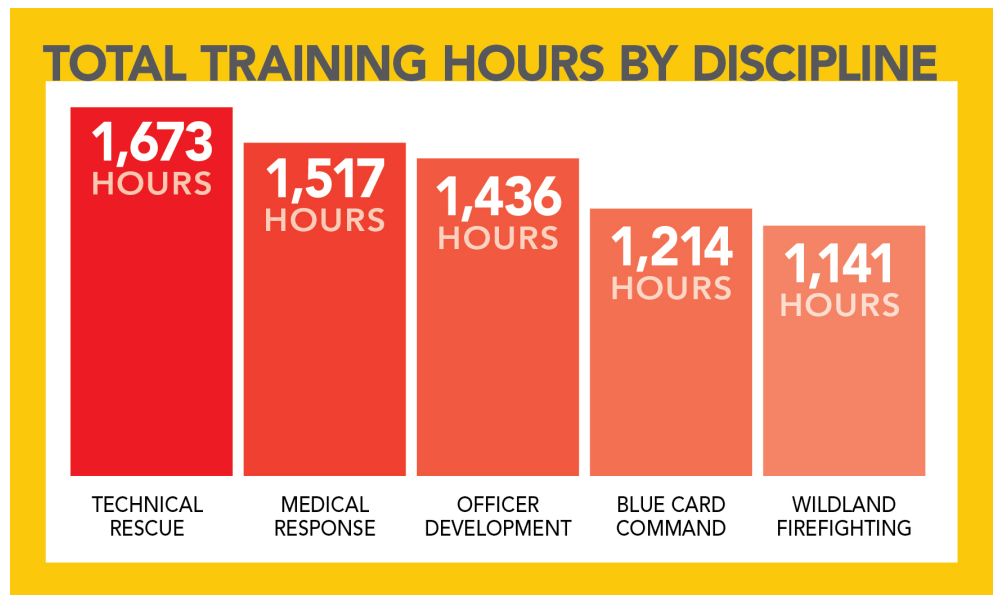
DNVFRS professionally certified instructors deliver these sessions that typically take place either at a dedicated training centre or at various offsite training locations within its response area.

To expand its operational capacity and effectiveness when responding to emergencies, DNVFRS provided its firefighters with training in several new and expanding areas in 2022. These areas of training included structural collapse operations, wildland hydro-sub training, and active deadly threat training integrated with the RCMP.

Here is an overview of the specialized training we provided to our firefighters in 2022.



SPECIALIZED TRAINING BY DISCIPLINE (TOP FIVE DISCIPLINES)



FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING (OVERVIEW)

In addition to specialized training, DNVFRS firefighters receive a significant amount of regular, on-the-job training that supports and maintains their foundational skills. This training includes ladder operations, incident command training, traffic safety, radio communications, hose deployment, gas and electrical safety, and building construction.

This training ensures DNVFRS firefighters maintain the required competency standards for full-service firefighters, as outlined by the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner in the BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards (Formerly 'the Playbook').

Here is an overview of the foundational skills training we provided in 2022.

TRAINING HOURS BY FOUNDATIONAL SKILL

27,705

HOURS
TOTAL



208

HOURS PER
PERSON

RESULTS

17,883

TRAINING
SESSIONS

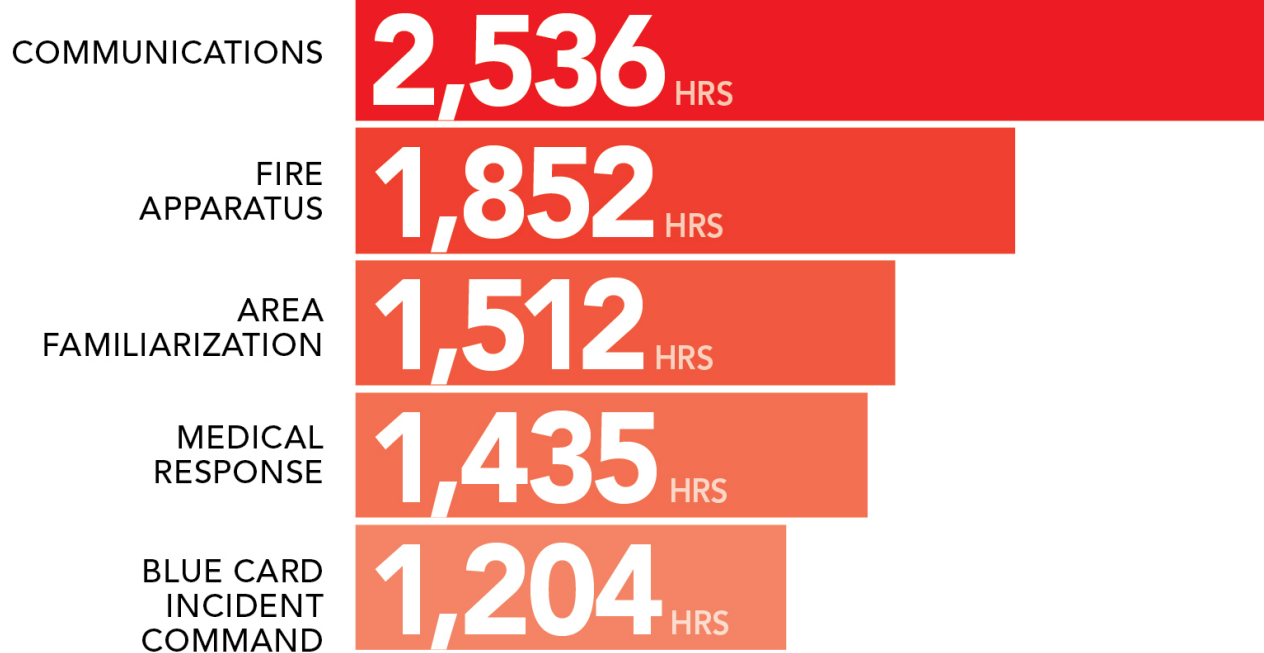


134

STAFF
TRAINED

FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING BY SUBJECT (TOP FIVE SUBJECTS)

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS BY SUBJECT



INTERAGENCY TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

DNVFRS engaged in training events with many of its regional emergency partners and regular training initiatives with its fellow North Shore fire departments. Some examples of this training include:

- **Canada Task Force 1 (CANTF1)** — Monthly training with Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services, Vancouver Police Department, British Columbia Ambulance Services, and North Shore fire departments
- **Municipal and Metro Vancouver park staff training** — Includes radio communications, fall restraint, swift-water awareness, wildland firefighting, and emergency medical first aid
- **JIBC Shipboard Firefighting for Land Based Firefighters** — JIBC Shipboard Firefighting for Land Based Firefighters — Training involving all three North Shore fire departments, Seaspan Vancouver Ship Yards, Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services, North Vancouver RCMP, Vancouver Police and RCM Search and Rescue

JUSTICE INSTITUTE OF BC (JIBC) PARTNERSHIP

The JIBC is a provincially recognized and industry leader of emergency service educational programs and training.



In 2020, we initiated a fire training partnership agreement with the JIBC that recognizes DNVFRS as an authorized provider of accredited training courses for the JIBC. This partnership will enable us to work together with the JIBC to enhance and improve the quality of fire training programs available to our region's fire service agencies.

NEW MAPLEWOOD FIRE & RESCUE TRAINING FACILITY

In early 2018, we began planning for the new Maplewood Fire and Rescue Centre to consolidate our current Fire Station #2 (Lynn timer) and Training Center on St. Denis Avenue and centrally locate headquarters and administrative staff from Fire Station #1 in Lynn Valley.

Combining a fire station, training centre, and administrative functions into one new facility will improve fire response times, create operational efficiencies, and optimize the capital investment over the long term.

The sustainable, energy-efficient 45,000-sq.ft.-facility will be made to post-disaster standards in order to maintain services in emergencies such as power outages and earthquakes. The new building is anticipated to have a 71% reduction in energy use and a 92% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to the existing buildings being replaced.

The construction of Maplewood Fire and Rescue Centre began in February 2022 and the anticipated completion date is early 2024.



PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

In early 2022, our Health and Wellness Working Group created the DNVFRS Health and Wellness Strategic Initiatives Plan 2022-2027, commonly called the 5-Year Well-being Plan. The working group also prepared a supplemental DNVFRS Health and Wellness Operational Plan 2022- 2027 to address the actions necessary to implement objectives supporting the DNVFRS Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

The DNVFRS Fire and Rescue Strategic Plan 2020-2025 included several strategic priorities, including Priority 2D: “promote the physical and mental health and well-being of our employees.” A direct action from 2D is to “develop and implement a comprehensive 5-Year Well-being Plan to improve and support the mental, physical and behavioural health of all personnel.”

DNVFRS recognizes that fire service personnel are highly susceptible to occupational stress injuries, mental health injuries, and physical injuries. As such, DNVFRS continues to proactively take steps to address the health and well-being of its personnel, and to help prepare them for duty through training, education, support, treatment, and rehabilitation. The strategies, objectives and actions to address these issues are outlined in the 5-Year Well-being Plan. As a component of this Plan, the working group developed a ‘mission statement’ to guide their process:

MISSION STATEMENT

Advancing physical and mental health for the long-term resiliency and well-being of the DNVFRS.

Strategic Objective #1: Support Physical Health and Wellness

The physical demands of the fire service are immense and never-ending. DNVFRS’s ability to provide excellent service to its community is connected to the physical health and wellness of our personnel.

DNVFRS will support the physical health and wellness of its personnel by promoting physical fitness training, a culture of ongoing health screening and assessments, education and information on health and fitness, and access to treatment and rehabilitation services.

Strategic Objective #2: Support Mental Health and Wellness

Our firefighters are exposed to a high level of potentially traumatic events impacting their mental health and in turn have a statistically higher incidence of mental health injuries than the average population. Workplace hazards include but are not limited to the cumulative effects of shift work, sleep loss, traumatic exposures, and operational and organizational stressors. These hazards can lead to adverse physiological and mental health impacts on DNVFRS personnel.

DNVFRS will promote evidence-based mental health and wellness by raising awareness of the importance of mental health, providing employees with education and information on mental health, facilitating access to culturally competent internal and external support systems, and supporting members through mental health injury and or recovery. DNVFRS is committed to creating a safe and open environment regarding mental health issues by working to reduce the stigma associated with mental health.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Women and visible minorities represent a small percentage of the total DNVFRS staff. We continue to reach out to the community and encourage everyone to consider the benefits of a career in the fire service. Recently, we developed a recruitment and outreach program with a goal to attract potential future firefighters from our local high school and post-secondary student populations. At the DNVFRS we strive to create an inclusive working environment by actively valuing the differences that diversity brings, because everyone is welcome on our team.

Here are select events we held or attended in 2022:

- **Camp Ignite** — An annual camp for young women between 16-18 who want to learn firefighting skills and techniques, which we sponsored a local high school student. We also hosted an orientation session with the 2022 participants from West Vancouver and the City of North Vancouver at our training centre
- **JIBC Informational Workshop** — We participated in workshops this year with our Training and Public Outreach Divisions, and students currently enrolled in the Justice Institute of BC's Career firefighter technologies program
- **Career Fairs** — North Vancouver School District's career fairs showcase and outline what a career in the fire service and opportunities with DNVFRS look like

CAREER OUTREACH – WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the year, we enjoy giving local young people an inside look at the challenges and rewards of a firefighting career. This includes a “behind the scenes” look at a day in the life of DNVFRS through the following programs:

- **Bring Our Kids to Work Day** — Grade 9 Students spend a day participating in firefighting demonstrations and activities, as well as exposures to careers of service in Local Government
- **Work experience program** — During our New Recruit Onboarding Training Program, we invite students from the local high schools and Capilano University to participate in all activities. The training is over 12 weeks from January to March, and we had 20 students gain experience and information on a career with the District of North Vancouver

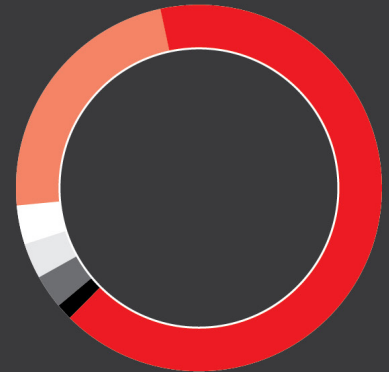
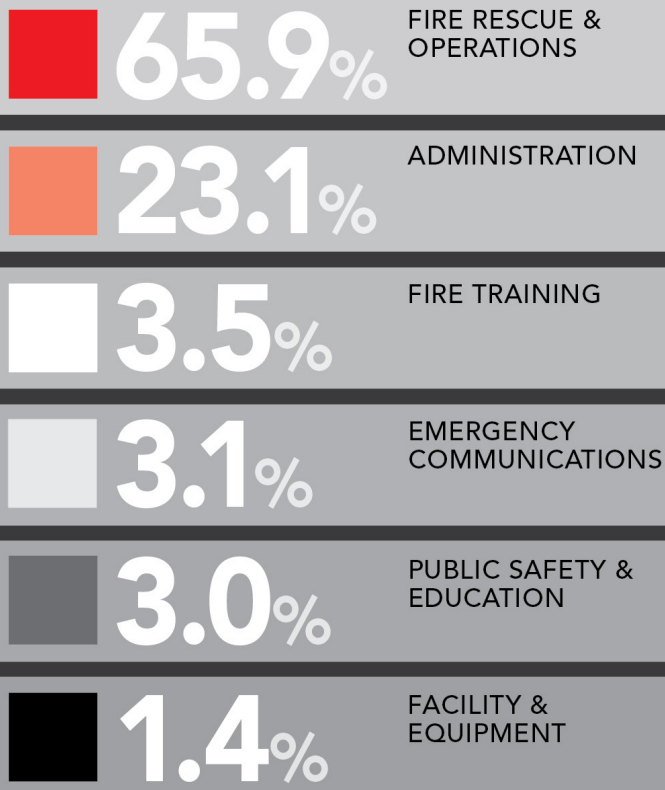


9. FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Our 2022 operating budget was \$22,243,122.00. Fire rescue and operations accounted for the largest piece, at almost 66% of the total budget.

OPERATING BUDGET



WHAT THE NUMBERS INCLUDE

FIRE AND RESCUE OPERATIONS (65.9%)

- Fire suppression and rescue operations (includes marine firefighting and rescue)
- Prompt emergency and non-emergency response to all incidents
- Other rescue functions such as hazmat response, motor vehicle incidents, and technical rescues (high angle, swift water)

ADMINISTRATION (23.1%) AND FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT (1.4%)

- Maintenance (painting, plumbing, electrical, renovations, seismic upgrades, repairs, lawns and gardens, heating and lighting) of all fire facilities (stations, and training/maintenance centres)
- Maintenance, inspection, and repair of firefighting equipment such as turnout gear, forestry equipment, and fire response vehicles
- Equipment procurement process

PUBLIC SAFETY & EDUCATION (3.0%)

- Community risk reduction and pre-incident fire planning
- Fire prevention activities such as risk-based fire inspections, fire incident and arson investigations, fire code and bylaw enforcement, and plan reviews
- Targeted public education for purposes of fire prevention, reducing risks to life and property

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS (3.1%)

- All aspects of fire and emergency response communications, including dispatch services and wide-area radio equipment
- Includes the maintenance of all other communications equipment (pagers, cellphones)

FIRE TRAINING (3.5%)

- Fire training facility operations and training programs, which range from internal recruit and special operations training to foundational skills training required to meet the competencies of a Full-Service Operations Department, as per the British Columbia Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards (2022)

10. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023



As we move into 2023, DNVFRS will continue striving to maintain a place of leadership within the BC fire service. Collaborating with regional and provincial partners and remaining actively engaged with new initiatives and best practices remain core to our approach.

The reality is all of our accomplishments and achievements as a fire department are due to the dedication and commitment that every one of our members brings to work every day. Maintaining the highest service to our citizens requires prioritizing our number one resource, our people. Providing enhanced training, focusing on personal and professional resiliency through robust health and wellness programs, and having the right equipment in place, all contribute to the achievement of our mission. This holistic approach allows us to continue using our expertise and experience to serve our community to the best of our abilities.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

When looking to the future, we are paying close attention to the changes facing our community.

Traffic patterns and flow continue to influence our emergency response and using technology to try and stay on the leading edge of this will be key. In addition, with an aging population, we must continue to ensure that our delivery of pre-hospital medical care meets the needs of this important demographic.

At the same time, as climate change impacts our region through heat domes, flooding, winter storms, and wildfires, we will continue to increase our work around emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Our Strategic Plan 2020-2025 consists of four key priorities that are long-term aspirations. Each priority identifies several strategic objectives that define what DNVFRS has been working towards to support our priorities, fulfill our mission and achieve our vision, and measure the actions we will take in the short term.

This is an evergreen document for us, meaning that it remains flexible and adaptable as situations and conditions continue to evolve.

In 2023, we will revisit our strategic directions and look toward the next steps for completing our goals, including priorities and timelines.





DNV.org/FireAnnualReport